

March 12, 2005

Skedaddle

Week of March 5th to 11th, 1861

Volume 2, Issue 10

WEEKLY GLIMPSES FROM NEWSPAPERS, JOURNALS AND DIARIES, &C, OF THE TIME

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY (for the week)

March 5th, 1861

- ❖ Gen. Beauregard ordered to take command of the rebels at Charleston.
- ❖ U. S. Senate, in extra executive session, confirmed the nominations of President Lincoln for cabinet officers as follows :
 - State. . .W. H. SEWARD, *N. Y.*
 - Treas.. .S. P. CHASE, *Ohio.*
 - War . . .S. CAMERON, *Pa.*
 - Navy. ..G. WELLS, *Ct.*
 - Interior C. B. . Smith, *Ind.*
 - Post-office M. . BLAIR, *Md.*
- and
- Attorney-Gen .. E. BATES, *Mo.*

March 6th

- ❖ C. S. Senate confirmed the nominations of President Davis for cabinet officers as follows:
 - State . R. TOOMBS, *Ga.*
 - Treas. C. L. MEMMINGER, *S.C.*
 - War. .L. P. WALKER, *Ala.*
 - Navy S. R. MALLORY, *Fla*
 - Post-office . . . J. H. REAGAN, *Tex.*
 - Attorney-Gen. J. P. BENJAMIN, *La.*
- ❖ Fort Brown, Texas. surrendered by special agreement.

March 7th

- ❖ Georgia State Convention reassembled at Savannah.

March 11th

- ❖ Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States of America adopted in Convention at Montgomery.



MY DIARY NORTH AND SOUTH.

by William Howard Russell

CHAPTER I.

Departure from Cork — The Atlantic in March — Fellow passengers — American politics and parties — The Irish in New York—Approach to New York.

On the evening of 3d March, 1861, I was transferred from the little steam-tender, which plies between Cork and the anchorage of the Cunard steamers at the entrance of the harbor, to the deck of the good steamship Arabia, Captain Stone; and at nightfall we were breasting the long rolling waves of the Atlantic.

The voyage across the Atlantic has been done by so many able hands, that it would be superfluous to describe mine, though it is certain no one passage ever resembled another, and no crew or set of passengers in one ship were ever identical with those in any other. For thirteen days the Atlantic followed its usual course in the month of March, and was true to the traditions which affix to it in that month the character of violence and moody changes, from bad to worse and back again. The wind was sometimes dead against us, and then the infelix Arabia with iron energy set to work, storming great Malakhofs of water, which rose above her like the side of some sward-coated hill

crested with snow-drifts ; and having gained the summit, and settled for an instant among the hissing seahorses, ran plunging headlong down to the encounter of another wave, and thus went battling on with heart of fire and breath of flame—*igneus est ollis vigor*—hour after hour.

The traveller for pleasure had better avoid the Atlantic in the month of March. The wind was sometimes with us, and then the sensations of the passengers and the conduct of the ship were pretty much as they had been during the adverse breezes before, varied by the performance of a very violent "yawing" from side to side, and certain squashings of the paddle-boxes into the yeasty waters, which now ran a race with us and each other, as if bent on chasing us down, and rolling their boarding parties with foaming crests down on our decks. The boss, which we represented in the stormy shield around us, still moved on; day by day our microcosm shifted its position in the ever-advancing circle of which it was the centre, with all around and within it ever undergoing a sea change.

The Americans on board were, of course, the most interesting passengers to one like myself, who was going out to visit the great Republic under very peculiar circumstances. There was, first, Major Garnett, a Virginian, who was going back to his State to follow her fortunes. He was an officer of the regular army of the United States, who had served with distinction in Mexico; an accomplished, well-read man; reserved, and rather gloomy; full of the doctrine of States' Rights, and animated with a considerable feeling of contempt for the New Englanders, and with the strongest prejudices in favor of the institution of slavery. He laughed to scorn the doctrine that all men are born equal in the sense of all men having equal rights. Some were born to be slaves—some to be laborers in the lower strata above the slaves—others to follow useful mechanical arts — the rest were born to rule and to own their fellow-men. There was next a young Carolinian, who had left his post as attaché at St. Petersburg to return to his State: thus, in all probability, avoiding the inevitable super-session which awaited him at the hands of the new Government at Washington. He represented, in an intensified form, all the Virginian's opinions, and held that Mr. Calhoun's interpretation of the Constitution was incontrovertibly right. There were difficulties in the way of State sovereignty, he confessed; but they were only in detail — the principle was unassailable.

To Mr. Mitchell, South Carolina represented a power quite sufficient to meet all the Northern States in arms. "The North will attempt to blockade our coast," said he "and in that case, the South must march to the attack by land, and will probably act in

Virginia." "But if the North attempts to do more than institute a blockade? — for instance, if their fleet attack your seaport towns, and land men to occupy them?" "Oh, in that case we are quite certain of beating them." Mr. Julian Mitchell was indignant at the idea of submitting to the rule of a "rail-splitter," and of such men as Seward and Cameron. "No gentleman could tolerate such a Government."

An American family from Nashville, consisting of a lady and her son and daughter, were warm advocates of a "gentlemanly" government, and derided the Yankees with great bitterness. But they were by no means as ready to encounter the evils of war, or to break up the Union, as the South-Carolinian or the Virginian; and in that respect they represented, I was told, the negative feelings of the Border States, which are disposed to a temporizing, moderate course of action, most distasteful to the passionate seceders.

There were also two Louisiana sugar-planters on board—one owning 500 slaves, the other rich in some thousands of acres ; they seemed to care very little for the political aspects of the question of Secession, and regarded it merely in reference to its bearing on the sugar crop, and the security of slave property. Secession was regarded by them as a very extreme and violent measure, to which the State had resorted with reluctance; but it was obvious, at the same time, that, in event of a general secession of the Slave States from the North, Louisiana could neither have maintained her connection with the North, nor have stood in isolation from her sister States.

All these, and some others who were fellow-passengers, might be termed Americans—*pur sang*. Garnett belonged to a very old family in Virginia. Mitchell came from a stock of several generations' residence in South Carolina. The Tennessee family were, in speech and thought, types of what Europeans consider true Americans to be. Now take the other side. First there was an exceedingly intelligent, well-informed young merchant of New York—nephew of an English county Member, known for his wealth, liberality, and munificence. Educated at a university in the Northern States, he had lived a good deal in England, and was returning to his father from a course of book-keeping in the house of his uncle's firm in Liverpool. His father and uncle were born near Coleraine, and he had just been to see the humble dwelling, close to the Giant's Causeway, which sheltered their youth, and where their race was cradled. In the war of 1812, the brothers were about sailing in a privateer fitted out to prey against the British, when accident fixed one of them in Liverpool, where he founded the house which has grown so greatly with the development of trade between New York and Lancashire, whilst the other

settled in the States. Without being violent in tone, the young Northerner was very resolute in temper and determined to do all which lay in his power to prevent the "glorious Union" being broken up.

The "Lawn" has thus founded on two continents a family of princely wealth, whose originals had probably fought with bitterness in their early youth against the union of Great Britain and Ireland. But did Mr. Brown, or the other Americans who shared his views, unreservedly approve of American institutions, and consider them faultless? By no means. The New Yorkers especially were eloquent on the evils of the suffrage, and of the license of the Press in their own city; and displayed much irritation on the subject of naturalization. The Irish were useful, in their way, making roads and working hard, for there were few Americans who condescended to manual labor, or who could not make far more money in higher kinds of work; but it was absurd to give the Irish votes which they used to destroy the influence of native-born citizens, and to sustain a corporation and local bodies of unsurpassable turpitude, corruption, and inefficiency.

Another young merchant, a college friend of the former, was just returning from a tour in Europe with his amiable sister. His father was the son of an Irish immigrant, but he did not at all differ from the other gentlemen of his city in the estimate in which he held the Irish element; and though he had no strong bias one way or other, he was quite resolved to support the abstraction called the Union, and its representative fact—the Federal Government. Thus the agriculturist and the trader—the grower of raw produce and the merchant who dealt in it—were at opposite sides of the question—wide apart as the Northern and Southern Pole. They sat apart, ate apart, talked apart—two distinct nations, with intense antipathies on the part of the South, which was active and aggressive in all its demonstrations.

The Southerners have got a strange charge *de plus* against the Irish. It appears that the regular army of the United States is mainly composed of Irish and Germans; very few Americans indeed being low enough, or martially disposed enough, to "take the shilling." In case of a conflict, which these gentlemen think inevitable, "low Irish mercenaries would," they say, "be pitted against the gentlemen of the South, and the best blood in the States would be spilled by fellows whose lives are worth nothing whatever." Poor Paddy is regarded as a mere working machine, fit, at best, to serve against Choctaws and Seminoles. His facility of reproduction has to compensate for the waste which is caused by the development in his unhappy head of the organs of combativeness and destructiveness. Cer-

tainly, if the war is to be carried on by the United States' regulars, the Southern States will soon dispose of them, for they do not number 20,000 men, and their officers are not much in love with the new Government. But can it come to War? Mr. Mitchell assures me I shall see some "pretty tall fighting."

The most vehement Northerners in the steamer are Germans, who are going to the States for the first time, or returning there. They have become satisfied, no doubt, by long process of reasoning, that there is some anomaly in the condition of a country which calls itself the land of liberty, and is at the same time the potent palladium of serfdom and human chattelery. When they are not seasick, which is seldom, the Teutons rise up in all the might of their misery and dirt, and, making spasmodic efforts to smoke, blurt out between the puffs, or in moody intervals, sundry remarks on American politics. "These are the swine," quoth Garnett, "who are swept out of German gutters as too foul for them, and who come over to the States and presume to control the fate and the wishes of our people. In their own country they proved they were incapable of either earning a living, or exercising the duties of citizenship; and they seek in our country a license denied them in their own, and the means of living which they could not acquire anywhere else."

