

Deaths of Congress.

The House passed a bill Monday night to discontinue the mail to any State where obstructions were offered to the free circulation of mail matter. This bill had reference more especially to the seceding States. The Senate has passed it, after amending it so as to make its application general. Several general and a few private appropriation bills have been passed during the past week.

The tariff bill is now under consideration. It will probably pass, not differing very widely from the bill of 1856.

Binham's Force bill has passed the House and will probably pass the Senate but will be vetoed by the President.

Yancey said he did not desire a seat in Jeff. Davis's Cabinet, preferring to go abroad. No doubt he thinks he will be safer in Europe six months hence than in Alabama.

Thirty-four guns were fired at Fort Sumter on Washington's birthday. The Charleston Courier calls it a "sneaky salute."

The excitement is growing hot in the Virginia Convention. The negro traders are determined that the Old Dominion shall secede, but there is a determined opposition to the movement, which finds its support among the most enlightened of her citizens.

The Kansas Legislature issued a memorial to her sister States, setting forth that 120,000 persons are dependent for subsistence upon our soil resources. They also recommended the committee at Atchison as being faithful and trustworthy.

Latest from Washington City.

Gen. Scott has discovered a plot by which Lincoln was to be assassinated on the day of his inauguration. A company of men were to occupy a position near the stand, one of whom was to shoot him with an air gun, when the balance of them were to surround the assassin so that no one could tell who did it.

Numerous speculations are afloat as to whom the President will select for the balance of his cabinet. C. B. Smith or Colfax, of our State, will doubtless have a place. It will, most probably be Smith.

Efforts are being made to have the President remove Seward as Secretary of State, but that will not be done. No friend of Seward need be alarmed on that score.

There will be no satisfactory result arrived at in the peace conference. Guthrie, of Kentucky, became indignant because his proposition was not adopted and proposed to break the Convention up in a row.

Ward & McKew has a large and well selected stock of hardware. In their stock may be found Saddlery tools, Shoemakers tools and findings generally. Carpenters can find everything out in great variety, and Wagon Makers and Blacksmiths will not call in vain for almost every thing in their line.

Table and Pocket Cutlery have a conspicuous place and the assortment is always large. Call and look through and you will be to see something you need.

The Winchester Baud has the hearty thanks of the new firm for their choice music on last night. That each member of that illustrious may long live to give to others the same welcome greeting is our earnest wish—of course we include Messrs. Geo. T. Bininger & Charlie Bechtel, who surprised as well as delighted us with extra music.

Magnanimous in Texas.

How thankful we should feel! Let us all take off our hats and bow to Texas. General Twiggs has quietly surrendered to the authorities in Texas all the United States property within the limits of the State, and the Federal troops allowed to leave the State with all possible facilities.

"Allowed to leave the State!" Gracious privilege.

They sold \$1,400,000 worth of property from the Government and then kindly permit those from whom they stole it to go away if they can. Unparalleled magnanimity among thieves!

We paid only \$217,000 for Texas. Small amount, not worth regarding! Why should we not steal herself and be off? Hope she won't take the Gulf of Mexico.

A Letter Direct From Kansas From Mary K. Harrison, formerly of this Place.

We are permitted to make the following extracts from a private letter written to Mrs. James Brown in reference to the suffering in Kansas:

Atchison, Kansas, Feb. 22, 1861.

My Dear Mrs. Brown:—At the instance of Mr. McRatney, who is chairman of the Relief Committee, I ask if you can not make up, among your friends, a box of clothing and some money for the relief of the destitute at this point. There are here no less than three hundred persons rendered destitute by the recent drought. The most of these have sought refuge here from other parts of the State. At least one hundred of the children are starved and covered only with miserable rags, insufficient to protect them from a winter of unusual severity. Their sufferings are beyond the power of the committee to relieve them, unless they have more aid than they now receive of the general fund. If your generosity has not already been overdrawn, please extend a hand, your sympathy with suffering, and your willingness to do I know of old. I trust that we will have none of aid of starvation in this place, but there will be many, very many such deaths in the Southern and back parts of our State I can not doubt. This is the point from which all relief is distributed, and the provisions have to be carried to the back country by teams that are half starved. There were seventy teams sent here this evening. It is reported that between Lawrence and this place, there has been some of the time at an average depth of a great part of the time at an average depth of two feet. Men came here for provisions to keep their families from starving; but have been twenty days on the road, coming out every night, with out shoes, their feet wrapped in old coffee sacks and from above the ankles, but I have not time to particularize. I am writing in a great haste this morning. If you should make up a box for us you may direct as freight to

R. McRatney, Care of S. C. Pomeroy, Atchison, Kansas.

Anti-Slavery Tracts.

