

Skedaddle

Week of February 19th to 25th, 1861

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

Lincoln's Secret Night Journey.

an excerpt from **Lincoln's Inauguration.**
by John G. Nicolay and John Hay, Private Secretaries to the President.

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On the morning of February 23d the whole country was surprised at the telegraphic announcement, coupled with diverse and generally very foggy explanations, that the President-elect, after his long and almost triumphal journey in the utmost publicity and with well-nigh universal greetings of good-will, had suddenly abandoned his announced programme and made a quick and secret night journey through Baltimore to the Federal capital. Public opinion at the time, and for years afterward, was puzzled by the event, and the utmost contrariety of comment, ranging from the highest praise to the severest detraction which caricature, ridicule, and denunciation could express, was long current. In the course of time, the narratives of the principal actors in the affair have been written down and published,¹ and a sufficient statement of the facts and motives involved may at length be made. The newspapers stated (without any prompting or suggestion from Mr. Lincoln) that an extensive plot to assassinate him on his expected trip through Baltimore about midday of Saturday had been discovered, which plot the earlier and unknown passage on Friday night disconcerted and prevented. This theory has neither been proved nor disproved by the lapse of time; Mr. Lincoln did not entertain it in this form² nor

¹ See narrative of S. M. Felton, in Schouler, "Massachusetts in the Civil War," Vol. I., pp. 59-65; Judd to Pinkerton, Nov. 3d, 1867, Edwards, "Life of N. B. Judd," pamphlet, pp. 11-17; Pinkerton, "The Spy of the Rebellion," pp. 45-103; Kennedy to Lossing, embracing narrative of Colonel Stone, Lossing, "Civil War," Vol. II., pp. 147-149; Lincoln's statement to Lossing, *Ib.*, Vol. I., pp. 279, 280; Lincoln's statement to Arnold, Arnold, "Lincoln and Slavery," p. 171; and MS. letters printed in this chapter. Also Lamon, "Life of Lincoln," pp. 511-526.

² Mr. Lincoln, long afterward, declared: "I did not, then, nor do I now, believe I should have been assassinated, had I gone through Baltimore as first contemplated; but I thought it wise to run no risk, where no risk was neces-



United States Sloop of War *Brooklyn*

base his course upon it. But subsequent events did clearly demonstrate the possibility and probability of attempted personal violence from the fanatical impulse of individuals, or the sudden anger of a mob, and justified the propriety of his decision.

The threats of secession, revolution, plots to seize Washington, to burn the public buildings, to prevent the count of electoral votes and the inauguration of the new President, which had for six weeks filled the newspapers of the country, caused much uneasiness about the personal safety of Mr. Lincoln, particularly among the railroad officials over whose lines he

sary." Hon. I. N. Arnold, in his work, "Lincoln and Slavery," adds in a note, p. 171, that the above was "stated to the author by Mr. Lincoln."

was making his journey; and to no one of them so much as to Mr. S. M. Felton, the President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railway, whose line formed the connecting link from the North to the South, from a free to a slave State, from the region of absolute loyalty to the territory of quasi-rebellion. Independently of politics, the city of Baltimore at that time bore a somewhat unenviable reputation as containing a dangerous and disorderly element; her "roughs" had a degree of newspaper notoriety by no means agreeable to quiet and non-combative strangers. But Baltimore and Maryland were also profoundly moved by the incipient rebellion. Governor Hicks had been plied with persuasion, protest, and even threats of personal violence, to induce him to convene the Maryland legislature, so that secession might begin under a legal pretext. The investigation of the Howard Congressional Committee, though it found no organized plot to seize the capital, gave abundant traces of secession conspiracy of various degrees—especially of half-formed military companies, organizing to prevent Northern troops from passing through Baltimore to Washington or the South. As part and parcel of this scheme, the railroads were to be destroyed and the bridges burned. The events of April, as they actually occurred, had already been planned, informally at least, in January.

Aside from patriotism, the duty of protecting the tracks and bridges of the railroad of which he was president induced Mr. Felton to call to his aid Mr. Allan Pinkerton, chief of a Chicago detective agency, whom he had before employed on an important matter.

"He was a man of great skill and resources," writes Mr. Felton. "I furnished him with a few hints and at once set him on the track with eight assistants. There were then drilling upon the line of the railroad some three military organizations, professedly for home defense, pretending to be Union men, and in one or two instances tendering their services to the railroad in case of trouble. Their propositions were duly considered; but the defense of the road was never intrusted to their tender mercies. The first thing done was to enlist a volunteer in each of these military companies. They pretended to come from New Orleans and Mobile, and did not appear to be wanting in sympathy for the South. They were furnished with uniforms at the expense of the road, and drilled as often as their associates in arms; became initiated into all the secrets of the organizations, and reported every day or two to their chief, who immediately reported to me the designs and plans of these military companies. One of these organizations was loyal; but the other two were disloyal, and fully in the plot to destroy the bridges, and march to Washington, to wrest it from the hands of the legally constituted authorities. Every nook and corner of the road and its vicinity was explored by the chief and his detectives, and the secret working of secession and treason laid bare and brought to light. Societies were joined in Balti-

more, and various modes known to and practiced only by detectives were resorted to, to win the confidence of the conspirators and get into their secrets. The plan worked well; and the midnight plottings and daily consultations of the conspirators were treasured up as a guide to our future plans for thwarting them. . . . It was made as certain as strong circumstantial and positive evidence could make it, that there was a plot to burn the bridges and destroy the road, and murder Mr. Lincoln on his way to Washington, if it turned out that he went there before troops were called. If troops were first called, then the bridges were to be destroyed, and Washington cut off and taken possession of by the South. I at once organized and armed a force of about two hundred men, whom I distributed along the line between the Susquehanna and Baltimore, principally at the bridges. These men were drilled secretly and regularly by drill-masters, and were apparently employed in whitewashing the bridges, putting on some six or seven coats of whitewash, saturated with salt and alum, to make the outside of the bridges as nearly fire-proof as possible. This whitewashing, so extensive in its application, became the nine-days' wonder of the neighborhood. Thus the bridges were strongly guarded, and a train was arranged so as to concentrate all the forces at one point in case of trouble. The programme of Mr. Lincoln was changed; and it was decided by him that he would go to Harrisburg from Philadelphia, and thence over the Northern Central road by day to Baltimore, and thence to Washington. We were then informed by our detective that the attention of the conspirators was turned from our road to the Northern Central, and that they would there await the coming of Mr. Lincoln."³

It appeared from the reports of Pinkerton's detectives that among the more suspicious indications were the very free and threatening expressions of a man named Ferrandini, an Italian, sometime a barber at Barnum's Hotel in Baltimore, but who had become captain of one of the military companies organized in that city to promote secession. Ferrandini's talk may not have been conclusive proof of a conspiracy, but it showed his own intent to commit assassination, and conveyed the inference of a plot.⁴ Coupled with the fact that the Baltimore air was full of similar threats, it established the probability of a mob and a riot. Add to this Ferrandini's testimony before the Howard Committee (February 5th, 1861), that he was then drilling a company (fifteen members) of "Constitutional Guards" in Baltimore, formed for the express purpose "to prevent Northern volunteer companies from passing through the State of Maryland. . . .to come here [Washington] to help the United States troops, or anybody else, to invade the South in any shape whatever"; also that another corps, called the National Volunteers, had formed, to protect their State," and

³ Schouler, "Massachusetts in the Civil War," Voll., pp. 61, 62

⁴ Lamon, "Life of Abraham Lincoln," p. 516

began drilling the previous Saturday; also that he had “heard that the Minute Men have fifteen companies in Baltimore”—and we have the direct evidence of extensive organization, and strong presumption of the uses to which it could be turned.⁵ Then, if we remember that riot, murder, and bridge-burning actually took place in Baltimore two months later, in exact accordance with the plans and ideas formulated, both in the loose talk and the solemn testimony by Ferrandini and others, we are unavoidably driven to the conclusion that Mr. Felton, General Scott, Governor Hicks, and others had abundant cause for the very serious apprehensions under which they acted.

Hon. N. B. Judd, a resident of Chicago, of peculiar prominence in Illinois politics and the intimate personal friend of Lincoln, was perhaps the most active and influential member of the suite of the President-elect. Pinkerton the detective knew Judd personally, and, as the presidential party approached, notified him by letter at Buffalo, and by special messenger at New York, of the investigations he was making in Baltimore. Judd as yet said nothing of the matter to any one. When the party arrived in Philadelphia, however, he was instantly called to a conference with Mr. Felton and the detective. Pinkerton laid his reports before the two, and, after an hour's examination, both were convinced that the allegation of a plot to assassinate the President-elect was as serious and important as in the nature of things such evidence can ever be found. He immediately took Pinkerton with him to Mr. Lincoln's room at the Continental Hotel, to whom the whole story was repeated, and where Judd advised that, in the opinion both of Mr. Felton and himself, Mr. Lincoln's safety required him to proceed that same evening on the 11 o'clock train. “If you follow the course suggested,” continued Judd, “you will necessarily be subjected to the scoffs and sneers of your enemies, and the disapproval of your friends, who cannot be made to believe in the existence of so desperate a plot.” Mr. Lincoln replied that he appreciated these suggestions, but that he could stand anything that was necessary. Then rising from his seat he said: “I cannot go to-night; I have promised to raise the flag over Independence Hall tomorrow morning, and to visit the legislature at Harrisburg. Beyond that I have no engagements.”⁶

Hitherto, all Lincoln's movements had been made under the invitation, arrangements, direction, and responsibility of committees of legislatures, governors of States, and municipal authorities of towns and cities. No such call or greeting, however, had

come from Maryland; no resolutions of welcome from her legislature, no invitation from her governor, no municipal committee from Baltimore. The sole prof- fers of friendship and hospitality out of the common- wealth came from two citizens in their private capac- ity—Mr. Gittings, President of the Northern Central Railroad, who tendered a dinner to Mr. Lincoln and his family; and Mr. Coleman, of the Eutaw House, who extended a similar invitation to the President- elect and his suite. Appreciating fully these acts of per- sonal courtesy, Mr. Lincoln yet felt that there was no evidence before him that the official and public au- thority of the city would be exercised to restrain the unruly elements which would on such an occasion densely pack the streets of Baltimore. During their ten-days' experience on the journey thus far, both he and his suite had had abundant evidence as to how completely exposed and perfectly helpless every indi- vidual of the party, and especially Mr. Lincoln, was at times, even amid the friendliest feeling and the kindest attention. He had been almost crushed in the corridor of the State-house at Columbus; arriving after dark in the Pittsburg depot, a stampede of the horses of a small cavalry escort had seriously endangered his car- riage and its occupants; at Buffalo, Major Hunter, of his suite, had his arm broken by a sudden rush of the crowd. If with all the goodwill and precautions of po- lice and military such perils were unavoidable in friendly cities, what might happen where authorities were indifferent, where municipal control and public order were lax, and where prejudice, hostility, and smoldering insurrection animated the masses of peo- ple surging about the carriages of an unprotected street procession? Yet with all these considerations Mr. Lincoln could not entirely convince himself that a deliberate plot to murder him was in existence.