And for myself may truly say this, that no man ever set foot on the soil of the United States with a stronger and sincerer desire to ascertain and to tell the truth, as it appeared to him. I had no theories to uphold, no prejudices to subserve, no interests to advance, no instructions to fulfil; I was a free agent, bound to communicate to the powerful organ of public opinion I represented, my own daily impressions of the men, scenes, and actions around me, without fear, favor, or affection of or for anything but that which seemed to me to be the truth. As to the questions which were distracting the States, my mind was a *tabula rasa*, or, rather, *tabula non scripta*. I felt indisposed to view with favor a rebellion against one of the established and recognized governments of the world, which, though not friendly to Great Britain, nor opposed to slavery, was without, so far as I could see, any legitimate cause of revolt, or any injury or grievance, perpetrated or imminent, assailed by States still less friendly to us, which the Slave States, pure and simple, certainly were and probably are. At the same time, I knew that these were grounds which I could justly take, whilst they would not be tenable by an American, who is by the theory on which he revolted from us and created his own system of government, bound to recognize the principle that the discontent of the popular majority with its rulers, is ample ground and justification for revolution.

It was on the morning of the fourteenth day that the shores of New York loomed through the drift of a cold wintry sea, leaden-gray and comfortless, and in a little time more the coast, covered with snow, rose in sight. Towards the afternoon the sun came out and brightened the waters and the sails of the pretty trim schooners and coasters which were dancing around us. How different the graceful, tautly-rigged, clean, white-sailed vessels, from the round-sterned, lumpish billy-boys and nondescripts of the eastern coast of our isle! Presently there came bowling down towards us a lively little schooner-yacht, very like the once famed "America," brightly painted in green, sails dazzling white, lofty ponderous masts, no tops. As she came nearer, we saw she was crowded with men in chimney-pot black hats, and coats, and the like—perhaps a party of citizens on pleasure, cold as the day was. Nothing of the kind. The craft was our pilot-boat, and the hats and coats belonged to the hardy mariners who act as guides to the port of New York. Their boat was lowered, and was soon under our mainchains; and a chimney-pot hat having duly come over the side, delivered a mass of newspapers to the captain, which were distributed among the eager passengers, when each at once became the centre of a spell-bound circle.

March 5, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

Yesterday was a great day in Washington, the occasion being the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, and the retirement of his predecessor, James Buchanan. On another page we give a full account of all the proceedings of the day from early dawn—the military and civic display, the precautions against attack, the scenes at the capital, inaugural address and ceremonies, installation of Vice President Hamlin and closing scenes of the Thirty sixth Congress, and a variety of other interesting matter pertaining to the event.

The Thirty sixth Congress of the United States came to a termination at noon yesterday. The Senate continued its Sunday night's session through to nine o' yesterday morning when it took a recess for one hour, reassembling again at then. The debate of Sunday night on the motion to adopt the Corwin resolution, as it passed the House, was continued, and after different proposed amendments had been voted on and defeated, the original resolution was finally adopted by 24 yeas to 12 nays. A vote was then taken on the Crittenden resolutions, and they failed by 19 yeas to 20 nays. Several reports were then made to the

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Senate, and the joint resolution correcting clerical errors in the Tariff bill passed. At twelve o Vice President Breckinridge made his farewell address, after which Mr. Hamlin took the oath as the new Vice President, and the Senate was declared adjourned sine die. Vice President Hamlin then took the chair, and the proclamation of the extra session was read.

The House met at ten o' yesterday. Great excitement and confusion prevailed, and, as usual in the hurry incident to the closing of a session, many bills were rushed through, and much business hastily transacted, but nothing of a very important nature. At twelve o' Speaker Pennington delivered his closing address to the members, and pronounced the final adjournment of the House of Representatives of the Thirty sixth Congress.

It appears, according to our advices from the national capital, that Lord Lyons, the British Minister, has notified the government at Washington that his government will not recognize merely a proclamation of the blockade of the Southern ports on the part of Mr. Lincoln's administration, but that a blockade, to be considered such, must be effectual. It is stated, too, that the French government, also, will soon give similar official notification, and that this course will probably be followed by all the leading European Powers having commercial interests at stake.

In the Louisiana State convention yesterday a resolution was passed to unite today in a public reception to General Twiggs, late commander of the Department of Texas under the government of the United States, and inviting him to a seat on the floor of the Convention. A resolution was introduced in the Convention instructing the Louisiana delegates in the Southern Congress not to cede any of the public domain to the confederation.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

The News Yesterday.

All Charleston was yesterday upon the quiver to learn the tone of the Inaugural Address of the Abolition President, who now rules in Washington. As fast as the reports of the Address came flashing over the lines they were put in type and placed upon THE MERCURY Bulletin Board, to gratify the curiosity of our friends.

It was after six o' before the conclusion of the Address reached us. Almost immediately our Extras, containing the Inaugural, were issued, affording the first copies of the document that were distributed in Charleston. In spite of the shocking weather, hundreds remained till a late hour at our office conning our Extra and discussing the news.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, March 1.

People being tolerably well satisfied that SCOTT with his cannon has overawed WISE with his minute men, it is likely, from present appearances, that we shall have just as large a crowd here on next Monday as on any previous inauguration day. But thousands on thousands would have come under any circumstances. The natural thirst of the Yankee and the Hoosier for office, masters all other passions, and carries them, if need be into the jaws of instant death.

We are no means at the bottom of LINCOLN'S policy yet. The obsequious Washingtonians serenaded him last night, and he told them he would give the people of the South all their rights under the Constitution. According to whose interpretation? The question was not put as it ought to have been. But the boot-licks and toad eaters of this city care nothing on earth for rights. They want quiet, repose—leisure to feed on the Federal pap until they are satisfied, if that be possible. Nothing can be more disgusting than the alacrity with which not only the poor devils of clerks, but the solid business men also, are trimming, the sails of their principles to suit the incoming political breeze. Towering above all others in this shameful movement are the old line Whigs who were born in Virginia. The truth is—and they admit it, — a Virginia Whig is naturally a perfect Republican, barring a little free soil.

You, people of Charleston, have been made famous by virtue of secession. All the papers in this

country have had their spiteful curlike snap at you, and now the English papers are following suit. The last number of the London Illustrated News has a picture entitled, "The Secession movement—entrance hall to an hotel at Charleston, South Carolina." If THE MERCURY had the appliances for cheap piracy which the HARPER'S possesses, it ought to reproduce this charming cut. The display of badly clad individuals and ponderous spit boxes is very rich. The gentlemen who frequent hotel at Charleston, would be delighted to see themselves so outrageously caricatured.

The Tribune pitches into Mr. SPRATT with great vigor; calls him "The Apostle to the Africans," and says "reminds us of that conscientious actor who, when he was to play Othello, blacked himself all over, that his consistency might be perfect and entire," and is otherwise most facetious over him. It is to be hoped Mr. SPRATT may survive.

It turns out that the Peace Conference Compromise, so cannonaded into glory yesterday by SCOTT and BUCHANAN, and so denounced in Richmond by TYLER and SEDDON, was passed by an alibi. If Mr. FIELD, of New York, had not been detained at the Supreme Court, the vote of his State would have been cast against it, and it would have been defeated.

A scheme is said to be on foot for carrying the great Southwestern mail so as to avoid passing through the Confederate States. The route will probably be via the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Columbus, Cincinnati, and across Kentucky direct to Mem-



"The Secession movement—entrance hall to an hotel at Charleston, South Carolina."

phis.

A thousand and one explanations are given of the alleged plot against the life of LINCOLN. The Herald gets off the most plausible. Two sets of detective were employed by THURLOW WEED. Set No. 1 knew nothing about set No. 2. Happening to meet, they began pumping each other, both sides telling lies with the view of worming something out of the other. Hence the great hullabaloo.

I have made no mention of the report of the select committee of five choice Republicans appointed by PENNINGTON to examine into the correspondence between the South Carolina Commissioners and the President, for the simple reason that no ink has yet been invented black and dirty enough to do justice to the infamous Insolence of DAWES, HOWARD, & CO.

It is unseasonably warn and dusty.
SEVEN.

THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER

The Declaration of War.

Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural Address is before our readers—couched in the cool, unimpassioned, deliberate language of the fanatic, with the purpose of pursuing the promptings of fanaticism even to the dismemberment of the Government with the horrors of civil war. Virginia has long looked for and promised peace offering before her—and she has more, she has the denial of all hope of peace. Civil war must now come. Sectional war, declared by Mr. Lincoln, awaits only this signal gun from the insulted Southern Confederacy, to light its horrid fires all along the borders of Virginia. No action of our Convention can now maintain the peace. She must fight! The liberty of choice is yet hers. She may march to the contest with her sister States of the South, or she must march to the conflict against them. There is left no middle course; There is left no peace; was must settle the conflict, and the God of battle give victory to the right!

We must be invaded by Davis or by Lincoln. The former can rally fifty thousand of the best and bravest sons of Virginia, who will rush with wiling hearts and ready hands to the standard that protects the rights and defends the honor of the South—for every traitor heart that offers aid to Lincoln there will be many, many who will glory in the opportunity to avenge the treason by a sharp and certain death. Let not Virginians be arrayed against each other, and since we cannot avoid war, let us determine that together, as people of the same State, we will defend each other, and preserve the soil of the State from the polluting foot of the Black Republican invader.

The question, “where shall Virginia go?” is

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answered by Mr. Lincoln, She must go to war—and she must decide with whom she wars—whether with those who have suffered her wrongs, or with those who have inflicted her injuries.

Our ultimate destruction pales before the present emergency. To war! to arms! is now the cry, and when peace is declared, if ever, in our day, Virginia may decide where she will finally rest. But for the present she has no choice left; war with Lincoln or with Davis is the choice left us. Read the inaugural carefully, and then let every reader demand of his delegate in the Convention the prompt measures of defense which it is now apparent we must make.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1861.