The Bombay Gazette of No. 28, says: The cotton merchants in England will be glad to hear that the National government has decided to use all the rich cotton producing countries, including Sicily, on the left bank of the Ganges.

Will Christians read this little scrap from the Independent?

A FACT AND A COMMENT.

By JOHN S. C. ARBUTT.

A year ago, on the night of the 14th of February, a vessel, on its passage from the West Indies to New York, when within twenty-four hours' sail of the city, was overtaken by a dark and stormy night, and, almost immediately sank. The captain and crew, losing absolutely everything, and with nothing but the clothes they had on, sprang into the ship which had struck them, and were carried to New Orleans.

One of the sailors was a colored man. As soon as they arrived in New Orleans, this poor supercargo of nature, and of the sufferings of the city and thrown into jail. There he had to remain, until he was finally taken to his full fare, regardless of his family ties, and not the humane and Christian captain, though for the time he had himself, appealed to friends in his behalf. He succeeded in paying his full fare, liberating him from the terrible doom of endless slavery, and secured a passage for him to Boston.

Putting on Sovereign Air.

Some time since Secretary Holt addressed a letter to the Governor of Louisiana, demanding the restoration of the commissary and other stores of the United States seized at New Orleans. His august excellency did not condescend to answer, but returned a letter, stating that Mr. Holt's letter is lacking in deference to the convention of the United States, and that if properly addressed, he will give any information which is desired in relation to any property lately belonging to the Federal Government.

A Nine Day's Wonder.

A mayor was elected in Georgetown yesterday with long Republican connections, in opposition to a Democratic candidate. The result produced great surprise, and promises to be a nine days' wonder to the people of this District.

Northern Boys in the Secession Army.

The Charleston correspondent of the New York Times writes:

I saw in Broad street, this afternoon a sad spectacle, and as the individual has a Northern name, I must perforce allude to it. The young man, or man-boy, of 19, was parading in full military uniform, and representing some \$100, made for him by a leading tailor in Broadway, New York. He had just arrived here, the agent of a party of thirty-six, who intend to steal away from their Northern friends, and fight to the death against the flag on which they have been nursed.

The same writer denies that the obstructions at the mouth of Charleston harbor have been removed.

The Peace Conference.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—The Evening Bulletin contains a dispatch from Washington, to the effect that in the Peace Conference, Mr. Chase, of Ohio, offered a proposition that it is independent to proceed to the consideration of the matter involved in the resolutions of Virginia, until all the States participate; and that ample time may be afforded for deliberation.

Reminded, that the Convention adjourn till the 14th of April.

An exciting debate was occasioned, but there is a prospect of their adoption.

Very Interesting from Charleston.

A Charleston correspondent of the New York Evening Post, writing on the 16th inst., thinks the people of the North are much mistaken in supposing that South Carolina regards her secession as a game of bluff, or that the other seceding States will not stand by her. He says South Carolina has a severe price for it, supposing that when a slaveholding Confederacy is established, free trade will make them amenable. Talk to a South Carolina of pecuniary loss in connection with this revolution, he flashes out into a declaration that it is a question of honor, of right and wrong, liberty or slavery; he will spend his last dollar, his last drop of blood in the cause, and he will not be satisfied until his soul, all thought of profit and loss.

The writer is confident that if Fort Sumter cannot be obtained peacefully, that it will be attempted by force, and that the result will be a civil war. It has its seeds sown, and will presently be fanned.

The present lull must terminate in the firing of Fort Sumter, and the result will be either directly the contrary of the first proposition—is considered irreconcilable, and the floating battery is completed. The latter ought to be finished in less than two weeks.

The following facts relative to Fort Sumter are given as related by an eye witness:

The garrison, mostly Irishmen, have been working night and day, completing the fortifications, and repairing the batteries. They have such an interest in the work that they could not have resisted an attack, had one been made by the Charlestonians. The main doorway is built up so that two men could walk through it, and one armed with a revolver or bowie knife might defend it against a hundred assailants, supposing he were not himself. Just within, opposite the doorway, is a large mortar. The stones on the wharf have been removed to strengthen the weak side of the fort. There are piles of small arms, and the lower casemates have been closed last, the guns shotted, piles of grape and canister placed beside them. The Major looks harassed and wan, but perfectly resolute; he can talk of nothing but the fort and his position; he admits that he dreams of it by night when he sleeps. He declares the responsibility forced upon him, admits that his sympathies are with the South, but declares that, first of all, he is a United States officer. He objects to his endorsement by abolition journals, and declares that they publish forged letters attributed to himself and officers. His men are all faithful and resolute, in perfect military discipline; they never quarrel or mutiny—all stories to that effect being unmitigated lies. They look haggard and worn, and preserve a strict silence when questioned. They do not expect to be reinforced. Major Anderson still hopes the business may be settled without bloodshed. But he will defend himself to the last, if attacked. Such was the internal aspect of Fort Sumter on the 14th.