“I made arrangements, however, with Mr. Judd for my return to Philadelphia the next night, if I should be con- vinned that there was danger in going through Baltimore. I told him that if I should meet at Harrisburg, as I had at other places, a delegation to go with me to Baltimore, I should feel safe, and go on.”⁷

Mr. Judd devoted the remainder of the after- noon and nearly the whole of the night of February 21st to the discussion and perfection of arrangements for a night journey through Baltimore, as suggested by himself and Mr. Felton, and as conditionally accepted by the President-elect. Only four persons joined in this discussion, — Mr. Judd, Mr. Pinkerton, Mr. Francis- cus, General Manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad,

⁵ Report Select Committee of Five (Howard Committee), pp. 133-137

⁶ Judd to Pinkerton, November 3d, 1867

⁷ Lincoln's statement to Lossing. Lossing, “Civil War,” Vol I. p. 280

and Mr. Henry Sanford, representing Colonel E. S. Sanford, President of the American Telegraph Company. At 4 o'clock A.M. the party separated, having agreed on the following plan:⁸ that after the reception at Harrisburg, a special train consisting of a baggage car and one passenger car, starting at 6 P. M., should convey Mr. Lincoln and one companion back to Philadelphia, the track between the two cities to be kept clear of everything; that Mr. Felton at Philadelphia should detain the 11 o'clock P.M. Baltimore train until the arrival of the special train from Harrisburg; that Pinkerton should have a carriage ready in which to proceed through Philadelphia from one depot to the other; that a Mrs. Warne, an employee of his, should engage berths in the sleeping-car of the Baltimore train; that Mr. Sanford should so disconnect the wires as to make any telegraphing between the several points within certain hours impossible; and that Mr. Lincoln should have for his single escort and companion Colonel Ward H. Lamon, of his suite, a devoted personal friend from Illinois—young, active, and of almost herculean frame and strength.

At 6 o'clock on the morning of February 22d, the appointed flag-raising by the President-elect, over Independence Hall in Philadelphia, was duly celebrated, and on the trip to Harrisburg, which followed as soon as possible, Mr. Judd communicated the details of his plan to Mr. Lincoln. Before this, however, Lincoln had received at the Continental Hotel the visit of Mr. Frederick W. Seward, who came as a special messenger from his father, in Washington, to place the following correspondence in his hands :

[Seward to Lincoln.]

“WASHINGTON, February 21st, 1861.

“MY DEAR SIR: My son goes express to you. He will show you a report made by our detective to General Scott, and by him communicated to me this morning. I deem it so important as to dispatch my son to meet you wherever he may find you.

“I concur with General Scott in thinking it best for you to reconsider your arrangement. No one here but General Scott, myself, and the bearer is aware of this communication.

“I should have gone with it myself, but for the peculiar sensitiveness about my attendance at the Senate at this crisis.

Very truly yours,

“WILLIAM H. SEWARD.”⁹

[General Scott to Seward.]

“February 21st, 1861.

“MY DEAR SIR: Please receive my friend, Colonel Stone, chief of General Wightman's staff, and a distinguished young officer with me in Mexico. He has an important

communication to make.

“Yours truly,

WINFIELD SCOTT.”¹⁰

[Colonel Stone's Report.]

“February 21st, 186r.

“A New York detective officer who has been on duty in Baltimore for three weeks past reports this morning that there is serious danger of violence to, and the assassination of, Mr. Lincoln in his passage through that city, should the time of that passage be known. He states that there are banded rowdies holding secret meetings, and that he has heard threats of mobbing and violence, and has himself heard men declare that if Mr. Lincoln was to be assassinated they would like to be the men. He states further that it is only within the past few days that he has considered there was any danger, but now he deems it imminent. He deems the danger one which the authorities and people in Baltimore cannot guard against. All risk might be easily avoided by a change in the traveling arrangements which would bring Mr. Lincoln and a portion of his party through Baltimore by a night train without previous notice.”¹¹

Here was a new and most serious additional warning. The investigation on which it was based was altogether independent of that made by Pinkerton, and entirely unknown to him. Colonel Stone, it will be remembered, was the officer to whom General Scott intrusted the organization and command of the District Militia for the defense of Washington and the general supervision and control of the city. The detectives, three in number, were from New York, and at the request of Colonel Stone had been selected and placed on duty by Mr. Kennedy, superintendent of police of New York city.¹² In both cases similar observations had been made, and similar conclusions arrived at.

Warned thus of danger by concurrent evidence too grave to be disregarded; and advised to avoid it, not only by Judd and Felton in Philadelphia, but now also by Mr. Seward, the chief of his new Cabinet, and by General Scott, the chief of the army, Mr. Lincoln could no longer hesitate to adopt their suggestion. Whether the evidence would prove ultimately true, or whether violence upon him would be attempted, was not the question. The existence of the danger was pointed out and certified by an authority he had no right to disregard; the trust he bore was not merely the personal safety of an individual, but the fortune and perhaps the fate of the Government of the nation. It was his imperative duty to shun all possible and unnecessary peril. A man of less courage would have shrunk from what must inevitably appear to the public like a sign of timidity; but Lincoln on this

¹⁰ Unpublished manuscript

¹¹ Unpublished manuscript

¹² See Lossing, “Civil War,” Vol. II., pp. 147-149, a letter from Kennedy, and the narrative of Colonel Stone.

⁸ Judd to Pinkerton, November 3d, 1867

⁹ Unpublished manuscript

and other occasions concerned himself only with the larger issues at stake, leaving minor and especially personal consequences to take care of themselves. Mr. Frederick W. Seward was therefore informed by Judd “that he could say to his father that all had been arranged, and that, so far as human foresight could predict, Mr. Lincoln would be in Washington at 6 o’clock the next morning.”¹³ With this message Mr. Seward returned to Washington, while Mr. Lincoln and his suite proceeded to Harrisburg, where on that same Friday, the 22d of February, he was officially received by the governor and the legislature of Pennsylvania.

No other member of Mr. Lincoln’s suite had as yet been notified of anything connected with the matter; but Mr. Judd had suggested to him that he felt exceedingly the responsibility of the advice he had given and the steps he had taken, and that he thought it due to the age and standing of the leading gentlemen of the President-elect’s party that at least they should be informed and consulted. “To the above suggestions,” writes Judd, “Mr. Lincoln assented, adding: ‘I reckon they will laugh at us, Judd, but you had better get them together.’ It was arranged that after the reception at the Statehouse, and before dinner, the matter should be fully laid before the following gentlemen of the party: Judge David Davis, Colonel E. V. Sumner, Major David Hunter, Captain John Pope, and Ward H. Lamon.”

Mr. Judd’s narrative then further recites what occurred:

“The meeting thus arranged took place in the parlor of the hotel, Mr. Lincoln being present. The facts were laid before them by me, together with the details of the proposed plan of action. There was a diversity of opinion, and some warm discussion, and I was subjected to a very rigid cross-examination. Judge Davis, who had expressed no opinion, but contented himself with asking rather pointed questions, turned to Mr. Lincoln, who had been listening to the whole discussion, and said: ‘Well, Mr. Lincoln, what is your own judgment upon this matter?’ Mr. Lincoln replied: ‘I have thought over this matter considerably, since I went over the ground with Pinkerton last night. The appearance of Mr. Frederick Seward, with warning from another source, confirms Mr. Pinkerton’s belief. Unless there are some other reasons besides fear of ridicule, I am disposed to carry out Judd’s plan.’ Judge Davis then said ‘That settles the matter, gentlemen.’ Colonel Sumner said: ‘So be it, gentlemen; it is against my judgment, but I have undertaken to go to Washington with Mr. Lincoln, and I shall do it.’ I tried to convince him that any additional person added to the risk; but the spirit of the gallant old soldier was up, and debate was useless.

“The party separated about 4 P.M., the others to go to the dinner table, and myself to go to the railroad station and the telegraph office. At a quarter to 6 I was back at the

hotel, and Mr. Lincoln was still at the table. In a few moments the carriage drove up to the side door of the hotel. Either Mr. Nicolay or Mr. Lamon called Mr. Lincoln from the table. He went to his room, changed his dinner dress for a traveling suit, and came down with a soft hat sticking in his pocket, and his shawl on his arm.¹⁴ As the party passed through the hall I said, in a low tone, ‘Lamon, go ahead. As soon as Mr. Lincoln is in the carriage, drive off; the crowd must not be allowed to identify him.’ Mr. Lamon went first to the carriage; Colonel Sumner was following close after Mr. Lincoln; I put my hand gently on his shoulder; he turned to see what was wanted, and before I could explain, the carriage was off. The situation was a little awkward, to use no stronger terms, for a few moments, until I said to the Colonel: ‘When we get to Washington, Mr. Lincoln shall determine what apology is due to you.’”