This has been one of the disagreeable days of Washn cold, very windy and the atmosphere loaded with dust. It has not frozen, but warm clothing necessary. Brother C R tried to go to Mt Vernon but there was such a crowd on the Boat that he backed out for the day. The Pat office has been crowded all day with visitors. Judge W H Davis returns tomorrow morning home. Called at the Hotels with Bror this evening, great crowds there yet. Cabinet appointments just out. Lincoln is fairly in the harness, he can now “go to work.” Got the NY Papers, read at home till 1/2 past 11 o'clock.

March 6, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

The numerous despatches from various portions of the country on the subject of President Lincoln's inaugural which we furnish this morning will indicate the manner in which it has been generally received by the country, and the different lights in which it is viewed by persons of different party predilections. One of our despatches from New Orleans, published in another column, states that in that city it was considered as contradictory, incongruous and ridiculous.

Despatches from Montgomery, Alabama, the capital of the new Southern confederacy, say that it is considered there that war between the North and South is now inevitable. It is said that the Congress of the confederate States are busily engaged in organizing a standing army for the anticipated conflict.

The Cabinet of the new President is given to our readers in another portion of this morning's issue. It will be found to be the same as that published in the HERALD some days ago.

Mr. Crawford, one of the three Commissioners from the Southern confederacy appointed to negotiate with the governor of the United States for the transfer of the public property, arrived in Washington yesterday. He will not announce his mission to the government until the arrival of his colleagues, who are expected in a few days. It is supposed that Mr. Lincoln will decline all conference with these gentlemen.

In the Missouri State Convention yesterday resolutions were adopted appointing a committee to wait on the Commissioner from Georgia and inform him that Missouri dissented from the position taken by his State, and very respectfully but emphatically declined to accept the invitation of Georgia to share with her the honors and responsibilities of secession.

A despatch from Raleigh gives us some further returns of the North Carolina election for State Convention. So far as the results have been obtained the Unionists are in a large majority. The vote on the question of holding a convention is said to be so close that the official returns will be necessary to decide it.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

The Veto.

It is said that the President has vetoed the Act currently passed by the Congress to suppress the African slave trade. The grounds of the veto are not as yet known; but it is certainly unfortunate that there should be a difference between Congress and the Executive on such a subject. Slavery is the immediate cause of the existence of the Confederacy. That difference should already arise concerning it, in its councils, is very much to be deplored. That Congress expected no such thing is plain from the fact that it removed the injunction of secrecy, and published the act to the world. This act is a modification of the laws of the United States upon the subject, which were adopted, with all the other laws of the United States, by the Congress of the Confederate States. The laws of the United States make the importation of African slaves piracy. This act punishes it as a high misdemeanor. To veto the latter, is to keep in force the former. Can this be the object of the veto?

General Beauregard.

There is no name better known for science and worth among army men, than Gen. BEAUREGARD.

The histories of the Mexican War, favorably as they have mentioned him, have failed to notice two of the most conspicuous incidents of his life, and which have gone far to establish his fame. We will relate them promising that we were not in the war, and

that we repeat them from memory on authentic information. The principal facts will be stated accurately, though there may be errors in unimportant details.

The first occurred before Vera Cruz.

Gen. B., then a Lieutenant of Engineers, was sent out by his Colonel (TOTTEN, if we remember aright) with a party of sappers to dig and prepare a trench, according to a profile and plan prepared by the Colonel. No sooner had BEAUREGARD examined the ground than he discovered great objections to the plan. To assure himself, he climbed into a tree, and with the aid of the marine glass, the engineer's vade mecum, he made a reconnoissance, and saw plainly that the trench, as planned would be enfiladed by the enemy's cannon. Here was a difficult position for a subaltern ministerial officer. He decided promptly, and returned to headquarters without sticking a spade. The Colonel met him and expressed surprise that he had so soon performed his task. BEAUREGARD replied that he had not touched it. The Colonel, with the astonishment military men feel in hearing their orders have not been obeyed inquired the reason. He was soon informed of it. He was incredulous—ground had been examined—"reconnaissance was perfect," &c. The young Lieutenant was satisfied, however, that the reconnoissance of his old chief had not been made like his, "up in a tree." The Colonel, like a sensible man, concluded to make another examination—the plan was changed in accordance with the young Lieutenant's views. The work done from these trenches is matter of history—but its pages nowhere inform us to whom the credit is due.

Our second incident occurred before the city of Mexico.

A night or two before the attack, a council of war was held. There were assembled all the big folks, from the (now) Lieut. General (who practices Mexican tactics from the house tops in Washington), including WORTH, TWIGGS, &C., down to our friend BEAUREGARD, the youngest officer in the room. The debate went on for hours. SCOTT was solitary in his opinion. Every other officer present, except one, had spoken and all concurred in their views. The silent one was BEAUREGARD. At last Gen. PIERCE crossed over and said, "You have not expressed an opinion." "I have not been called on," said BEAUREGARD. "You shall be, however," said PIERCE; and soon resuming his seat, announced that Lieut. BEAUREGARD had not given his opinion. Being then called out, he remarked that if the plan which had received the assent of all but the commanding General was carried into effect, it would prove disastrous. It would be another Churubusco affair. He then detailed to objections to it at length—and taking

up the other, urged the reasons in its favor with equal earnestness. The council reversed their decision. The city of Mexico was entered according to the plan urged by the young Lieutenant; and it would seem that his reasons influenced the decision. A few days afterwards General SCOTT, in the presence of a number of general officers, alluded to LT. BEAUREGARD's opinion at the Council, and the consequences which had followed from it.

We refer our readers for further information on this point to "The Life and Correspondence of JOHN A. QUITMAN," page 353.

Some justice has been done to BEAUREGARD in the histories of the Mexican war—but in its incompleteness we have been reminded of BYRON's satire of military glory: "To be shot dead on the battle field, and have our name misspelt in the Gazette."

The position now so promptly assigned to Gen. BEAUREGARD is a just tribute to his worth. It is a great satisfaction to our people that the enemy can bring no talent against us which we cannot match with its equal in our Southern land; and amongst all the bright galaxy, no one could be more acceptable than our native born Louisiana BEAUREGARD.

Our Washington Correspondence.

It is now night. But the last day of this eventful session is not over yet; for both Houses are still in squabbling turmoil at the Capitol, with every probability of keeping at it till morning. As to their proceedings during the last forty eight hours, a long dash, a large zero, would be the best report. A man of spirit loses all patience even in running over the newspaper abstracts. What must be his feeling, then, if constrained to witness the tiresome farce, hour after hour? Truly, the fundamental principle of this government is hopelessly lost. It is rotten at its very core. All parties, alike, lapsing from bad to worse in the natural progress of Republican institutions, have spewed up into public life a set of men as incompetent to meet the grand exigencies of the present crisis, as unfit for anything save petty intrigues and plunder, as so many semi idiotic dwarfs from Terra del Fuego.

It sounds monstrous, but is only the plain truth, that hardly a man in either House seems to realize, even at this last moment, the imminent and terrible calamities with which the country is threatened. It is but the bald, unadorned fact that every one here, from the highest to the lowest, is far less excited, far less apprehensive of danger, than they were at the beginning of the session. This apathy may be traced to a number of circumstances. First: the constant presence of danger has made men accustomed to its form and lineaments. They are no longer frightful. Second: the

long delay at Sumter and Pickens has led people to believe that there never will be any fighting. I say this with pain, and with no earthly desire to hasten hostilities; but it is the simple truth. Your own reason will tell you that is must and can be no otherwise. Third: the delusion of Reconstruction tends to allay excitement. Thousands will swear, if need be, that the majority of the people of the Confederate States are already heartily sick of secession, and anxious to get back into the Union. All that is needed is aid and comfort from the Federal Government to enable the Reconstructionists to carry things before them like a whirlwind. Men of all sides honestly believe this, for they have been assured of the fact by papers like the True Delta, by travellers just returned from Georgia and Alabama, and by forged or real letters from wealthy planters to ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Fourth: the coalition formed between the Whigs and Douglasites in the Border States and the Republicans, has inclined the former, for the sake of the spoils, and with the view of keeping the new party united and permanent, to admit that the recapture of the forts and the forcible collection of the revenue shall not be considered coercion. Besides, the natural proclivity of the Old Line Federalists is to maintain the central authority at all hazards and to the last extremity. Fatal as this may be to the peace of the country, justice demands that, in very many instance, the merit of sincerity be granted to these Federalists. But that makes the matter all the worse.

I have been thus lengthy in summing up the causes which produced the existing apathy here, in order that your readers may see how little chance there is of a peaceful solution of the national trouble. It is thought there will be no fight. If there should be, no one cares; because all hands have agreed that the odds against you are so great, that the fight will be a very brief one. As to civil war, the idea is hooted at. Some collisions may take place between the "Rebels" and their neighbors and kinsmen, the Reconstructionists. But what of that? The war will be too far off to bother us here. And supposing the Rebels do get the better of the Reconstructionists, why then it will only be necessary for THE GOVERNMENT to assist the latter, and the "will be ground to powder in the twinkling of an eye, and the Union restored completely in less than three months. Such is the reasoning of many, very many (apparently) sensible men, both in this city and in Baltimore - men who have always warred, and are still warring against the Republicans. These men who lean to the North, but are by no means bitterly hostile to the South, will laugh at you when you tell them the Union is permanently dissolved. They say it has never been dissolved at all. It is the force of Federalism,

which cannot realize the breaking up of the centralized despotism.

Now, when LINCOLN is encouraged by his infatuation on the part of men in the slave States, how is it possible for him to prevent war? He cannot. Whigs in Virginia and Maryland tell him that he has no authority under the Constitution to recognise the independence of the Confederate States. That must be left to the conventions of the people in all the States which are parties to the Federal Compact. Thus you are expected to wait one, two or three years, until the whole people have pronounced sentence for or against you. This will never do.