STATE GEOLOGIST.—Among those spoken of by the Geologist, the name of our fellow townsman, W. D. Frazee, Esq., is favorably mentioned. He is eminently qualified to fill the station, having devoted a considerable portion of his life to the science, and we think a better choice could hardly be made.

Decatur Eagle.

We are glad to know that Mr. Frazee is favorably spoken of for that position. He has made Geology his study for over fifteen years, during which time he has traveled extensively, which has afforded him abundant facilities for collecting information in his favorite pursuit. He has a splendid private cabinet collected from various portions of the globe. We know of no man who possesses more genial, good nature than Mr. Frazee, and none whom we would prefer see elevated to the position of State Geologist.

Affairs at Pensacola.

The Pensacola Observer has letters from Fort Pickens to February 11. Five United States vessels were off the harbor, the McCondon, Brooklyn, Sabine, Wyandotte and St. Louis. None but the Wyandotte entered the harbor, under her communication was kept up between the fleet and Fort Pickens. On the night of the 6th, it is said, it was confidently expected that there would be a collision between the Federal and State forces, and a letter to the Columbus (Ga.) Times details a series of maneuvers, which happily proved unsuccessful, to get the Wyandotte ashore by means of displaying decoy lights. No attempt to land troops was made, and the night passed quietly. The captain of the Brooklyn is represented as having been greatly incensed by the orders which he had received not to land his men at Fort Pickens, as his stores were not sufficient to last them for any length of time. The captain of Sabine is said to have declared that "he could not raise a flag of truce to enter an American port—he'd be damned!"

MARRIAGES.

DYNE—LEAKE.—On Wednesday evening the 27th inst., by the Rev. J. G. Brice, Mr. L. G. Dyne, junior proprietor of B. G. Journal, to Miss Nancy B. Leake; both of this city.

Thus have they entered, in the spring-time of life, into the most important and solemn relation that belongs to this state of existence. Pure and good, as we know them to be, may they ever cultivate those graces and affections which alone adorn and dignify the human character. And now, as they go forth to battle with society in all its phases, we confidently trust that they may always be found on the side of truth and justice, not seeking distinction and power, but content to reap the great and sure reward of well-doing, though it may not be swift in its coming. Make it your purpose to beautify and enrich the soul, using the body as a means to this end. If you expect sunshine and gladness to illuminate your pathway all along the journey of life, you will doubtless be disappointed. But remember that, when trials come and are subdued, you share the joy together. Don't wait for great occasions to do good, nor for unusual times and occasions to be polite and kind to each other, but let duty and duty show forth all those little courtesies and kindnesses which constitute the sum total of a happy life, and then you will have no occasion to regret the covenant of love and affection you have voluntarily entered into. May God bless you in all your righteous undertakings.

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From Kansas.

ATCHISON, Feb. 25.—The signatures appended to the following appeal to the people of the State in behalf of the Freedmen, are those of some of our most prominent citizens—W. H. Grimes, member of the State Legislature; John A. Martin, State Senator; David D. Smith, State Representative; and others.

Resolved, That the Secretary furnish a copy of the above resolution to A. Stone and J. A. Moore, our Senator and Representative in the Legislature.

The Executive Committee were instructed to prepare a Premium List and report at the next meeting.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to procure the books of the Society and have them present at the next meeting.

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THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE CRISIS.

The Jay County Torch Light publishes an article under the above heading, written by Prof. E. Tucker, of Liber College, in which compromising Republicans are severely, though we think justly handled. He concludes as follows:

It is not enough to make one's self heard to think that with a government costing \$70,000,000 a year—seventy millions must be left to uphold alone the honor of the country—and two old guns on Morris Island be allowed to drive off in disgrace the U. S. flag and trait in the dust.

From Kansas.

ATCHISON, Feb. 25.—The signatures appended to the following appeal to the people of the State in behalf of the Freedmen, are those of some of our most prominent citizens—W. H. Grimes, member of the State Legislature; John A. Martin, State Senator; David D. Smith, State Representative; and others.

Resolved, That the Secretary furnish a copy of the above resolution to A. Stone and J. A. Moore, our Senator and Representative in the Legislature.

The Executive Committee were instructed to prepare a Premium List and report at the next meeting.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to procure the books of the Society and have them present at the next meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned, to meet in Winchester, on the 6th day of March next.

Thos. L. Scott, Sec'y.