It is needless to describe the various stages of Mr. Lincoln’s journey. The plan arranged by the railroad and telegraph officials was carried out to the smallest detail, without delay or special incident, and without coming to the knowledge of any person on the train or elsewhere, except those to whom the secret was confided. The President-elect and his single companion were safely and comfortably carried from Harrisburg to Philadelphia, and at midnight took their berths in the sleeping-car of the regular train from New York, passing through Baltimore unrecognized and undisturbed, and arriving in Washington at 6 o’clock on the morning of February 23d. Here they were met by Mr. Seward and Mr. Washburne, member of Congress from Illinois, and conducted to Willard’s Hotel. The family and the suite made the journey direct from Harrisburg to Baltimore, according to the previously published programme, arriving in Washington late that evening. They encountered in Baltimore no incivility, nor any unusual disorder, though, as elsewhere, dense crowds, very inadequately controlled by the police, surrounded the railroad depots and filled the streets through which their carriages passed. All temptation, however, to commit an assault was now past, since it was everywhere known that Mr. Lincoln was not with the party, but had already arrived at his destination.

¹⁴ Many caricatures and comments of the day were based upon the following sentence in a dispatch to the “New York Times”: “He wore a Scotch plaid cap and a very long military cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable.” This description was the pure invention of a newspaper correspondent understood to be Joseph Howard, Jr., who later in the war was imprisoned in Fort Lafayette for publishing a forged proclamation, about the draft, in the New York newspapers.

¹³ Judd to Pinkerton, November 3d, 1867.

February 19, 1861**NEW YORK HERALD****THE NEWS.**

Jefferson Davis, the President of the Southern confederacy, was duly inaugurated at Montgomery, Alabama, yesterday. The spectacle is described as the grandest ever witnessed at the South. Mr. Davis delivered his inaugural address at one o. We print the document complete in our columns this morning. It is, perhaps, the most important paper presented to the American people since the publication of the Declaration of Independence. It is a clear and candid exposition of the cause of the secessionists, both as regards the causes of secession and their relations in the future towards the States remaining in the Union. A return to the Union is regarded as not practicable nor desirable.

The Peace Convention at Washington had a long session yesterday. Several amendments to the Guthrie proposition, and a substitute therefore, were offered, but they were all rejected. This action is regarded as indicating that the Convention will sustain the Guthrie plan of adjustment as reported by the committee. The debate yesterday was mainly upon the Territorial question. Gov. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, made a strong anti-compromise speech. It is thought that the Convention may come to a vote tomorrow.

Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, and party, left Buffalo yesterday morning. Along the route from Buffalo to Albany he was greeted by the usual ovations. At Albany the reception was carried out according to the programme agreed upon. We publish in our columns this morning graphic description of the ceremonies, together with reports of the addresses delivered on the occasion. Mr. Lincoln will arrive in this city this afternoon, and will stop at the Astor House.

Mr. Hamlin, the Vice President elect, left his home in Maine, en route for Washington, yesterday. He will arrive in this city tomorrow.

In Congress yesterday a large number of petitions respecting the crisis were presented and referred. The Senate, at the expiration of the morning hour, took up the Tariff bill. An amendment to reduce the duty on books was rejected. An amendment levying a duty of four cents per pound on tea and half a cent on coffee, and reducing the duty on sugar, was agreed to by a vote of 23 to 19. An amendment reducing the government loan from twenty-one millions to ten millions, with a promise that no part of the loan be applied to the present fiscal year, was agreed to. The Conference Committee on the bill making appropriations for the executive, legislative and judicial expenses

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of the government reported that they had agreed, and the report was accepted.

In the House the Military Committee reported a bill supplemental to the acts of 1795 and 1817, providing for the calling forth of the militia for the execution of the laws of the Union, the suppression of insurrection and repelling invasion, so as to extend their provisions to the case of insurrection against the authority of the United States, and authorize the President, in cases where it may be lawful, to use the militia in addition to the army and navy; to accept the services of volunteers as cavalry, infantry and artillery, and officer the same. Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, objected to the second reading of the bill, and the question being taken on its rejection, it was decided in the negative by a vote of 67 against 110. Discussion ensued on the merits of the proposition, but final action was not taken. The bill authorizing the issue of a part of the government loan in fifty dollar six per cent bonds, to be applied to the payment of the public creditors at par, was taken up. Mr. John Cochrane, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill appropriating \$50,000 for the survey of northern water courses and islands of the Pacific Ocean and Behring Straits, in view of telegraphic communication from the mouth of the Amoor, in Asia, to some point on the confines of the Russian possessions, thus telegraphically uniting the United States with Europe. It was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. The Senate bill organizing the Territory of Colorado, was passed. The remainder of the session was devoted to speeches on the crisis.

CHARLESTON MERCURY**LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.****INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.**

The Inaugural Address, ETC., ETC., ETC.
MONTGOMERY, February 18. - The Inaugural ceremonies are just over. The procession was the grandest pageant ever witnessed in the South.

There was an immense concourse on Capitol Hill, consisting of ladies from all portions of this and neighboring States, the military and citizens.

President DAVIS commenced his inaugural at one o precisely.

RICHMOND ENQUIRER**THE PROSPECT OF A COMPROMISE.**

The Peace Congress, a body composed of most respectable gentlemen from, we believe, twenty one States, is now assembled in Washington, and they are looked to by the people of the United States for propositions of amendment, which shall restore peace

to the country, and bring back the seceded States. While the object of the Congress is most laudable and praiseworthy, the prospect of success is by no means bright and cheering. Not the first intimation, that we have seen, has been given from any source, worthy or unworthy of consideration, within any one of the seceded States, that these States will, under any compromise, concession or amendment, hasten to return to a Union with the Free States. The formation of a Provisional Government, the election and inauguration of executive officers, the preparation for a permanent Government, all plainly forbid any expectation of any facile abandonment of their present position to again reunite themselves with all the States of the Federal Union. Hopeful, indeed, and credulous beyond wisdom, must be the men who look for a reunion of the Gulf States with the Free States under the terms of any patchwork compromise. The character of Jefferson Davis and A.H. Stephens forbids the supposition of the child's play that is implied in the expectation that they will abandon permanent peace in a confederacy homogeneous in institutions and interests, to again seek security in a Union, the dominant section of which has just driven their States beyond its pale, and whose present and prospective authorities are threatening and preparing for forcible conquest and subjugation.

The prompt manner and unparalleled unanimity with which the people of the Seceded States have braved war, incurred the loss of commerce, the prostration of business, all combine to demonstrate that no idle threat, no mere bluster, is intended, but that a permanent and final separation has been determined upon by the people of those States.

In vain will intimations of a back down be looked for in any State from South Carolina to Texas. Everywhere throughout these States the settled purpose of final separation, with war and invasion, if forced upon them manifests itself to the most careless and inattentive observer. The Seceded States are not the parties which instituted the Peace Congress, they are not represented, they have declined to take part in its deliberations, and no evidence has been furnished that they care one iota as to what may be the character of its propositions. What rational hope is there that these States will respect the labors or regard the conclusions of the Peace Congress? None whatever.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

TUESDAY 19

Rather a cold day. M. just below freezing with cold wind. Nothing in particular now attracts public attention. Mr Lincoln is slowly moving

towards the Capital and is expected here on Saturday next. The Inaugural Speech of Jefferson Davis, President of the "Confederate States," was published here today. The Peace Convention get on but slowly and not very harmoniously. I was at the office all day, had a good many calls. Was down at "Willards." Saw W VanMaster, H B Stanton, Mr Butterfield & others, bot a "Times" and read aloud an hour to wife.

February 20, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The great metropolitan event yesterday was the arrival at three o' P.M. of Abraham Lincoln, President elect of the United States. In another column we give an interesting and detailed account of the ceremonies of reception from the time he left Albany until a late hour last evening, embracing speeches en route and in this city, the procession, decorations, sketches of the Presidential suite, the reception room, dinner, incidents and accidents generally. We also publish the programme for today.

The Peace Convention at Washington makes but slow progress. Yesterday they spent some five hours discussing a motion in favor of half hour speeches. And this trumpety question is still pending.

One of our Washington correspondents furnishes some important revelations respecting the probable financial and military policy of the Southern confederacy.

In Congress yesterday the Senate took up the Tariff bill, and after the adoption of several amendments and considerable debate the bill was reported. In the House Mr. Fenton, of New York, presented a resolution affirming, as the judgment of the House, that the existing troubles of the country should be referred to the National Convention, to be called in the mode prescribed in the constitution. The bill authorizing the President to accept the services of volunteers was then taken up, the question being on its third reading and engrossment. The bill was strongly opposed by the democrats, and the discussion was warm and irritating. Mr. Boccock moved to lay the subject on the table, which was decided in the negative by a vote of 68 to 1105. The debate terminated with the expiration of the morning hour. The Senate resolution repealing the act of last session for the benefit of De-groot was adopted. The Naval Appropriation bill was taken up, the question being on agreeing with the Senate amendments. The amendment providing for the construction of additional steam sloops of war was

discussed till recess. The evening session was devoted to debates on the crisis.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

OUR MONTGOMERY CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTGOMERY, February 14, 1861.