Pardon me for dwelling so tediously on this solitary subject. I have just awakened to the appalling fact that the Whigs in the Border States are aiding and abetting coercion in a manner which leaves no room to doubt that it will be the policy of the Administration which comes into power day after tomorrow. I can think of Nothing else, write of nothing else. Having placed what I believe—nay, almost know to be the facts of the case before you, my duty is done.

DALLAS HERALD

Lone Star Flag

Last Saturday amidst the booming of cannon and the shouts of the people, the Lone Star Flag, made for the occasion by the Ladies of Dallas, was raised above the Court House, and floated triumphantly to the breeze. It is a beautiful piece of work and reflects the highest credit upon the fair ladies who gathered together and wrought his fine emblem of Texas Independence. At night, there was a brilliant illumination and a thousand lights were shedding their rays upon the enthusiastic crowds that promenaded its streets. The establishments of Messrs. Simon, Wells & Bro., Caldwell, Jeff Peak Jr., the Dallas Hotel, Crutchfield House, Nevill's, Baird's, and the Court House were perfect blazes of light. Appropriate transparencies were gotten for the occasion and had a fine effect.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

WEDNESDAY 6

Worked busily in the office all day but had numerous "Calls." Called, myself, upon Mr Kelly the acting Sec'y of Interior. The Sec'y [has] not taken his position yet but expected today. Wife & Julia called at the office for me just before 3 o'clock. I went home with them, C R T along. In the evening went to Willards with them all, staid two or three hours with our friends in the parlors. We went from there to

"Gautiers" and took Ice Cream, Tea, &c. Got home about 11 o'clock and soon went to bed.

March 7, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

It is stated that President Lincoln will today send to the Senate for confirmation the nomination of Senator Crittenden to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Daniels. Major Anderson now in command of Fort Sumter, it is also said, will be nominated to the generalship in the army lately made vacant by the removal of Gen. Twiggs.

A Washington correspondent infers, from the recent conduct of Senator Douglas, his intimacy with the President and those in Presidential confidence, and the tone of his speech in the Senate yesterday on the subject of the Inaugural, that there may, at no distant day, be a place made in the Cabinet for the Little Giant.

All the three Commissioners from the Southern confederacy are now in Washington—Messrs. Forsyth and Roman having arrived yesterday, and Mr. Crawford on the day previous. They have not yet officially announced their presence or object to the government, but are expected to do so soon. It is supposed President Lincoln will refuse to hold any intercourse with them.

The Senate of the United States was again in extra session yesterday. The business transacted was merely of a routine character. On a motion to print extra copies of President Lincoln's Inaugural a debate sprang up between Senators Clingman and Douglas, in which Mr. Clingman gave expression to his condemnation of the tone of the message, and interpreted it as meaning war. Mr. Douglas, in replying, regarded it as calculated to continue peaceful relations, and as promising reconciliation between the sections.

Our Washington despatches this morning furnish much information, of interest as well to the general public as the active politicians. The new Cabinet has commenced operations, most of the Secretaries having assumed control of their departments, and a number of appointments for various positions have been made.

The State of Texas is out of the Union. From New Orleans it is stated that the people have ratified the ordinance of secession by a majority of from 40,000 to 45,000. General Houston has resigned the Governership.

Mr. Buchanan left Baltimore yesterday morn-

ing for his residence at Wheatland, near Lancaster, Pa., whither he was escorted by the Baltimore City Guard. The turnout on the occasion of his departure from the Monumental City was very fine. He arrived at home last evening.

RICHMOND ENQUIRER

The Inaugural.

Our readers have seen and, we feel confident, most anxiously perused the inaugural address of Mr. Lincoln. Never was an inaugural looked for with such deep interest, for never did a President hold the fate and destiny of the Union so completely in his hands. A dismembered and severed Union, a people discordant, dissatisfied and almost belligerent, looked to Mr. Lincoln for some word of hope, some hint of peace. With a deliberation which the Convention of Virginia certainly will appreciate, Mr. Lincoln has spoken, and with a frankness at least commendable, he has told 'the people of the United States' that there cannot and shall not be any separation. - He says:

'It follows from these views that no State, upon its own mere motion, can lawfully get out of the Union; that Resolves and Ordinances to that effect are legally void; and that acts of violence within any State or States, against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances. I therefore consider that in the view of the Constitution and the laws, the Union is unbroken; and, to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in ALL the States.'

Here, then, is an end to peaceable separation.

Mr. Lincoln has no ambiguity as to his purposes, and he coolly tells the States that have seceded, that if in the future anybody should be hurt, that they must not charge upon him; for he says:

'In doing this there needs to be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall none, unless it be forced upon the National Government.'

He does not stop with generalities, but enters into details of purpose about which there can be no misunderstanding.

'The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and to collect the duties and imposts, but beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere. Where hostility to the United States in any interior locality shall be so great and so universal as to prevent competent resident citizens from holding the Federal offices, there will be no attempt to force obnoxious strangers among the people for that object. While the strict legal

right may exist in the Government to enforce the exercise of these offices, the attempt to do so would be so irritating and so nearly impracticable with all, that I deem it better to forego for the time the uses of such offices.'

His conclusion is pathetically emphatic. 'In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, IS THE MOMENTOUS ISSUE OF CIVIL WAR. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors.' Give me up my forts, pay me my revenue, return my arsenals and arms, are not enemies, but friends. 'With the affectionate embrace of Box, he says: passion may have been constrained, it must not break our bands of affection.'

Mr. Lincoln evinces his attachment to Virginia by a repeated use of a familiar rallying cries of the majority of the Convention. Like them, he, too, is for taking time. He says and so does the majority of the Convention - 'Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time.' He, too, is opposed to 'and haste.' 'If there be an object,' says Mr. Lincoln, 'hurry any of you in hot haste to a step which you would never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time, but no good object can be frustrated by it.' This is not as clear as it might be, but, perhaps, it is as clear as Mr. Lincoln intended to make it.

To 'Precipitate Action,' Mr. Lincoln is decidedly opposed. He says:

'If it were admitted that you who are dissatisfied, hold the right side in the dispute, there is still no single good reason for PRECIPITATE ACTION.'

Will it not strike the people of Virginia with astonishment that Mr. Lincoln should advise and counsel the very identical course which this Convention has pursued; that he should use the same terms, the very cant phrases that are heard from the lips of every submissionist in this Convention? How often have the people of Virginia read in submissionists' journals, and heard from submissionists' lips the words 'time,' 'haste,' 'action?' Now Mr. Lincoln returns literally the poisoned chalice to their lips, and threatens them with all the power of the Government if they do not wait.

This coincidence of language between Virginia submissionists and the Illinois coercionists has deeper meaning than the mere identity of phrase, the purposes, the ends of both are the same, the one betrays, the other conquers, but both design the disgrace and dishonor of the State; they are both the enemies of the State and should share the same fate from its true and loyal sons.

CHARLESTON MERCURY**Our Washington Correspondence.**

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1861.

I have just returned from looking at the inaugural procession. From an upper window of BROWN'S Hotel I had a perfect view of the whole affair, from the Chief Marshall, with his Aids, at the head of the column, down to the ragamuffins, on foot, or in dilapidated wagons, at the tail. Truth compels me to say it was a poor show. LINCOLN sat in an open carriage, with BUCHANAN by his side, and PEARCE of Maryland, and some one else facing him. It was my first glimpse of the mighty Rail Splitter. Looking down upon him through a lorgnette, he did not seem as homely and vulgar as the prints and the press represent him. But all sides agree that he is a low flung, weak minded man. Even the Republicans laugh at him.

The most noticeable part of the procession was a large car, draped and festooned, and filled with little children, representing the thirty four States, and waving miniature flags. Only one company of Federal soldiers turned out—a troop of dragoons. The rest of the military consisted of volunteers, and among them CARRINGTON'S squad of hod carriers was conspicuous for the dingy, dirty hue of their uniforms, and the unevenness of their marching. The procession was a half or three quarters of a mile long, and was closed appropriately by a rickety Jersey wagon, filled with butchers, and drawn by a pair of spavined gray ponies. This concern, horses and all, was much adorned with flags, and I observed that one of them was torn, so that all the stars remained while some of the stripes were missing. Very few decorations were visible except on the hotels, and from the time the pageant, if it deserve that name, left WILLARD'S until the carriage containing LINCOLN was out of my sight, there was not a particle of enthusiasm, not a single hurrah, not a solitary cheer. This is ominous. More than that it is marvellous—considering the readiness of Washington people to take sides with whatever party happens to be in power.

Happening this morning to be at WILLARD'S, I saw HORACE GREELEY when he came down, as I suppose, from his last interview with Old ABE. His broad-brimmed hat was set back on his head, his cravat twisted one side and above his collar, and his bosom exposed. As he slouched along in his ungainly rhinoceros way, a half drunken New Yorker stopped him, and told him he intended to hit him out yet. GREELEY was glad to get away. He seemed to think,

from GREELEY'S expression, that he had been successful in the great CHASE vs. SEWARD game, which has been going on ever since LINCOLN arrived. Such, however, was not exactly the case; for until within the last hour or two LINCOLN was still undecided whether to hold on to CHASE or put SHERMAN in his place. His heart is with CHASE, but so great has been the pressure against him, especially by SEWARD'S allies in Virginia, that it is not unlikely he will in the end abandon him. But SHERMAN is no whit better. He is not an avowed Abolitionist, like CHASE, but his hatred of the South is even greater, and his views in respect to coercion are precisely the same.

I hear that the Commissioners from the Confederate States are here, and will demand an interview with LINCOLN tomorrow. Doubtful, inasmuch as their arrival, and even their approach to the city, has been kept a profound secret. Here they ought to be, and the demand for the forts made at the earliest possible moment. We have been trifling long enough.

No force bills have been passed, and nothing done, they say, which squints at coercion. But there is to be no declaration of war—only self defence.