Upon one point there appears to be a fixed determination and straight forward action here. Reconstruction is dead. A Southern Confederation is established, and the Southern Confederacy is a fixed thing. But what sort of a Confederacy? Here the Convention is at sea; and vague dreads of the future, and terrors of the people, and in some degree a want of statesmanship, paralyze all useful and essential reform, and weaken men into inaction. Let your people prepare their minds for a failure in the future Permanent Southern Constitution. For South Carolina is about to be saddled with almost every grievance except Abolition, for which she has long struggled, and just withdrawn from the late United States Government. Surely McDUFFIE lived in vain, and CALHOUN taught for nought, if we are again to be plundered, and our commerce crippled, destroyed by tariffs - even discriminating tariffs. Yet this is the almost inevitable prospect. The fruit of the labors of thirty odd long years, in strife and bitterness, is about to slip through our fingers.

But is this all we are about to be called on to enact and bear? It is only the beginning.

The three fifths rule of representation for slaves was one of the many Yankee swindles put upon us in the formation of the old Constitution. It is a radical wrong. It most unfairly dwarfs the power of some of the States in any federal representation. The proportion of her black to the white population is very much larger than that of any other slave State. By the old swindle, her fair proportion of representation was cut down upon all her slaves in proportion, as 3 is to 5. The black population, being in a majority in our State, two fifths of more than one half of the people of the State are entirely unrepresented. And in just the degree that the proportion of the black population in South Carolina predominates over the proportion of the blacks to the whites in any other State, is the swindle augmented and aggravated. South Carolina is small enough without again flinging away what legitimate power she possesses. That power is in her slaves - socially, politically, economically. The proposition of the three-fifths rule calls upon her not only to stultify herself, but to dwarf her powers.

Is this all? It is not. She is probably to be called upon to brand herself and her institutions.

The old Constitution of the United States merely grants to the Congress the power to prohibit

by law the further introduction of slaves from Africa or elsewhere outside of the United States. Terrorism here is about to make its perpetual prohibition a fundamental provision of the Constitution itself. A stigma is thus broadly stamped upon the whole institution before the whole world, and sealed by ourselves. That Congress should have power to prohibit the trade is a legitimate provision. I should not object to such a provision. It is a matter of trade, business and general economy. There may, or there may not, be a sufficient supply of African labor now in America. Of this it is for the peoples of the several States to decide, through their representative in the general Congress. But to brand it by a fundamental article of the Constitution itself, is to cast an infamous slur upon the whole institution - the lives and the properties of every slaveholder in the land.

For what have we cast off the North as rotten incubus, if we are thus to re-enact all of their swindles, outrages, and insolences upon ourselves? To be plundered and manacled with discriminating tariffs - to stultify ourselves with a half way representation - and to endorse all the outrages and insolence of the Northern States?

All this is not encouraging to our hopes. But there remains two methods of retrieving ourselves. The first is, in our Convention. We may have to follow the example of 1788. The second is, by providing in the Constitution, for the present, an easy way of amendment; and South Carolina may insist upon amendments upon these points being made. Doubtless public spirit will advance. Many men here want information. They are ignorant and unpracticed in this matter. There is still room for much hope in the end - with the exercise on our part of much firmness.

It is greatly to be regretted that the debates upon the Constitution will probably not be public. It seems to me that they will be very important as guides in the future, whereby we may be enabled to comprehend its meaning - the proper interpretation of its language.

To change the subject - a nice pickle South Carolina has placed in with regard to Fort Sumter. Three weeks ago it was feared by many that any assault upon that fort was to be postponed to the 4th of February, and then to be turned over to the action of the Southern Congress. Such has proved the fact. What has been gained? President DAVIS will not be inaugurated until Saturday evening, the 16th February. This is the earliest period possible. Circumstances may still further delay it. The Monday two weeks following LINCOLN is to be inaugurated at Washington. What opportunity is there between these two dates for Mr. DAVIS to make preparations for attack - to make his

demand upon Mr. BUCHANAN for its surrender, and to receive an answer before the 4th of March? None whatever. We will have to fight, and we will have to fight LINCOLN instead of BUCHANAN. And who are to do the fighting? South Carolinians, and none but South Carolinians. The fort will, of course be reinforced if it is in the power of man to do it. Will anybody tell me now lives have been saved by this policy? The attitude of our State has been in a large measure demoralized - I will not say disgraced - by the course pursued; the political attitude of the whole Southern Confederation has been embarrassed and complicated; and what is gained? Nothing that I can see, but the spilling of much more valuable blood than was at all necessary.

However, people look upon matters in very different ways. My views may be all quiet incorrect.
REVIEWER.

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

WEDNESDAY 20

It has been a pleasant bright day. M. 36. Rain last night and the Streets wet. Doct G P Eddy of Lewistown NY called upon me today, old friend. I was glad to see him. My old friend J C Smith of Canandagua NY, formerly of Lyons, spent the evening with me and my family at my house. He is member of the Peace Convention now in session here. I was down at Willards after dinner, great crowd there. Chas & Miss Sally Woodward called this evening and spent an hour. Mis Doct Everitt sent in a gold fish for our Aquarium. It is a "Whale among the minnows." Bed at 11 o'clock.

February 21, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

Mr. Lincoln yesterday received his fellow citizens at City Hall. Mayor Wood delivered an address of welcome on the occasion to which Mr. Lincoln responded. In the evening Mr. Lincoln attended the Opera, and at midnight he was serenaded. Mr. Hamlin, the Vice President elect, arrived in town yesterday, and stopped at the Astor House. The movements of these distinguished personages are described in another part of today's paper.

Reports to the effect that the South Carolinians were about to or had already attacked Fort Sumter were in circulation in Washington yesterday. They were doubtless mere idle rumors, devoid of foundation in truth.

In the House yesterday Mr. Bocoek, of Virginia, occupied the morning hour in an elaborate

speech in opposition to the bill empowering the President to call out the military forces of the country and accept the services of volunteers. He characterized the bill as a declaration of war against the seceded States. The Naval bill was taken up, the question being on agreeing to the Senate's amendment providing for the construction of seven steam sloops of war. The proposition was warmly opposed by the democrats, but the amendment was agreed to by a vote of 111 to 38. In the evening session, Mr. Ruffin, of North Carolina, made a speech in favor of secession. In the course of his remarks he spoke of Mr. Buchanan as a driveller, and Gen. Scott as guilty of usurpation.

Late accounts from Fort Smith, Arkansas, state that the overland mail had been seized by Texans, and the employes of the company imprisoned. It is also reported that Forts Chadbourne and Belknap have been seized by the secessionists.

**ATTEMPT TO THROW THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIN
FROM THE TRACK.**

(From the Lafayette (Ind.) Journal, Feb. 18.)

We were on Saturday night placed in possession of the astounding information that an attempt was made, on Monday last, to wreck the train bearing the President elect and suite, about one mile west of the State line. The particulars as given us by Mr. Rich, of the Toledo and Western Railroad, are that a short time before the train was due at State line, an engineer who was preparing to take out a train, found it necessary to run out to the wood yard for fuel. Running at a moderate speed, he noticed an obstruction on the track, and stopping his engine, found that a machine for putting cars on the track had been fastened upon the rails in such a manner that if a train at full speed had struck it, engine and cars must have been thrown off and many persons killed. It is almost impossible to think that any one is so thoroughly depraved as to attempt so damnable a deed, but we are assured by our informant that his information comes from undoubted authority. The matter would have been made public before, but it was hoped that the perpetrators of the dastardly outrage could be detected and brought to justice. The whole thing was admirably planned — the obstruction so near a station and on a straight track, where it would not be deemed necessary to exercise any great degree of caution.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Provisional Government, was born in Christian County, Kentucky, in 1805. He commenced his education at the Transylvania University, Kentucky, but was subse-

quently appointed a Cadet at the West Point Military Academy, where he graduated in 1828. Since that time he has filled a number of grades, military and civil. First, a Lieutenant of Infantry; next, a Lieutenant of Dragoons; then a Colonel at the head of the Mississippi Regiment in the Mexican War, and lastly a Brigadier General; his military experience has been long and varied. In 1844 he was a Presidential Elector, and in the following year was chosen Representative in Congress. In 1847 he was appointed Senator to fill a vacancy, and was elected for the ensuing term. On the election of President PIERCE, Mr. DAVIS was called to occupy the post of Secretary of War, which he filled with distinguished ability throughout that Administration.

In 1857 he again took his seat in the United States Senate for a term of six years. Resigning promptly upon the secession of his State, he has been called by the unanimous voice of the Southern Congress to the arduous duties of the Presidency of the Confederate States. The inaugural address, in which he foreshadows the vigorous policy of the new Government, has been hailed with satisfaction throughout the length and breadth of the South. Let the people accord to his administration a hearty, united and generous support.

OUR NEW COLORS.

The Flag which we will display this morning from our office, is a present to THE MERCURY. In order to have it properly displayed, we have had erected a staff twenty six feet high, from the roof of our office, from which elevation it will be thrown to the breeze this morning. In size it is 12 by 16 feet - a blue field, with white palmetto and crescent, as prescribed by the General Assembly. Below the tree is inscribed in white letters the words 'THE MERCURY.' This elegant Flag was manufactured by Messrs. BEE & SILCOX, ship chandlers, and the design is beautifully executed. We shall take particular pains to preserve it as a memento of the times.

MILITARY MATTERS.

CASTING PROJECTILES.

Solid shot, case shot and shells are cast at ironworks from white forge iron; formerly iron moulds were used for these, but they had the effect of making the balls too hard on the surface, whereby the bore of the gun was injured. At present, therefore, all projectiles are cast in sand in mould boxes. The casting of solid balls is the most simple. The patterns for this purpose are of brass, very exactly turned, made in two halves, and fitting into each other by a groove; one half has a pin screwed into it, which forms the

hole by which the metal is poured in at the casting. In moulding, the grooved half of the pattern is set upon the mould board, and the tap hole pin screwed in; there the mould box is placed with its keybolts in the holes made for them, and the half ball moulded by the sand layer. The mould is then turned over, the mould board taken off, the second half ball set on, the second mould box placed, and the mould made in the same way; then the mould is turned, the pin screwed out, the mould box opened, and both patterns taken out, when it is again closed and is then ready for casting.