The Pacific Railroad monstrosity is defunct for the time being. The next Congress will finish that enormous swindle to suit Republican tastes. Mr. CRITTENDEN made his farewell speech last night. It was Union, Union, Union to the very last. Kentucky must cling to the Union after every other State, North and South, has gone. Poor old gentleman!

The Lincoln Inauguration.

A Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun writes:

I have seen today such a sight as I could never have believed possible at the capital of my country. An inauguration of a President surrounded by an armed soldiery, with loaded pieces and fixed bayonets. The President himself hid from public view, in a hollow square of cavalry three or four deep. The tops of houses occupied by soldiery, watching for signs of tumult or assassination.

The carriage in which Mr. Lincoln rode was flanked on either side by cavalry, six or eight deep. It was almost impossible for the crowd on the pavement to get a sight of the President, as the cavalry hid the vehicle from view. Mr. Lincoln did not look either to the right or the left, and it was only occasionally that he raised his hat. There was no enthusiasm exhibited—no cheering—and with but very few exceptions the ladies remained motionless at the windows, and looked upon the pageant without manifesting the slightest feeling. For the most part, Mr. Lincoln ap-

peared to be looking vacantly at the bottom of the carriage. There was but little conversation between him and Mr. Buchanan, and the latter looked as though he would much rather not have participated in the ceremonies.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

THURSDAY 7

Somewhat frosty this morning, but a bright day. In the office all day. W VanMaster of Lyons called again. Went with him to the seed room and procured a variety of garden seeds, grape cutting, tea plants &c for him. Bro C R and also Julia were at the office today. Went with Bro after three o'clock to [?"Klomans"?) and got some oysters and ale. Intending to go to the Navy Yard, but concluded that it was too late. Came home and dined at 4, did not go out this evening. Bro & I staid in parlor.

March 8, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

An early attack on Fort Sumter seems to be generally anticipated. Whether the administration will reinforce Major Anderson is not known. It was stated in Washington last night that Major Anderson had sent word to the government that it was useless to send to his assistance less than twenty thousand men. Gen. Beauregard, the officer despatched by the government of the Confederate States to take command at Charleston, has arrived at his post, and expresses perfect confidence that Sumter can be reduced.

The Louisiana State Convention yesterday in secret session passed an ordinance transferring to the government of the confederate States the sum of five hundred and thirty six thousand dollars, the amount of customs received and moneys seized by the State.

We have highly important news from Texas, which renders it probable that a conflict has already taken place in that State between the United States forces and those of the State of Texas. Galveston dates of the 26th ult. state that Capt. Nichols, commander of the State troops, had demanded of Capt. Hill, of the United States Army, the surrender of Fort Brown. Capt. Hill refused to entertain the proposition, called Capt. Nichols and his men traitors, and expressed his determination to defend the fort to the last extremity. Capt. Hill refused to obey any order of Gen. Twiggs, and had sent to Fort Ringgold for two hundred men. Troops were on the way from Galveston to reinforce the Texan army. Details of the matter

Skeddaddle

will be found in another column of this paper.

We have received intelligence that Governor Brown, of Georgia, has released the bark Adjuster, of this city, which vessel was reprimed for certain illegal seizures of property in this city by Police Superintendent Kennedy, in consequence of representations made to him by the British Consul at Savannah that the cargo she held belonged to the subjects of Great Britain.

The following is the Cabinet of the Southern confederacy, as at present constituted:

Secretary of State... Robert Toombs, of Ga.
Secretary of the Treasury... C. L. Memminger, of S. C.
Secretary of War... Leroy P. Walker, of Ala.
Secretary of the Navy... Stephen M. Mallory, of Fla.
Postmaster General... John H. Reagan, of Texas.
Attorney General... Judah P. Benjamin, of La.

The first formal meeting of the new Cabinet of President Lincoln was held yesterday. It lasted two hours, and various surmises were indulged in as to what were the momentous matters under consideration, and what were the results and determinations arrived at; but up to the time of our latest despatches we are not informed that anything positive as to their deliberations had transpired.

The diplomatic corps yesterday made their first formal visit to President Lincoln, in accordance with the custom on the accession of a new administration. Mr. Lincoln was addressed, on behalf of the body, by the representative of Portugal, and replied in a brief speech of welcome.

A number of the citizens of Washington and other friends of the distinguished Kentucky Senator, Mr. Crittenden, paid him the compliment last evening of a visit and serenade, in anticipation of his departure from the national capital, to retire to private life. Mr. Crittenden responded to his visitors in a genial and patriotic speech, which we publish this morning.

No official movement appears to have been made yesterday by the Commissioners in Washington from the Southern confederacy. It is said that an informal communication was made to the State Department by a distinguished Senator touching their mission.

The French manufacturers begin to feel the effect of the American crisis, and are restricting their operations and withdrawing their credits until affairs in this country become more settled.

Important From Washington.

Affairs At Fort Sumter.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1861.

A despatch was received here today stating that an attack on Sumter was shortly anticipated. This change of policy, it is understood, is not caused so much by the inaugural as from the fact that Chase and Blair are members of President Lincoln's Cabinet. The Inaugural, taken in connection with the construction of the Cabinet, is regarded as a declaration of war. So says the intelligence just received from Charleston.

I am informed by an officer of the army that information has been received from Major Anderson to the effect that it is useless to send less than twenty thousand soldiers to Charleston. Less than that number cannot enter the harbor and destroy the batteries on either side. This information, it is said, is also in possession of the government.

The Charleston Courier of the 5th inst. states that Brigadier General Beauregard has expressed perfect confidence, after viewing the fortifications in Charleston harbor, that Fort Sumter can be reduced. He says that it is only a question of time.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1861.

The War Department today received letters from Major Anderson dated the 4th but they contain nothing of especial importance. The most friendly feelings exist between him and the South Carolina authorities. Postal facilities are still open to him, and privileges of marketing, to a limited extent, continue.

**THE STAUNTON
VINDICATOR**

Judge Jno. W. Brockenbrough . . .

Judge Jno. Brockenbrough, one of the Commissioners from Virginia to the Peace Congress, passed through Staunton on the 4th, on his way to his home in Lexington. In a brief conversation with the Judge, he expressed it as his opinion that there was very little hope of an adjustment of our national difficulties. He regards the amendment to the Constitution proposed by Mr. Corwin, and the report of the Peace Commissioners, as mere patch work, and falling immeasurably short of a remedy, or a just and fair basis of settlement. The Judge seemed to feel exceedingly despondent for the country, and loath to contemplate the sad disasters which loom up in the future for the only truly free government in the world.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

Blockade of the Southern Forts.

Important Notification of the English and French Governments.

WASHINGTON, March 4. - I learn that Lord LYONS, the British Minister, has officially notified the American Government that Great Britain will not recognize a blockade of the Southern ports, unless it is thorough and effectual, and that the mere announcement of a blockade, in accordance with the Treaty of Paris, will not be recognized.

In order to make the blockade of the Southern ports thus complete, the American Government must have vessels enough to blockade every port, otherwise the British Government will feel themselves compelled in accordance with their engagements with other powers, to disregard the restriction, and carry on their commerce with the Southern port as if no such blockade had been announced.

It is understood that it is also the intention of M. MORCIER, the French Minister, to give the same notification to the Government in regard to France, and that all the European Powers, in consequence of the peculiar relations they have with the commerce of the world, will likewise take advantage of the Treaty of Paris, and act in accordance with the policy adopted by the French and English Governments.— N. Y. Herald.

The Inaugural Ball.

This ball, which took place in Washington on Monday night, is said to have been well attended. One of the ladies is represented to have been attired in two thousand dollars worth of laces and twenty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds. A letter says:

At 10 3/4 o' the Presidential party came in. Senator Anthony and Vice President Hamlin supported the President. Senator Douglas escorted Mrs. Lincoln; Senator Baker, Mrs. Hamlin; Gov. Yates, Mrs. Baker, and Dr. Baloché, Miss Edwards. The band struck up "Hail Columbia," and the party marched from one end of the hall to the other, amid inspiring strains of the national air, causing an era of tremendous good feeling. After a brief promenade, the President, with Mrs. Hamlin, took stations at the upper end of the room, and a large number of person availed themselves of the opportunity of being presented to Mr. Lincoln, who shook hands with everybody. At 11 1/2 o', the President and suite went into the supper room, in the same order as they entered the hall. At 12 1/4 o', the quadrille of the evening was danced— Douglas and Mrs. Lincoln, Hamlin and Miss Edwards,

Mayor Berret and Mrs. Bergman, Mr. Harrerd and Mrs. Baker composing the set. Miss Edwards, niece of Mrs. Lincoln, was acknowledged to be the belle of the evening. The ladies of the Presidential party were dressed exquisitely, and in perfect taste.

The ball was a bad failure in a financial point of view. Hundreds of salaried men of the Republican party kept away. Such a fact in ominous concerning the future business prosperity of Washington.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1861.

Rather a cool day but cloudy with indications of rain at night. Shepherd Patrick of Norwalk Ohio called upon me today. I showed him round the office. This Evening was the first Levee of Mr Lincoln at the "White House." Myself, Brother C R, and Julia went. The crowd was so great in the House that hundreds left without seeing the Prest. It was a perfect jam. Elegant Ladies dresses and Elegant Officers uniforms fared bad in the crowd. Got home about 10 and staid there quite as long as was desirable to us.

March 9, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

According to our Washington despatches, the reinforcement of Forts Sumter and Pickens has been decided on by the administration of President Lincoln, and the arrangements for carrying out that object are now in active progress. General Scott and the Cabinet secretaries are said to be busy with the plans.

We are informed by one of our Washington correspondents of very important movements in the army and navy ordered by the government. All the naval vessels in the Pacific and the Mediterranean are ordered home to return to Northern ports, and the troops lately under command of Gen. Twiggs, in Texas, numbering twenty five hundred, and those in New Mexico are called to the North.