The mould of the hollow shot is more complicated, because the internal cavity of these must be formed by a core, which remains in the mould during the casting, and is removed afterwards; and because, also, for the larger sizes, a pair of ears must be cast in, for the shell hooks to catch hold of in handling them. For hollow shot it is preferable to have the metal run into the mould at the side, so that the core be not disturbed in its position by the metal falling perpendicularly upon it; this core is made of sand or loam; the ears are of wrought iron, and the ends reach into the internal cavity, where they are afterwards imbedded in the metal.

MILITARY PYROTECHNY.

The manufacture of cartridges of all kinds, and of fireworks generally, especially fire and light balls and rockets, for military purposes, is the object of a particular art - that of military pyrotechny.

Musket cartridges consist of a piece of paper, one side of which that it may wind more closely, is cut obliquely; this leaf is rolled about a former, the ball set in, and the throat choked with a tie of linen thread, and struck down upon the ball, then the cartridge is filled and pinched together at the top, and is ready for use.

Cannon cartridges are made of flannel bags almost entirely; for marking out the form upon the piece of stuff, the pattern board is used. Each calibre has a certain sized pattern board. The length of the cartridge depends upon its being designed to hold the ball or not. When the bag is sewed with the back stitch, turned and felled, the sabot, which has a groove, is set in, the ball is placed on the sabot, and then the head is tied. Afterwards the ball is fastened to the sabot by two strips of tin, crossing each other at right angles, the bag being secured to both.

THE 'MORTAR' OF THE ANCIENTS.

As far back as 1328, the French had short cannon called 'Bombards.' They were first made of wood, with iron hoops, and lay upon a roller carriage; they were afterwards lined with iron plate, strengthened with bars of iron, running lengthwise the barrel, and bound with iron hoops. But as even this could not

withstand the force of powder, they constructed them of forged iron, cast iron, and finally of bronze. All the bombards or mortars shot only stone balls, or fragments of iron, and it was not until the year 1400 that iron balls were used.

SFORZA had, before Placenza, in 1447, three Bombards; each of which discharged, in twenty four hours, sixty stone balls, and with which, in thirty days, he battered down two towers and the wall between.

IMPROVED MORTARS OF THE PRESENT TIME.

Mortars are in some respects like howitzers, save that the trunnions, since they are only designed to discharge shot at a very great elevation, are not in the middle but at the hinder end; there are some, indeed, which have, instead of trunnions, only a cast foot, and which can, therefore, be only fired at one angle. Mortars are most usually distinguished by the diameter of the iron shell which fills the bore – thus we speak of ‘, 10 or 12 inch mortars,’ the latter of which throws a shell of about 100 pounds weight. The internal arrangements of the mortar are very different from the cannon. The charge of powder is very small in comparison with the size of the shot, and is compressed into a small chamber made for it in the breech, terminating in the hemisphere. The forward part of the bore, the chase, receives the shell in loading, unites with the chamber by a segment of a sphere, and is called the seat of the shell. From thence to the mouth of the bore is cylindrical, and is called the cylinder.’

MORTAR CARRIAGES OR BEDS.

For mortars which have their trunnions on the second reinforce, the so called hanging mortar, the carriage consists of two checks, connected by bolts and transoms, but these are now little used; the carriage mostly used is, a short massive block of wood, seasoned oak is the best – upon this bed is hollowed out the place for the trunnion bed and the foot of the mortar. The lower corners of the bed are notched in, to allow of handspikes being thrust under for moving it upon the platform. On the trunnion of the mortar an index is fixed, which shows upon a circular scale, attached to the bed, the angle of elevation.

THE ELEVATING SCREW.

With mortars the muzzle must be movable through a curve of from 10 to 60 degrees, in order to give the necessary elevation or depression for the aim. To effect these movements with the requisite accuracy and rapidity, the elevating screw is applied, although the simplest means of accomplishing the purpose is by the quoin or wedge, by moving it in or out under the base ring – there are generally three quoins or wedges employed. Under 15 degrees elevation, the mortar lies upon its bed, the first quoin gives 25 degrees, the sec-

ond 30 degrees, and thus, with the third, 45 or 60 can be given. The screw quoin is better still, as it admits of more accuracy in the elevation. In all cases a wooden platform is laid, upon which the mortar and carriage is placed, to secure a level from which to regulate the firing.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1861.

Nice, bright, cool day, a bracing air, and I have felt unusually well, but I attribute it (partly at least) to a good cold bath this morning. I cannot get along well without a good wash, all over in cold water and a thorough rubbing with the flesh brush or a coarse towel, two or three times a week. I was at “Willards” and the “National.” Saw Lighthall, [Low. S Seely?] Ranslaer Van Valkenburgh of Albany & others. Came home before 9 o’clock. Tomorrow is a Holy day [Holiday] throughout the City and a great Military parade is expected. The city seems to be very quiet, but getting well filled up.

February 22, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, and suite, left this city yesterday morning, en route for the White House. At Jersey City, at Newark, at Trenton, and at all the intermediate points, the populace turned out in crowds to see the President. Mr. Lincoln reached Philadelphia at four o’ yesterday afternoon. The incidents of the journey, together with the address to Mr. Lincoln, and his responses thereto, are chronicled in this morning’s paper.

The Southern Congress has confirmed President Davis’ Cabinet appointments, as follows: —

- Secretary of State.....Mr. Toombs, of Georgia.
- Secretary of the Treasury...Mr. Memminger, of S.C.
- Secretary of War.....Mr. L. P. Walker, of Ala.

In Congress yesterday, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill providing for the discontinuance of the postal service in the seceded States. The Miscellaneous Appropriation bill was also discussed. In executive session a large number of appointments were confirmed, principally army and navy officers. In the House a report from the special committee censuring the Secretary of the Navy for accepting the resignations of naval officers belonging to seceded States,

was presented. Mr. Boccock resumed and concluded his speech on the Force bill, and the debate on the subject was continued till the expiration of the morning hour. The Washington and Oregon War Debt bill was also discussed.

RICHMOND ENQUIRER

THE MODEL GUN.

Mr. Adams, the Master Armorer of the Richmond Armory, exhibited yesterday to the members of the Military Committee of both Houses, the new model gun for the State.

The gun was made at the Springfield Armory. It is a combination of the United States musket, and the Enfield (British) rifle. - The length of barrel is 40 inches; calibre 58-100. The bands are convex adjustable (English pattern.) It has a three leafed rear sight. The lock is without a primer. The stock is of walnut, (any quantity of which, fortunately, can be had in the State.) The barrel is bright; but we think the guns to be made here, ought to be browned. The gun will do good execution at 1,000 yards. It is a beautiful piece of workmanship, and has been constructed under the eyes of Mr. Adams. - The probable cost of those to be made at the armory, will be \$15.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

FEDERAL REINFORCEMENTS AT HAND.

The special despatches of THE MERCURY, announcing that a stealthy reinforcement of Fort Sumter had been determined on, and that Federal troops, in boats, might be expected at any moment, and that circumstances should happen to favor their attempt to reach the fort, were confirmed about nine o last night, by telegrams received by the Governor. Shortly afterwards, despatches came up from Fort Moultrie, stating that the Lieutenant in charge of the harbor watch had reported that he was informed by a pilot that the steamship Daniel Webster had been seen by him off Cape Romain at noon. Notice was immediately given to the different posts. General DUNNOVANT and Captain HAMILTON proceeded immediately to Fort Moultrie. Major STEVENS repaired to the Morris Island batteries. Everything was got in readiness for the expected visitors.

Up to the hour at which we go to press (half past 4 o'), there has been nothing seen either of the Daniel Webster, or her boats.

We are very sure that the gallant troops on Morris and Sullivan's Islands will keep a bright lookout for both.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

FRIDAY 22

This has been a delightful day, rather cool, but pleasant. The celebration of Washingtons birth day called out a grand display of the Military of the District in the morning. The U.S. troops paraded afterwards by themselves. The order for their appearance in the morning with the Militia was for some reason not now understood countermanded. Wife and family went to the Ave at 10. o'clock and witnessed the display from C Woodward's Balcony. I dined by invitation at the National with some Gentlemen from NY City. A salute of 34 guns was fired, and the "Stars & Stripes" were flying from every point today. Spent the evening at home.

February 23, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The difficulty between the States of Georgia and New York still remains unsettled. A despatch from Savannah states that Governor Brown, of Georgia, on Thursday seized the ship Martha J. Ward, the bark Adjuster, and the brig Harold, all belonging to New York. These vessels will be detained until the arms seized by the New York police are given up.

We continue to chronicle the progress of Mr. Lincoln and suite. The President elect yesterday morning hoisted the American flag over Independence Hall, at Philadelphia, amid the cheering of a vast concourse of spectators. Subsequently he proceeded to Harrisburg. Along the route the people turned out generally to welcome the party. At Harrisburg Mr. Lincoln was received by the Pennsylvania Legislature, and addresses were delivered by the presiding officers of the two houses, and by Mr. Lincoln. The President elect will reach Baltimore today. There are some symptoms of a demonstration at Baltimore against Mr. Lincoln, but the police arrangements will prevent any indignity being offered to him. Mr. Hamlin, the Vice President, reached Washington yesterday.

SEIZURE OF ARMS FOR THE SOUTH - GEORGIA REPRISALS.

We are informed, by telegraph from Savannah, that, in consequence of the refusal of the police authorities of New York to give up the eight cases of muskets illegally taken from a vessel lying in this port and bound for Georgia, Governor Brown of that State, has seized several New York ships and detained

them in the harbor of Savannah, to the great damage of their owners.