No movement has yet been made by the Commissioners in Washington from the confederate States towards the negotiations with which they are charged. Mr. Roman, one of the members of the Commission, who was erroneously stated yesterday to have arrived, was still wanting, at a late hour last night, to complete the delegation, and his colleagues will do nothing till he joins them.

We publish this morning the roll of a formidable army of patriots who are anxious to serve their country under the auspices of the Lincoln regime. To

those who may have supposed that patriotism was on the wane, this list will be a refreshing surprise. To the names of those gentlemen as aspiring to the New York appointments we have appended brief historical sketches.

From Texas we have nothing of a positive nature later than what we published yesterday morning; but by way of New Orleans, there is a rumor to the effect that Fort Brown, in command of Capt. Hill, of the United States Army, had been surrendered to the Texans.

Intelligence was received in Washington last night to the effect that, after a full and careful canvass in the Virginia Convention, it was found that the secessionists in that body were in a minority, notwithstanding the fact that they have received accessions since the delivery of President Lincoln inaugural. The secession ordinance will consequently be voted down in the Convention.

On the night of the 4th of March the Brooklyn Navy Yard was put into a state of defence, all the marines being on duty and under arms during the night, in readiness for action; the whole of the officers and men were on board their respective vessels—an usual thing when in port—and all the guns were kept loaded. These facts are not generally known, nor has there been a real cause assigned for this unusual state of diligence.

Ex-Secretary Floyd comes out with a lengthy letter in relation to the late alleged frauds in the War Department, and gives a full history of the acceptances given in favor of Messrs. Russell, Majors & Waddell. He cites authorities for the legality of his acts, says the existence of the acceptances was known in commercial circles for over three years and avers that the War Department never was managed more economically than it was during the administration of Mr. Buchanan. He also disclaims all connection with Bailey, and says he cannot see for the life of him what the young man's object was in ruining himself to prevent disgrace being brought upon one who was almost a stranger to him.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

Lincoln's Inaugural.

Opinions of the Abolition Press.

(From the New York Tribune.)

The address cannot fail to exercise a happy influence upon the country. The tone of almost tenderness with which the South is called upon to return to her allegiance cannot fail to convince even those who differ from Mr. Lincoln that he earnestly and seriously desires to avoid all difficulty and disturbance, while the firmness with which he avows his determination to

obey the simple letter of his duty must command the respect of the whole country, while it carries conviction of his earnestness of purpose, and of his courage to enforce it.

(From the World.)

Mr. Lincoln has been long enough in Washington to show that he has a firm, independent judgment of his own, and that he well knows how to blend determination with prudence. We look for a vigorous yet discreet management of our national difficulties—just the policy best calculated to avert bloodshed, and yet maintain the Federal authority in all its rightful strength. With time passion will subside, misapprehension disappear; and with time, too, the stupendous practical difficulties in the ways of keeping up the Government of the so styled, “Confederate States” will develop themselves and will cause a revulsion of popular feeling that will give traitors a lesson for all time to come. In spite of the treachery of the old pilot, the ship has weathered the worst of the storm and doubled the cape. Under the new guidance we hope soon to be in smoother waters.

(From the Times.)

The characteristic feature of the address is its profound sincerity—the earnest determination which it evinces to render equal and exact justice to every State, to every section, to every interest of the Republic—and to administer the government in a spirit of the most thorough and impartial equity. To this purpose every other consideration is made to bend. And no one who can understand, and appreciate such a character as that of Mr. Lincoln will doubt that this spirit will make every act of his administration.

In our judgment the Inaugural cannot fail to exert a very happy influence upon public sentiment throughout the country. All men, of all parties, must feel that its sentiments are just and true—that it sets forth the only basis on which the government of this country can be maintained, while at the same time it breathes the very spirit of kindness and conciliation and relies upon justice and reflection, rather than force, for the preservation of the Federal Union.

The Inaugural inspires the strongest and most confident hopes of the wisdom and success of the new Administration. It is marked throughout by consummate ability, a wise and prudent sagacity in the judgment of affairs, a profound appreciation of the difficulties and dangers of the crisis, a calm, self possessed, unflinching courage adequate to any emergency, a kind and conciliatory temper and the most earnest, sincere and unswerving devotion to the Union and the Constitution. If the dangers of the hour can be averted and the Union can be saved, this is the basis on which alone it can be accomplished. If the Union cannot be

saved on this basis, and consistently with these principles, then it is better that it should not be saved at all.

(From the Courier and Enquirer.)

The address is a noble one, proving conclusively that he who delivered it is a plain, honest, frank man, possessed of a soul big with patriotism, of an ability equal to the high station to which he has been called, and of that firmness of purpose, mingled with that conciliatory spirit, demanded by the emergency which meets him on the very threshold of his office. Mr. Lincoln’s address is remarkable for its directness, for the convincing manner in which his duty is set forth, and for the exact and truthful manner in which the great question before the country is put. We cannot see how any true citizen of this Republic, any lover of its Union of States, its Constitution, and laws, can rise from the perusal of this Address without being completely satisfied; without saying “Abraham Lincoln is right; he has said just what he ought to say, and no more nor less; is a man who will do what he promises; a man in whom the most perfect trust may be reposed that he will be an able and true President of the United States - South and North, East and West.”

(From the Philadelphia Inquirer.)

The Address is in admirable tone and temper. It breathes throughout the kindest spirit to the people of the Southern States. No man can read it without being convinced that the new President is a patriot in the sincere desire to dispel groundless apprehensions growing out of his election, and throughout the Address there is a pervading purpose to do what is right. In all these respects it is as we have already said most admirable.

Upon the whole we are of opinion that the President Inaugural Address looks to peace rather than war, and if it fails to give through satisfaction, it is because of the inherent difficulties which surround the subjects presented to him for action.

The Lincoln Cabinet.

We give below brief sketches of those members of the Cabinet of LINCOLN, with whose history many of our readers may not be familiar:

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Hon. Salmon P. Chase is a native of New Hampshire, born in 1808, and at an early age emigrated to Ohio, but living there after a year’s residence, graduated at Dartmouth College, N. H. and studied law in Washington city under the celebrated William Wirt. He sustained himself during the years of his professional studies by imparting instruction to a select school for boys. He was admitted to the bar at Washington in 1829, and in the following year returned to Cincinnati and entered upon the practice of his pro-

fession, in which he soon rose to eminence. He was subsequently elected a member of the United States Senate, and upon the expiration of his Senatorial terms, he was put in nomination for Governor of Ohio and elected. He was again put in nomination for Governor, and was again elected to that position. Recently he was a second time elected to the United States Senate, and took his seat at the called session on Monday.

SECRETARY OF WAR.

Hon. Simon Cameron served an apprenticeship to the printing business at Harrisburg, and subsequently worked as a journeyman in Washington city. In 1821, when a young man, he declined the offer of a nomination for Congress; in 1828 was Adjutant General of Pennsylvania; in 1831 he was appointed by General Jackson a Visitor to West Point; and in 1838 he again declined a nomination for Congress. For many years he has been prominently identified with the works of internal improvement in Pennsylvania, and for twenty seven years was Cashier of the Middletown Bank in that State. He was also formerly President of the Lebanon Valley Railroad company; and President of the Commonwealth Insurance Company.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Hon. Gideon G. Welles, is a native of Connecticut, and a well known contributor to the partisan press. He formerly held the office of Postmaster of Hartford, under Mr. Van Buren Administration, and left the office soon after the election of Gen. Harrison in 1840. During a part of Mr. Polk Administration he occupied an important position in the Navy Department. Like many other prominent Northern Democrats, Mr. Welles disagreed with his party on the subject of the repeal of the Missouri compromise. The territorial question being the chief one at issue, he became identified with the Republican part soon after its organization, and has since been one of its leaders, taking a prominent part in its Conventions, State and national. He was a delegate from the State at large to the Chicago Convention, and constituted one of the Committee to proceed to Springfield with official notice of Mr. Lincoln nomination. He was also one of the Presidential Electors.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Hon. Caleb B. Smith is well known in Indiana, and is reported to be possessed of a vigorous intellect, and considerable administrative tact and ability. He has been frequently a Whig member of Congress, and was commissioner on Mexican claims. He is now a Republican of moderate views.

POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The Hon. Montgomery Blair is a son of Francis P. Blair, one of the editors of the Globe, the organ

of Gen. Jackson during his administration. For several years past he has resided with his father, in Montgomery county, Maryland. He graduated at West Point, went to the State of Missouri, practiced law in St. Louis, was made judge and was appointed by President Pierce Solicitor of Claims, from which place he was removed by President Buchanan. Judge Blair is now in the prime of life, and a warm Republican. He is son in law of the late Hon. Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire, and brother of Frank P. Blair, jr., Congressman elect from the St. Louis district.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Hon. Edward Bates was born in Goochland county, Va., in 1793, and in the war of 1812 served as a volunteer at Norfolk. About 1814 he set out for St. Louis, and crossed the Mississippi for the first time on the 29th of April. Here he studied very diligently in the office of Rufus Eaton, a Connecticut man, and some time a delegate in Congress from Missouri Territory. Mr. Bates came to the bar in the winter of 1816-17, and practiced with fair success as a beginner. In 1853 he was elected Judge of the Land court of St. Louis county, and after serving in the office about three years he resigned and returned again to the practice of the law. He acted as President of the River and Harbor Improvement convention which sat at Chicago and in 1852 acted as president of the Whig National Convention which met at Baltimore. In 1850 he was appointed by President Fillmore and confirmed by the Senate Secretary of War, but declined the appointment for personal and domestic reasons. Mr. Bates was complimented with the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1858 by Harvard College. Some years before he had been honored with the same degree by Shurtleff College, Illinois.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Mr. Jefferson Davis

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy, entitled the Confederate States of America, was formally inaugurated at Montgomery, Alabama, on the 18th ult. The spectacle is described as the grandest ever witnessed in the South. Mr. Davis, in his address on the occasion said:—"The judgment and the will of the people are that union with the Northern States is neither practicable nor desirable. If necessary, we must maintain by final arbitrament of the sword the position we have assumed." Unless, therefore, the peace convention can hit upon an acceptable compromise this final arbitrament seems inevitable. The Congress of the seceding Southern States has declared the navigation of the Mississippi free. The appoint-

ment of Toombs as Secretary of State, Memminger as Secretary of Treasury, and L. Walker as Secretary of War, have been confirmed by Congress.

A bill was passed in the Florida Legislature, on Feb. 16, authorising the issue of Treasury notes to the amount of 500,000 dollars.

But while the seceding States are consolidating their new union, the secession movement appears to have received a check in several of the slaveholding States which have not yet formally quitted the Confederation founded by Washington. In Arkansas and Tennessee, majorities of anti-secession delegates have been returned, and in Missouri the attempt to convoke a convention has altogether failed.

The difficulties between the States of New York and Georgia are not yet arranged, the governor of the former refusing to deliver up the arms and ammunition destined for the seceders, and the authorities of the latter retaining the Northern ships seized at Savannah in retaliation.

The committee of the Washington Peace Conference had reported a plan of pacification, understood to be compounded from the Crittenden, Guthrie, and Border States plans. The Republicans favour the idea of a National Convention as the best way to settle all trouble, and will attempt to pass a resolution to that effect. There has been much hard feeling and ill blood in the Convention.

In the House of Representatives a bill had been reported making an appropriation for a survey of the Northern Pacific regions, with the view of establishing a telegraph to Asia.

The Tariff Bill has been passed in the Senate. Not only are its provisions with regard to a large number of the leading articles of importation absolutely prohibitory, but it is framed with such intricacy as to render trade almost impossible.

The Indians were ravaging the territory of New Mexico. Application had been made at Washington for troops to assist in suppressing hostilities.

The 129th anniversary of the birthday of Washington was celebrated on the 22nd ult. The New York papers have copious accounts of the celebration, and also of the progress of President Lincoln and of the inauguration of President Davis.

A telegram from Nebraska City, Kansas, dated the 19th ult., says:—"Old Fort Kearney was taken possession of last night by a party of Secessionists, and this morning a Palmetto flag waves over the fortress, bearing the inscription 'Southern Rights.'" A later telegram says:—"An attack was made on the fort this morning at ten o'clock, and, amid great excitement, the Palmetto flag was torn down, and the stars and stripes raised in its place."

TEXAS REPUBLICAN

(Marshall)

Mrs. Lucy P. Pickens.

On Friday evening last, there was a general and, we might say, a spontaneous call upon Mrs. Gov. Pickens by her Marshall friends, as it was generally understood she would leave in a few days thereafter for South Carolina. The residence of Col. B. L. Holcomb, noted as it ever has been for its genial hospitality, sociability, and attractiveness, never contained a more pleasant and agreeable party of ladies and gentlemen than were congregated in its drawing rooms that evening. We should have called it, perhaps, a levee, but the word carries with it, in our mind, an idea of cold formality; the deference paid to rank or position. No one went to see Mrs. Pickens, as Mrs. Gov. Pickens, as much as they may admire the talent and heroism of her husband; but as "LUCY," whose loveliness, accomplishments, and fascinating manners, imparted a charm to the society in which she mingled, and gave her an individuality of character, for which she was so much admired. Her friends were agreeably surprised to find her the same as of yore; time and absence had worked no perceptible change in her appearance or manners. The evening passed off very pleasantly with conversation, music, and a superb supper. We regret that Mrs. Pickens makes so short a stay at her old home; that she is to enjoy for so brief a period the society of her early, and we are fain to believe, her best friends. She will have the satisfaction of bearing with her to Carolina the kindest wishes of these Texas friends.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE

Independence Proclaimed.

On Monday last, a large majority of the delegates to the Convention answered to their names. The Secession Ordinance had been sustained by a vast majority of the people of Texas. In accordance with their decision, the Lone Star banner which had been presented to the Convention by the ladies of Texas, was planted upon the dome of the Capitol, and was saluted by a discharge of artillery. Another handsome Lone Star flag was hoisted upon the roof of the Avenue Hotel. The Gazette buildings were decorated with the same dear symbol of our independence. It was presented to us by our friend General John J. Good, in behalf of the ladies of Dallas. But high above all floated from the summit of the lofty staff the magnificent banner above the site of the old Capitol.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Iron and Wooden Ships.

In a letter to the Times, referring to the absence of all provisions for the construction of iron-coated ships in the new year's programme for the American navy, Mr. J. Scott Russell writes as follows:—"The explanation is the simplest possible. The entire mercantile steam navy of Great Britain, with the exception only of some old vessels, is of iron. The entire mercantile steam navy of America, without any exception known to me, is of wood. The reason is obvious. Timber is one of the staples of America, and we are obliged to import large quantities of it from America into England. Iron is the staple of England, and America is obliged to import large quantities of it from us. Hence, America builds timber vessels far cheaper than we can. We build iron vessels far cheaper than America can. With these facts before us we can readily infer—1. That there are no establishments, manufactories, or skilled artificers in America prepared for the business of iron shipbuilding. 2. That the introduction of iron in substitution for wood gives to England (the country of iron) the means of attaining and maintaining an ascendancy over any other country in the matter of iron fleets. 3. We see why in wooden ships America had the advantage over us, and she had the wit to use it. 4. She now sees clearly that we have in future the advantage over her, and she waits to see if we have the wit to work it."

**DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE
PATENT OFFICE****SATURDAY 9**

A rainy morning but most of the day was rather pleasant. No particular news stirring. Spent an hour after dinner with Bro. at the office of Dr John W [Bulkley?] and his father Solomon [Bulkley?] talking of Williamstown people &c. Went down to Willards with Bro. and from there to the "National" to see Philip Dorsheimer. He had left on the 3.10 train. We got the evening NY papers. Called at "Kirkwoods" and came home about 9 o'clock and read the news till 11 o'clock and then went to bed.

March 10, 1861**A LETTER**

Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, March 10th

My Dear Ma & Pa

I received your letter a few days ago & was very glad indeed to hear from you & to hear that you were all well. I have no news to tell you only that I am well and [hearty] & am getting along very well in my studies. I have no news whatever to tell you. Lexington is very dull indeed at present. Well old Abe has taken his seat. I wonder what will be done now. I suppose Virginia will either have to go North or South now, there is no choice to save the Union so she might as well secede now as any other time. The convention in Richmond is not doing anything at all now but they will have to do something now & that pretty soon. I hope Va will secede.

Well we will all go to squad drill tomorrow. There are over two hundred cadets here now. We have four Companies, A.D.B.C. There are one orderly sergeant, & 3 company Sgts. in each company. They divide each company up in 4 squads, the orderly Sgt. has first pick & he always picks the best soldiers. My orderly Sgt. picked in his squad. The Orderly Sgt. & Captains always make the Corporals out of this squad. I think I stand as good a chance for one as anybody else.

I have got father letter to write yet tonight and a long lesson for tomorrow therefore I have not got time to write any longer. I have written this letter very carelessly & fast you will have excuse me this time, & I will take more pains the next time. I am very much obliged to you both for the money you sent me. Cousin Ellen & family send their love to you all. Write [to] me something about your overseer—where he is from & how he does & where does he live, at home or up the Creek. Give me a general description of him. I must write to Capt. tonight. I cannot get either of my sisters to write to me. It makes me feel very badly, I suppose they have both forgotten me & forgotten that there is any such person living. I write to both of them but they won't write me. I suppose I will have to stop writing. Give my love to both of them when you write to them. Give my love [to] the Capt.ain & Orderly Sergt Coffee. My respects to all the neighbors. If Va secedes they will send us all over the state to drill recruits. Write soon. Excuse all mistakes as I have written this letter in five minutes.

Good Bye

From you Son

A.C.L. Gatewood.

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

The government have received despatches from San Antonio and Fort Brown, Texas. Col. Waite, the commander of the United States forces in Texas, had endeavored to reorganize the troops, but found it impossible to do so, owing to their complete demoralization through the conduct of Gen. Twiggs. The troops were in a destitute condition, having scarcely supplies sufficient to enable them to reach the coast. Capt. Hill, the commander at Fort Brown, was in expectation of a collision between his command and the State authorities.

The steamship Empire City, bound for Texas, with troops and ordnance stores, anchored at Quarantine last night.

The Hon. John Cochrane was last evening serenaded at his residence by Dodworth's brass band, at the instance of a large number of his political friends. The object of the serenade was to welcome him on his return home from his congressional duties, and was intended to show for the satisfaction his conduct has given then during the four years he had been a member of Congress, and from which duties he was not about to retire.

In another column we publish an account of the twenty sixth day's proceedings of the Southern Congress, embracing a report of the special committee appointed to devise a flag for the new republic, together with a correct representation of the flag selected by the committee and subsequently adopted by the congress. The design is striking, and the flag has the merit of originality as well as durability. The upper and lower sections, composing the part, are red, the middle section white, while a blue union, containing seven stars in a circle, reaches from the top to the lower red. This flag possesses an heraldic significance probably not comprehended by the uninitiated. The blue union signifies firmness, constancy, faithfulness; the white, purity and peace; and red is emblematic of war. With the seven stars in the blue, this flag can be read as follows: - Blue - Seven States have entered into a covenant of Good Faith. White - To promote the general welfare in time of Peace. Red - to provide a common defence in times of war. To assist the reader to interpret the flag more fully, we would state that in engraving heraldic devices it is ruleable to make the portions delineating blue in horizontal lines, and red in perpendicular ones.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE
PATENT OFFICE

SUNDAY 10

Rather a cold day but no frost, a cold wind. Went to Trinity Ch (Dr Butlers.) this morning with my old friend S Patrick. Bro C R, Maj Sol [Bulkley?] & Juliet also there. In afternoon, all went to Dr Smiths ch, heard a Mr Fish from Paris (France). He is trying to raise funds for the Protestant cause in France. He did not speak very good English but was still very interesting and could be easily understood by close attention. Was in at Willards with Bro in the Evening. Wife has been writing to Harriet Brownson. C R & self talking of Wmstown Characters.