As a matter of course, the republican presses will make a great tirade against Governor Brown, but it is not easy to see how he could have pursued any course other than that which he has adopted. The action of the police of New York was altogether unjustifiable, and the refusal of the General Superintendent to give up the arms is a flagrant abuse of power. We take it for granted that whatever may be the case at the South, the North is still at peace with all mankind. No foreign Power menaces us, and it is not presumed that the Southern people are coming here to fight with us any more than that we are going there to whip them. Under such circumstances, we all have certain rights which cannot be infringed. One of these is the right to keep and bear arms; another, to be secure in our person, houses and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures - all searches and seizures to be made by virtue of a warrant issued upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the person or things to be searched. We have been careful to quote here the exact words of the organic law of the land, as the republicans claim that they will support the constitution as it is. Under that constitution the Police commissioners have been guilty of an offence which can only be properly named by the use of a very disagreeable term - to wit, piracy. We are told that the Governor of the State disavows all connection with the matter, and throws the blame upon the Police Commissioners. Kennedy, the Superintendent, has been very officious in this affair, but his motive probably is to curry favor with the Commissioners, whose pliant tool he is. They (the Commissioners), in the absence of any declaration of war, had no more right to seized upon the arms and declare them contraband than they would have to enter the house of a private citizen and take away his fowling piece or revolver. Latterly, the Metropolitan Police seem to have assumed despotic functions, and to have instituted a sort of martial law over all of us. They seem to forget that there are any such things as laws, and ignore altogether the Bill of Rights. They assume powers which even the Paris police, the most arbitrary in the world, never pretended to have, except in revolutionary times. In the South there is a revolutionary movement, sanctioned by the popular voice; but the people of this Metropolitan Police district have not declared themselves as opposed to the laws of the land. This is the whole gist of the matter: - the powers of the police do not extend beyond this district; they are strictly defined by law, and they have no more right to go one step beyond

them than the President has to declare war against England tomorrow.

So far as local matters are concerned, the conduct of the police, the favoritism and corruption in the department, the rudeness and brutality of the pets of the Commissioners, have made it sufficiently unpopular without this last and most outrageous step. Not only do we have to pay an immense sum for a notoriously inefficient, lazy, and impertinent body of men, who are secure in their berths, and who snap their fingers at public opinion, but it appears that our intercourse with Southern ports is to be suspended, in order to make a little capital for the republicans in the rural districts.

Now, the duty of the Police Commissioners clearly is to compel Kennedy to subside, to restore the arms to their rightful owners, and to stop the disgraceful and unlawful espionage over vessels bound for the Southern ports. We believe that there is still a United States government quite capable of exercising all proper powers and duties under the constitution - a document which we recommend to the especial attention of the Police Commissioners. If they do not understand their duty, Governor Morgan, who appointed them, may as well fill their places with men who have not bidden an eternal farewell to the first principles of common sense, equity, justice and law.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

SOUTH CAROLINA WHITE LEAD, ZINC AND COLOR WORKS.

The White Lead, Zinc and Color Works manufactory of Messrs. CARMALT & BRIGGS, we are pleased to say, have never since their commencement been in a more flourishing condition than at the present time. The enterprising proprietors have demonstrated the fact that colors of all kinds can be manufactured in Charleston and sold at Northern prices, thereby giving the Charleston and more Southern purchaser a saving of freight and insurance - equal to three percent. Having heretofore been able to successfully compete with the Northern manufactories, the new tariff which goes into effect on the fourth of March, and which places a tax of fifteen percent on this class of Northern imports, will give our Charleston manufactory a decided and very apparent advantage, and will enable its managers to sell their lead and colors at much more reasonable rates than foreign imported goods, besides the gratification and satisfaction to purchasers of supporting a Southern institution. The mills of Messrs. CARMALT & BRIGGS have been recently improved and extended, and the superior quality of the various colors manufactured

has been fully and frequently acknowledged by many purchasers.

We mention these facts to apprise our friends of the Confederate States who are engaged in the business, of the fact that they need no longer be dependent on a stock on which they will have to pay a high tariff, while an acknowledged superior article, without a tariff, can be purchased in Charleston.

THE CABINET OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES. - SECRETARY OF STATE.

Hon. ROBERT TOOMBS was born in Wilkes County, Ga., July 2, 1810. Commencing his collegiate life at the University of Georgia, he subsequently went North, and graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. In 1836, he served as a captain of volunteers in the Creek war. In the next year he was elected to the Legislature, and since that time has been constantly in public life as Representative and Senator. In both branches of the Federal Congress he has always served upon important committees.

Mr. TOOMBS has been so conspicuously before the country, and his ability and experience are so well known, that it is superfluous for us to say anything of him. In the late movement of Georgia, he has been active and potential in the cause of secession. We honor him for the signal service he has rendered. He has been called to a post of greater importance - one which will serve to display all his merits as a statesman. Upon the sagacity of his counsels and the power of his pen, much will depend in regard to the relationship of the Confederate States with the rest of the world. He has or hearty good wishes for complete success in the grave duties which lie before him.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RECONNOISSANCE OF THE HARBOR OF CHARLESTON AND ITS APPROACHES.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., February 23, 1861.

Maj. W. H. C. WHITING:

MY DEAR SIR: You will proceed to Charleston and deliver the note addressed to Governor Pickens, which you will find herewith inclosed. After conferring with him as to the time and mode of visiting the different posts in Charleston Bay, you will enter upon a reconnoissance of the harbor of Charleston and its approaches. You will inspect the various works in our possession and gain such knowledge as circumstances will permit of Fort Sumter. In inspecting the works of the Confederate States you will bear in mind the double relation they may have as works of offense and of defense. You will make an inventory of the armament and of the munitions at the forts and in store, noting particularly the different qualities of can-

Skedaddle

non powder, as indicated by grain. Generally, I desire you to perform all the duties which devolve upon an engineer charged with the examination of works, and the preparation for active operations under circumstances such as those of Charleston, in this emergency.

Very respectfully, truly, yours,
JEFF'N DAVIS.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SATURDAY 23

Another pleasant morning but rainy towards night. I had numerous calls today in the office from NY friends and two or three letters requesting me to attend to business for the writers. Mr Lincoln arrived today by the morning train direct from Harrisburg without stopping in Baltimore. It is said that a dispatch was sent him from here to come immediately. He is here at Willards and seeing his friends at his room. The Hotel seemed jamed full tonight. I went to market with the black "chattel" behind me, a feat on her part which seems to satisfy her ambition entirely.

February 24, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The city was thrown into great commotion yesterday by the receipt of intelligence that Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, had unexpectedly appeared in Washington city. Our despatches from Harrisburg on Friday night reported Mr. Lincoln quietly housed at that place, resting himself after the fatigue of his day's journey from Philadelphia and his reception at the Pennsylvania State capital. It will be seen, however, from the accounts given in another part of today's paper, that Mr. Lincoln friends apprehended that an attempt would be made to do him personal injury, either on the route to or upon his arrival at Baltimore, and they therefore persuaded him to change the programme of his journey. Accordingly Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by one of his suite only, left Harrisburg early on Friday evening, reached Washington at six o' yesterday morning, and quietly proceeded to Willard's Hotel. All our reports from Baltimore strenuously deny that there was the slightest ground for apprehending any indignity to Mr. Lincoln in that city. Arrangements had been made to give him a proper reception, and precautions had been taken to prevent any popular disturbance. The real cause for Mr. Lincoln's sudden departure from Harrisburg yet remains to be revealed. Mr. Lincoln yesterday visited Mr. Buchanan and General Scott, and dined with Senator Seward. In the evening he held a reception, when the

members of the cabinet, the Peace Commissioners, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen waited upon him to pay their respects. Mrs. Lincoln, and the party comprising the Presidential suite, reached Washington early last evening.

The Peace Convention at Washington yesterday did not succeed in agreeing upon a plan for settling the troubles of the nation. It is believed, however, that in spite of the opposition of the radical republicans, the Convention will eventually adopt the Guthrie plan of adjustment.

**STARTLING INTELLIGENCE.
SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF MR. LINCOLN FOR
WASHINGTON.
ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE HIM.**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DESPATCH.
HARRISBURG, Feb. 23, 1861.

The people of this city were astounded this morning by an announcement that Mr. Lincoln had started in a special train for Washington, despatches having been received requiring his presence in that city. Reports are busily circulated that there was a plot to assassinate him while passing through Baltimore, but such stories are not believed. The Baltimore Committee is here, but did not have an interview with Mr. Lincoln.

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCH.
HARRISBURG, Feb. 23, 1861.

The city was startled just now by a rumor that Mr. Lincoln had left by a special train. The information was said to have leaked out from Col. Sumner, who was indignant at this flight, but was not made public until after the telegraph office closed for the night. Two hours before the HERALD reporter obtained the facts, but was kept locked in a room, unable to use them, until half an hour before the despatch was written.

The details of the whole affair were obtained by him, and even rumor has not hinted them all. In brief, Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, left Harrisburg secretly at six o' last evening, took a special train over the Pennsylvania Central Railroad to Philadelphia, thence took a special train to Washington, and before this news reaches New York will be, if no accident occurs, safe at the federal capital, and in charge of General Scott. The reason for this movement, so extraordinary and unprecedented, is that Mr. Lincoln's friends believe, from information acquired - I am not permitted to tell how - that if he carried out his programme, and left by special train at nine this morning, the train would wither be run off an embankment, blown up by grenades placed beneath the track, or some way destroyed, between the Maryland line and

Baltimore; or that, this failing, Mr. Lincoln would be mobbed and assassinated in Baltimore during his ride from depot to depot. How imminent his friends thought this danger was, may be judged by the fact that one of those who was aware of the plot, but was obliged to go where Mr. Lincoln went, made his will, sealed up his papers, and prepared for sudden death in case Mr. Lincoln should insist upon going on this morning.

To avoid a demonstration at Baltimore, Mr. Wood, who has had charge of the trains, was undetermined last night whether to go via Philadelphia, to avoid change of cars, or to go by the direct route from Harrisburg, and cross Baltimore in close carriage.

He declined the latter course, and in response to a letter from Erastus Corning, saying that as the Peace Congress desired Mr. Lincoln in Washington as soon as possible he arranged to arrive several hours before the time set down in the programme. Older heads were at work, however, and not until Mr. Lincoln had gone was Wood let into the secret and his trouble proven useless. So complete was Wood's mystification, that after Mr. Lincoln left he was bothering himself as to which Baltimore delegation (three are present) should be received, and wanted to see the President elect about it.

Although not divulged to Mr. Lincoln till yesterday, as some say, the whole plan was arranged days ago. Only three persons were to be let into the plot, including Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. Judd of Illinois. Speeches and receptions were to be kept up meanwhile. Special trains were arranged, the telegraph silenced, the wires to be cut if necessary, Mr. Lincoln to leave, Mr. Judd to be out of the way, Mrs. Lincoln and family to return to Philadelphia, and the denouement here kept back till about eight o' this morning. Too many vessels were entrusted with the secret, however. Some were leaky - and it is out. Mr. Lincoln returned from the ceremonies at the State House at three o' yesterday afternoon. Then the plan was laid before him. He is said to have indignantly rejected it. Mrs. Lincoln begged of him to go. Other persons had to be let into the secret in order to persuade Mr. Lincoln, among them Governor Curtin. All said go. Colonel Sumner almost wept with anger at this plan - called it abominable, and said Mr. Lincoln was as brave as any man, but he had cowardly friends. Mr. Lincoln was assured that he would certainly be assassinated, perhaps the whole family destroyed, and that an attack would be made upon Fort Sumter at the same time; finally, his friends' persuasions and Mrs. Lincoln's tears induced him, who was to be our future Jackson, to consent to the arrangement.

Mr. Lincoln was conducted downstairs, put in a covered carriage and drawn swiftly to the depot. Few saw him depart, and these were assured that he had gone to Governor Curtin residence to rest.

In the evening crowds assembled at the hotel to attend the reception, but Wood assured the company that Mr. Lincoln was ill, and had gone to bed. Mrs. Lincoln's agitation nearly discovered the whole secret, and she was obliged to give up the ladies' reception, pleading fatigue and sickness, the great crowd and the smallness of the parlors. The crowd gradually dispersed, the last serenades and cheers died away, and the secret was safe. Few knew it. Mrs. Lincoln was in her husband's room to answer accidental or intentional inquiries. These precautions were all the more necessary as many Baltimoreans were in town. Only one person, supposed to be Mr. Judd, went with Lincoln on the train.

Unfortunately, Col. Sumner had a friend, to whom, unable to restrain his indignation, he told that Mr. Lincoln had left town. Another person said that a special train with only one car had left, under charge of Superintendent Lewis, for Philadelphia. Then the secret was out.

Your reporter was released at half past one, as soon as the secret was public, and immediately called upon Mr. Wood. On the streets and in barrooms the few people stirring were discussing the plan, some thinking it prudent, but the majority declaring that it was cowardly, and that no harm would have happened if Mr. Lincoln had stayed in Baltimore a week. Mr. Wood was in bed, and being assured it was morning and the telegraph useless, admitted Mr. Lincoln's flight, confirmed some of the details, before obtained, but stated that instead of going to Philadelphia Mr. Lincoln and the party would go on to Washington by the fated nine o' train, as previously arranged, the train to stop in a lonely part of the city so as to avoid the crowd.

Your reporter goes on with the train, and, if not sufficiently killed to prevent him from writing will tell you about the affair.

THE TRIP OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE.

OUR SPECIAL DESPACHES.

ON SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL TRAIN.

Between Harrisburg and Baltimore, Feb. 23, 1861.

The special train, with Mrs. Lincoln and party on board, left Harrisburg at nine o', as arranged. The party were conveyed to the cars from the hotel in carriages. Very few people were out. There were no cheers, but denunciations of Mr. Lincoln's secret departure were deep and unanimous. The republicans

seemed to feel the most chagrined at the sudden movement.

All the party are on the train, though but few think we shall reach Washington without accidents. Colonel Ellsworth expects the train will be mobbed at Baltimore. The party is arranged as before, the Lincoln family, except Old Abe, in the rear car, and the balance of the party, including the reporters, in the front car. Only Mr. Judd and Major Lamon of Illinois are absent. Major Lamon was the only person who went with Mr. Lincoln.

I telegraphed Mr. Judd's name by mistake this morning. He went on to Philadelphia in the regular train, at half past two o'. Major Lamon is only a militia officer.

The party don't talk much. Judge Davis said that the telegraph was taken care of last night. The army officers are very angry. The republican on board, some of them editors of leading republican journals, are outrageous. They call it cowardly and draw a parallel between the conduct of Mr. Lincoln and the actions of the South Carolinians, very much to the disadvantage of the former. They say nothing can excuse or justify such conduct. These men who talk so are not in want of office. Ill-advised, injudicious, indeed every epithet is showered upon the movement. Still Mr. Lincoln is not blamed, but only his advisers. Others make a defence by saying that Mr. Lincoln can do as he pleases, that it is better to be prudent than rash, and that the matter was one of life and death.

Mr. Lincoln's disinclination to go is also dwelt upon, as also the refusal of the Baltimore Council to invite him. It is now known, however, that this thing was discussed at Springfield and came very near being done at Pittsburg on Sunday. Could Mr. Lincoln be ignorant of it all this time?

It has just been ascertained that the danger to be feared was directed at the train, but that the mob would assail Mr. Lincoln at Baltimore. Therefore Mrs. Lincoln was allowed to proceed at Baltimore. The train will stop in a lonely street, the parties be received in close carriages, and driven by different ways to the other depot.

At all the little places along the route crowds were gathered, but the train made no stop till it reached York, where two thousand people were gathered, with a band of music. They could not believe Mr. Lincoln was not on board, and offered bets to any amount that he was. In dead silence Bob Lincoln showed himself. A republican on the train explained to the crowd that Mr. Lincoln was invited to go to Baltimore, and resented the slight by passing through secretly. This will be the ground taken by those who defend the move.

The day is very gloomy and so is the party.

At York Mr. Wood said to the crowd, 'Mr. Lincoln is not on the train. He is suddenly called to Washington. He is very sorry to disappoint you. In the absence of the old man I present to you young Bob.'

At the next important station we passed the train from Baltimore, the passengers cheering. At every station crowds were out.

As we crossed the Maryland line the party became quite jolly, singing the 'Star Spangled Banner,' with young Lincoln as leader. Two Misses Williams, daughters of Senator Williams are on board, but stop at Baltimore.

The republican committee of reception from Baltimore is on the train. It consists of Hon. W. G. Snethen, Hon. W. T. Marshall, L. Blunenberg, W. Bell, J. Bishop, W. E. Gleason, J. M. Palmer and F. S. Corkran, the latter on behalf of the Electoral College. Mr. Snethen, in conversation with Mr. Wood said was a shameful way to treat men who had risked their lives to vote for Lincoln, and that it would have been perfectly safe for Lincoln to have walked through the city. The movement was a blunder.'

Mr. Wood replied, 'That the plan was not his; he had every confidence in the Baltimoreans, and intended to trust himself and Mr. Lincoln's family among them. The committee said that a State was never so insulted before.

There was a momentary stop at Countryville, where a great crowd was out, but no cheers.

At the next station an old darkey sat on the top of a stepladder, waving a piece of black bunting to which was pinned an American flag. Whether this meant secession, or that the blacks are for Union, is doubtful. Ladies, niggers and school children waved their handkerchiefs. Workmen were out everywhere.

ACCOUNTS FROM OTHER JOURNALS.

(Special Despatch to the New York Times.)

HARRISBURG, Feb. 23. - 8 A.M.

Abraham Lincoln, the President elect of the United States, is safe in the capital of the nation. By the admirable arrangement of General Scott the country has been spared the lasting disgrace, which would have been fastened indelibly upon it had Mr. Lincoln been murdered upon his journey thither, as he would have been had he followed the programme as announced in the papers and gone by the Northern Central Railroad in Baltimore.

On Thursday night after he had retired, Mr. Lincoln was aroused and informed that a stranger desired to see him on a matter of life or death. He declined to admit him unless he gave his name, which he

at once did. Of such prestige did the name carry that while Mr. Lincoln was yet disrobed he granted an interview to the called.

A prolonged conversation elicited the fact that an organized body of men had determined that Mr. Lincoln should not be inaugurated, and that he should never leave the city of Baltimore alive, if indeed, he ever entered it.

The list of the names of the conspirators presented a most astonishing array of persons high in Southern confidence, and some whose fame is not to this country alone.

Statesmen laid the plan, bankers endorsed it, and adventurers were to carry it into effect. As they understood, Mr. Lincoln was to leave Harrisburg at nine o' this morning by special train, and the idea was if possible to throw the cars from the road at some point where they would rush down a steep embankment and destroy in a moment the lives of all on board. In case of the failure of this project, their plan was to surround the carriage on the way from depot to depot in Baltimore, and assassinate him with dagger or pistol shot.

So authentic was the source from which the information was obtained that Mr. Lincoln after counselling his friends, was compelled to make arrangements which would enable him to subvert the plans of his enemies.

Greatly to the annoyance of the thousands who desired to call on him last night, he declined giving a reception. The final council was held at eight o'.

Mr. Lincoln did not want to yield, and Colonel Sumner actually cried with indignation: but Mrs. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Judd and Mr. Lincoln's original informant, insisted upon it, and at nine o' Mr. Lincoln left on a special train. He wore a Scotch plaid cap and a very long military cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable. Accompanied by Superintendent Lewis and one friend, he started, while all the town, with the exception of Mrs. Lincoln, Col. Sumner, Mr. Judd, and two reporters, who were sworn to secrecy, supposed him to be asleep.