March 11, 1861

WINFIELD SCOTT TO
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

General Scott's reply to Lincoln's letter of March 9 .

March 11, 1861

Fort Sumter.

The President has done me the honor to address to me certain professional questions, to which he desires answers. I proceed with them categorically.

"1. To what point of time can Major Anderson maintain his position, at Fort Sumter, without fresh supplies or reinforcements?"

Answer. In respect to subsistence, for the garrison, he has hard bread, flour & rice for about 26 days, & salt meat (pork) for about 48 days; but how long he could hold out against the whole means of attack which the South Carolinians have in, & about the city of Charleston & its Harbour, is a question that cannot be answered with absolute accuracy. Reckoning the batteries troops at 3,500 (now somewhat disciplined) & the batteries at 4 powerful land, & at least one floating — all mounting guns & mortars of large calibre, & of the best patterns; — & supposing those means to be skillfully & vigorously employed — Fort Sumter with its less than 100 men — including common laborers & musicians — ought to be taken by a single assault, & easily; if harrassed perseveringly for several previous days & nights by threats & false attacks, with the ability — from the force of overwhelming numbers — of converting one out of every three or four of those, into a real attack.

"2. Can you with all the means now in your control, supply or reinforce Fort Sumter within that time?"

Answer. No: Not within many months. See answer to No. 3.

"3. If not, what amount of means, & of what description, in addition to that already at your control, would enable you to supply & reinforce that fortress within the time?"

Answer. A fleet of war vessels & transports, 5,000 additional regular troops & 20,000 volunteers, in order to take all the batteries in the Harbor of Charleston (including Ft. Moultrie) after the capture of all the batteries in the approach or outer Bay. And to raise, organize & discipline such an army, would require new acts of Congress & from six to eight months.

Respectfully submitted.

Winfield Scott.

Head Qrs. of the Army,
Washington, Mar. 11, 1861.

NEW YORK HERALD

The News.

Great excitement was created in Washington city yesterday by a report generally circulated that at a Cabinet council on Saturday night it had been determined to remove the troops from the Southern forts, as to reinforce them would cause an immense loss of life, and greatly aggravate the existing difficulties. It is now certain the stock of provisions at Fort Sumter is almost entirely exhausted, and that fort must be quickly reinforced or the troops at present there withdrawn.

From Washington we learn that the appointments from the leading federal offices in this city have been finally decided on. Hiram Barney is to be Collector; Wakeman, Surveyor; Webb, Naval Officer; Hoxie, Postmaster, and Nye, Marshal. Delafield Smith, it is said stands a fair chance to be appointed District Attorney.

Advices from the South inform us that the confederacy is making rapid strides toward forming a substantial and permanent government. A letter from a member of President Davis's cabinet to a friend in Washington says that in less than a month they will be in the full tide of success; that they have inaugurated an elaborate war policy, and before the first of April will have an army of fifty thousand troops in the field, commanded by experienced officers. As to the question of money, he says that a plan has already been matured which will produce sample revenue to carry on the government even in time of war. Mr. Lincoln's inaugural was regarded as a declaration of war, and every preparation was being made to meet the emergency.

From Texas we learn that on the 4th inst. the Convention declared that State out of the Union, and Governor Houston issued a proclamation to that ef-

Skedaddle

fect. Vessels sent by the federal government to Texas are not to be seized. Governor Houston, it is stated, will neither take the oath of allegiance to the State nor resign. The returns of the election were still incomplete, but as far as ascertained show a heavy majority in favor of secession. Despatches from San Antonio and Fort Brown state that Colonel Waite, the commander of the United States forces, had endeavored to reorganize the troops, but, owing to their demoralization by the conduct of General Twiggs, found it impossible to do so. Captain Hill, the commander at Fort Brown, was in expectation of a collision between the State authorities and his troops.

The Alabama Convention has adopted an ordinance transferring all operations to the Provisional government at Montgomery, with the arms and munitions acquired from the United States, and vesting in that government authority over the forts and arsenals.

Interesting From Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1861.

Political circles were feverishly excited today by a report that the evacuation of Forts Sumter and Pickens had been determined upon in the Cabinet meeting last night. Although nobody could give any positive authority for this exciting fever of news it yet obtained general currency and was eagerly discussed at all the hotels. At the Washington House a sort of informal indignation meeting of Western politicians was held this afternoon, and the presumed backing down of the republican administration commented upon in anything but complimentary terms. I am able, however, to state positively that no such conclusion has been arrived at by the new regime. It is certain that the subject of reinforcing the forts has largely occupied the attention of the President and his constitutional advisers, and that in the face of the opinion of General Scott and other authorities that, in the present status of the military forces of the government a reinforcement is impracticable, the question of abandonment has been raised; but the President and the Cabinet know that in the eyes of their party they are in honor and duty bound to hold the posts, and that any other line of policy would raise an overwhelming storm of indignation among their supporters - hence, even if they favored an evacuation, which the President and the majority of the Cabinet do not at present, they could not act accordingly, owing to the desires and expectations of their party.

CHARLESTON MERCURY**The Abolition Regime.**

Our Washington Correspondence.
WASHINGTON, March 7.

Every tongue is busy commenting on the inaugural. The papers are filled with quotations giving the opinions of the press in all directions. There is little agreement except in this—that all coincide as to the fact that it either means war or it does not mean war. The inference is that it was intended to mean both—the one and the other, according to circumstances. Mr. DOUGLAS, in the Senate yesterday, expressed his belief, after a careful study of the mysterious document, that it was friendly and conciliatory. Now, it is known that DOUGLAS was at first puzzled by it. He is still puzzled, his friend say, and had an object in putting a peaceful interpretation upon it, viz: to draw out a Republican translation.

This may or may not be so. DOUGLAS's wish is father to his thought. He wants peace. His chances for the next Presidency rest on the preservation of the Union as it now is—that is, with the Border States in. The breaking out of war drives off these States, and away goes the Little Giant's prospects. Another motive, in all likelihood, prompts him to commend the inaugural. It has roused the ire of the slave provinces and strengthened the hands of the secessionists. Unless something is done to quell the resentment thus aroused, the Border State secessionists, in Virginia more particularly, may get the upper hand of the submissionists, and do something." Hence DOUGLAS's alacrity in placing a mild construction on what was intended to be a declaration of war. His opinions have great weight in the Border States. He is a dangerous man. What harm he has already done! What harm he is now doing, and will continue to do, as long as there is breath in his body!

According to Dame Rumor, and the general conviction of all parties, CRITTENDEN is to take a seat on the Supreme Bench. Or is CRITTENDEN a pretty fair conservative freesoiler himself? There is milk in the cocoanut. If we would not be misunderstood nor have one's motives impugned, one could refuse Black Republican favors. Will one do it? The effect of CRITTENDEN's acceptance in quieting the Border States, is too obvious to be dwelt upon. It is a capital card for the Republicans to play.

I heard last night, as coming from a good source, that 800 more troops were to be concentrated at this point. The immense house erected for RAREY is said to have been engaged for their reception. We shall then have 2000 men of the regular army here.

This does not look like peace.

The animus of the Republican part is shown in the appointment of MONTGOMERY BLAIR as Postmaster General. BLAIR was educated at West Point, and the War Department, if any, would have been the proper place for him. But he is an out and out Abolitionist, and therefore a fit tool for circulating Abolition documents. Nay more. He was a sympathizer with JOHN BROWN. He paid SAMUEL CHILTON, a lawyer of his city, \$1000 to defend BROWN.

Delegations of office hunters from the several Northern States are occupying their leisure moments in calling in a body on the President, the heads of Departments, Generals SCOTT and WOOL, and other distinguished Abolitionists. Many speeches are made, and every speaker makes it his business to congratulate the respective delegations on the fact that have a Government at last! By concert all hands are engaged in working up the Union Government sentiment to the sticking point of war. If the proper spirit can be aroused, you may rest assured that the poor besotted people will be made to fight for the perpetuity of this glorious Union, and thus contribute unthinkingly to the lasting domination of the Abolitionists. Judging the South by the specimens seen here, Northerners have a great contempt for the South and its people. Has the course of South Carolina, in regard to Sumter tended to dissipate this false estimate of our spirit and energy?

While I must admire the cunning displayed by the fanatics who are thus fomenting the horror of civil strife, I can but wonder that Providence should permit them to succeed. As a nation, I do not think we have been guilty of crime sufficient to justify this terrible punishment. But God's ways are not as man, and we are told those He loveth, them He chasteneth! I have no heart to prosecute my labors further. I am glad the time has come for me to lay down the pen. As I look back upon the scenes through which we have passed this winter, as the details of Abolition tyranny accumulate before me, and the unknown outrages yet to follow from their ruthless dominion picture themselves in revolting colors upon the canvas of the immediate future, I grow sick with indignation and grief. The thought of getting away from this unhappy city, where armed fanaticism is throned, fills me with joy, so that I cannot be sorry to say to the readers of THE MERCURY, "Good bye."

SEVEN.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1861.

It has been a pleasant cool day, comfortable out door with an overcoat on. A great many people in the office today. Office seekers are hanging on here in great numbers. Went after 3 o'clock with Bro C R &

Maj [Bulkley?] to the Navy Yard through the shops and on board the US War Steamer Pensacola. Maj B came home and dined with us. We then went down to Willards. Bro & myself called at Cramers, and then went back to Willards. Senator Wigfall was there with a crowd round him but not boisterous.

The *Skedaddle* e-journal home page

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THE SMALL PRINT

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