The telegraph wires were put beyond the reach of anyone who might desire to use them.

At one o' the fact was whispered from one to another, and it soon became the theme of most excited conversation. Many thought it a very injudicious move, while others regarded it as a stroke of great merit.

The special train leaves with the original party, including the Times correspondent, at nine o', and we trust it will reach Baltimore in safely.

(From the Baltimore American, Feb. 23.)

As the representative of political and sectional views which find but few adherents among our people and no sympathy from the masses, the President elect will miss here the popular ovations which have attended every step of his progress from Springfield up to the borders of Maryland. But while this is so, we believe we may say with the fullest reliance upon the good sense and orderly instincts of our people, that his transit through Baltimore will not be marked by any demonstrations of an opposite character, and that whatever degree of respect and consideration can be consistently paid to his official position will be quietly and properly rendered.

THE ARRIVAL OF MR. LINCOLN IN WASHINGTON.**OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 1861.

Mr. Lincoln arrived here at six o' this morning direct from Harrisburg, and was received at the depot by Senator Seward and Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, and proceeded very quietly to Willard's Hotel. A private letter received here from Mr. Lincoln last night announced this change in his programme. He was advised by high authorities here to come through Baltimore in the night in order to avoid a difficulty growing up in that city about who should receive him and how it should be done. He was accompanied on the trip by Mr. Lamon, of Illinois, and Mr. Allen, of New York. Mr. Lincoln, after getting some rest, breakfasted privately.

Senator Seward received official intelligence on Thursday evening, from reliable sources, that most diabolical plot had been unsuccessfully arranged, on the part of a secret organization in Baltimore to assassinate the President elect on this arrival in that city. Mr. Seward communicated this intelligence to a few private friends, and it was determined to despatch a messenger at once to Philadelphia, informing him of the fact, and urging him to take an earlier train, which would bring him through in the night. Mr. Lincoln said he had received intelligence from Baltimore of a similar nature. A special train was accordingly arranged, and he departed at once for Washington.

It is positively denied by Baltimoreans that any such organization exists, or that any interference would have been made with the Presidential party. There is little doubt that the feeling and sentiment of the people of Baltimore is very bitter against Mr. Lincoln, so much so, indeed, that violence might have been attempted. It is regarded as a very wise move in giving them the slip.

Mr. Lincoln's family, accompanied by his suite, will reach here this afternoon. A suit of five ele-

gantly furnished rooms in the southwest corner of Willard, fronting on Pennsylvania avenue and overlooking the White House, have been set apart for President Lincoln and his family.

As the news of Mr. Lincoln's sudden and unexpected arrival spread through the city this forenoon, people wondered that it could be possible that Old Abe was actually in their midst.

At eleven o' Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by Mr. Seward, called at the White House and paid his respects to Mr. Buchanan. The interview was merely one of courtesy, and not for business. Mr. Buchanan received Mr. Lincoln very cordially.

When Mr. Lincoln called upon Mr. Buchanan the Cabinet were in session. The messenger announced that Mr. Seward was in the ante-room, attended by Mr. Lincoln, the President elect. This was a coup d. The President was not aware that Mr. Lincoln had arrived, nor was either member of the Cabinet. Mr. Buchanan proceeded immediately to his private reception room, and soon Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward were shown in, the latter introducing the former. Mr. Buchanan received Mr. Lincoln very cordially, and a pleasant interview was had. Mr. Buchanan was anxious to know if Mr. Lincoln had a satisfactory reception at Harrisburg, to which the latter responded that it was very enthusiastic on the part of the people, and exceedingly satisfactory to him. Mr. Buchanan then invited Mr. Lincoln to visit the Cabinet Chamber, which he accepted, and was introduced to each member. The interviews were very agreeable.

Upon leaving the White House, Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward made a call upon Lieut. General Scott, but the old chief was absent attending to his official duties.

A three o' General Scott returned Mr. Lincoln's call. He was warmly greeted by the President elect, who expressed to the General his thanks for the many marks of attention he had shown him, especially in detailing an escort from his home to the capital. General Scott expressed his great gratification at Mr. Lincoln's safe arrival, and especially complimented him for choosing to travel from Harrisburg unattended by any display, but in a plain democratic way.

At four o' the Illinois Congressional delegation, without respect of party, headed by Senator Douglas, called upon Mr. Lincoln, and paid their respects. The meeting was less formal perhaps than would be the case at the interview with any other delegation, from the fact that they were all friends and acquaintances before. The interview between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas was peculiarly pleasant.

Among the caller upon Mr. Lincoln this afternoon were the venerable Frank Blair and his son, Montgomery Blair.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1861.

A very windy day and rather cool but not freezing. The mud is drying up in the streets. The Lincolns are all here and it is understood that satisfactory terms have been agreed upon for a settlement of the difficulties as far as the North and the border Slave states are concerned. There is a week (at least) of excitement in prospect in view of the Inauguration on the 4th. No Trouble is now apprehended then. Mr Lincoln did not stand upon his dignity yesterday but called upon the Prest, Genl Cass, and the Cabinet who returned his in evening at Willards. There is a full moon and it is very pleasant out tonight.

February 25, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

Much excitement was caused in this city and throughout the country on Saturday by the announcement that the President elect had quietly left Harrisburg on Friday night by a special train and made his appearance in Washington early the next morning. All sorts of rumors and opinions were current in regard to this change of programme, some asserting that it was from fear of assassination on the route or in Baltimore, and other declaring that, shortly after leaving Springfield, Mr. Lincoln had made up his mind to act in the manner he did. Our despatches this morning from Washington state that persons who are in the secret positively assert that for some time past a plot has been in existence against the President elect. A detective officer, who discovered the plot, carefully watched the conspirators and informed Mr. Lincoln and his friends of the facts while on their way to Philadelphia. On the other hand, the people of Baltimore deny that there was ground for apprehending any difficulty in regard to the President elect, and state that arrangements had been perfected for giving him a reception suitable to his position. On Saturday Mr. Lincoln called on President Buchanan, and was introduced to the members of the Cabinet. In the evening the members of the Cabinet, the members of the Peace Conference and a large number of ladies and gentlemen were received by Mr. Lincoln at Willard's Hotel. Early Saturday evening Mrs. Lincoln and the party comprising the Presidential suite arrived in Washington. Yesterday Mr. Lincoln, in company with

Senator Seward, attended divine service at an Episcopal church, and was the observed of all observers.

From the South we learn that some decisive movement was expected to be made this week in regard to Forts Pickens and Sumter. The speech of the President elect at Indianapolis was looked upon as a declaration of war, and the only question at Montgomery was how to commence it advantageously. President Davis, it was reported, would take command of the army in person, and General Twiggs take command at Charleston. Despatches from Major Anderson report everything quiet. He was allowed to receive marketing and other necessaries from Charleston, and had all the intercourse with the city he desired. Captain Hazzard, who had arrived at Washington from Pensacola, reports matters quiet, but says he cannot tell how long they will remain so. Three thousand troops are believed at present to be enroute for Pensacola.

A strange steamer, supposed to be the Daniel Webster, which cleared from this port, with United States troops on board for Brazos, Texas, was, on Thursday last, fallen in with outside of Charleston bar. Governor Pickens was immediately notified of the fact, and proceeded to take measures to prevent her entering the harbor.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, February 21, 1861.

Those in the middle classes, who have access to the soldiers now quartered here, and are on intimate terms with them, assure me that they are just as anxious as the citizens themselves that matters should be amicably adjusted. Many of them, some say a majority, affirm that when the worst comes to the worst they will not fight against the South. Those who can resign, will do so; those who cannot, will desert.

A great deal of breath has been wasted in the Peace Congress about the acquisition of future territory. The old fogies argue just as if the Confederate States had no existence. All is based on the idea of the treachery of politicians. This is very silly. Not one inch of soil will ever be added to this Union south of the Rio Grande. All expansion in that direction will be made by and for the Southern Confederacy. But the drift of the action of many really true Southern men in the Peace Congress shows that they are still laboring under the delusion of reconstruction. I heard one of them declare positively that the Gulf States would come back on the CRITTENDEN amendment. It really seems that the most intelligent men in the Border States are totally ignorant of the Southern people.

The returns from Arkansas and Missouri are very encouraging to the Republicans, who now, more than ever, are convinced that the Border States be kicked out! They are not far wrong. Certainly nothing short of steady kicking can do it. If the Border States are to be saved, LINCOLN will be their saviour. The natural desire of an ignorant man to atone for mental deficiency by assuming an immense amount of moral firmness, may lead him into acts of great folly and oppression. And his so called conservative Cabinet will join him, heart and hand, as soon as the reins of power are fairly within their grasp.

Northern men are slowly waking up to the fact that, when war begins, it will be waged on Northern soil; and even they who have urged the border States to remain in the Union as a barrier between the combatants, begin to think that this barrier will not only give way to the advance of the Southern army, but actually join it. When men get to fighting with revolvers, it is not usual for persons, even of the largest size, to stand in the way of the bullets. They step aside very quickly, and, if they happen to be so situated that they can do that, they join one party or the other, as a matter of security and self defence.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

MONDAY 25

It has been a delightful day and the streets are nearly dry. Nothing in particular has occurred in the City. Everything moves along as usual only there is getting to be a great crowd here. Called tonight with my wife on Mrs & Miss Butterfield at Willards Hotel. Mr & Mrs Lincoln were holding a Levee in their parlors and we went up and were introduced. Mrs L in one room and Mr L in an adjoining room. They are both quite ordinary looking people. I hope He is equal to the crises. To my Mind, appearances do not favor the conclusion that he is. A brilliant assembly at the Hotel, staid there two hours.

THE SMALL PRINT

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