The Press.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1861.

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THE WEEKLY PRESS is furnished to subscribers at $2 per year, in advance, for the single copy, and to Clubs of Twenty, when sent to one address, $20, in advance. Single copies for sale at the counter of THE PRESS Office, in wrappers, ready for mailing.

TO ADVERTISERS.—The circulation of THE PRESS exceeds that of any other daily paper in Philadelphia, with a single exception. Satisfactory proof of this fact will be cheerfully given to advertisers.

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THE fire-eaters seem to be getting tired of living upon combustibles alone. They may eat fire and they may eat cotton, but something else is necessary to sustain life. When they are also called upon to *fight fire* they may well declare in advance that this new trial had not entered into their calculations. The following spicy correspondence between the acting Postmaster General and Mr. ASHMORE, one of the seceding members of Congress from South Carolina, tells a mournful story:

ANDERSON, (S. C.) JAN. 24, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: I have in my possession some 1,000 to 1,200 volumes of "public documents," being my proportion of the same as a member of the Thirty-sixth Congress. They were forwarded me in small sacks and are now lying in my library. Since the date of the ordinance of secession (December 20th, 1860) of South Carolina I have not used the franking privilege, nor will I attempt to do so without the special permission of the Department. To pay the postage on these books, &c., would cost me a large sum and to me that I am not prepared to expend. The books are of no use to me, but might be to my constituents, for whom they were intended, if distributed amongst them. Have I the right to frank and distribute them under existing relations? If so, please inform me. Having said that I have not used the franking privilege since the 20th December, I need hardly add that I shall not do so, even on a "public document," unless you authorise it.

I am, with great respect, truly and sincerely, yours,
J. D. ASHMORE.

HON. HORATIO KING, Acting Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
JANUARY 29, 1861.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 20th inst., asking if you have the right, "under existing relations," to frank and distribute certain public documents, I have the honor to state that the theory of the Administration is that the relations of South Carolina to the General Government have been in nothing changed by the recent act of secession; and, this being so, you are of course entitled to the franking privilege until the first Monday in December next. If, however, as I learn is the case, you sincerely and decidedly entertain the conviction that by that act South Carolina ceased to be a member of the Confederacy and now a foreign State, it will be for you to determine how far you can conscientiously exercise a privilege the exercise of which assumes that your own conviction is erroneous, and plainly declares that South Carolina is still in the Union, and that you are still a member of the Congress of the United States.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,
HORATIO KING, Acting Postmaster General.

HON. JOHN D. ASHMORE, Anderson, South Carolina.

Mr. ASHMORE, like the rest of his school, did not resign his seat, he only withdrew from it, but, in doing so, contradicted himself somewhat calamitously by taking the ground that his State regarded the United States as a foreign country; and, in adopting this theory, as if still further to intensify his dilemma, asks permission to use the franking privilege of the country with which the Convention of his own State has dissolved all friendly relations.

In order to accomplish the feat of Disunion, however, South Carolina is forced to endure many other grievances. While shutting out the ships of the United States, she shuts out all commerce from her port; while discarding the protection of the Federal Government, she enters into a voluntary contract to pay the expenses of the postal system; while vaunting her resources, she is driven to a system of forced taxation that has no parallel except in despotism; while declaring that she has been wronged by the North, she is adopting a revolting espionage over individuals and newspapers; while declaring against coercion, she prepares the road to make an attack upon the forts of the United States in her own harbor; and, while demanding a Southern Confederacy, to be composed of all the slave States, treats Virginia, the largest and most influential of these States, with contempt and derision. If this is not playing with fire, and eating it too, probably, the casuist of the Charleston *Mercury* can tell us what it is.

The disease of South Carolina is chronic and incurable. She is like the ragged maniac, who, while inflicting upon himself personal injury, revels in the imaginary possession of enormous riches, and believes himself to be the uncontrolled monarch of all he surveys. This is the State that aspires to destroy the Union; this is the Government that erects itself into a spotless, incomparable model, calling upon others to do as she does, and glorying alike in her own folly and her own infamy.

The Armstrong Murder Case.

The deliberations of the jury in the Armstrong murder case have resulted in a verdict of guilty against the young prisoner, and but few question the wisdom of this decision. The array of testimony on the part of the Commonwealth was of a fearfully impressive character, and, strong as are the prejudices against merely circumstantial evidence, it is difficult to imagine how, in any case where a murder has been privately committed, stronger proofs of guilt could be adduced. It is difficult to realize how one so young and apparently unhardened in the walks of crime, who has, too, been bred up under moral and genial influences, could coolly plan and execute one of the most shocking and revolting murders that have ever been committed. But it is a matter of the highest importance to the community that it should be protected from men who possess the diabolical nature of the murderer of CRAWFORD, whoever he was; and if ARMSTRONG is guilty, he deserves the fearful punishment which now threatens him.

Death of "The Constitution."

The Washington *Constitution* of yesterday contains the distressing statement that its editor hopes to resume its publication a month hence in "the more genial atmosphere of the Southern Republic." Mr. BROWNE expresses a profound abhorrence of the course pursued by General SCOTT and Mr. HOLT in sending the *Star of the West* to relieve Fort Sumpter, and alludes in feeling terms to "the official persecution" he has endured "by the withdrawal of the patronage of the Executive," in consequence of his consistent adherence to the project of breaking up this great Confederacy, and his zealous opposition to all the efforts of patriotic men to preserve it. There is no journal in the country which can be better spared at the present time, and its wisest act, under the present management, is the announcement of its death!

The Canada Fugitive Slave Case.

If the Governor-General and other authorities of Canada obey the writ of Habeas Corpus issued, on the 15th instant, by the Court of Queen's Bench, in England, ANDERSON, the negro who is demanded under the Extradition Treaty by the United States, must be conveyed across the Atlantic, and bodily placed before the English Judges, in their Court at Westminster. No small confusion and difficulty may arise out of the procedure of the English Judges.

The English law-court has done what the Court of Queen's Bench, in Canada, with facts in evidence before them, refused to do. Here, then, the Mother State claims and exercises a power superior to that of her Colony. If we understand the law rightly, there is no appeal, in *Canada*, from the decision of the Court there to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus. But, by the line of procedure which has been pursued, the English Court of Judicature asserts a right to revise the decision, by granting the Habeas Corpus which the Canadian Court refused by a majority—only one of the provincial judges holding that the refusal was wrong.

Were this simply a question of *property* in ANDERSON, the operation of the writ of habeas corpus would be that, the moment he set foot on British soil, he would necessarily be emancipated, by British law. But this had already occurred, when he reached Canada. He is claimed, not as a *slave*, but as *murderer*. The question comes down, in this case, has this fugitive slave committed murder?

It is admitted that ANDERSON ran away, and that an attempt was made to arrest him, in his flight, while yet he was on American soil. ANDERSON resisted, killed the man who wanted to take him back into bondage, and finally succeeded in reaching Canada. Under the extradition Treaty, ANDERSON is claimed from Canada by the United States—not as a slave, but as a murderer. The Court of Queen's Bench in Canada, after hearing certain evidence, decided that ANDERSON must be surrendered. The English Court reopened the question, and the arguments of English lawyers will be, for ANDERSON, that, having killed a man who endeavored to restore him to bondage, he committed, not murder, but justifiable homicide.

It is singular enough that, in August 1843, on the second reading of the Act of Parliament, (6 and 7 Victoria, cap. 76,) Mr. MACAULAY anticipated such a probability as the present case. He said:

"Take the case of a slave who had committed murder in his own defence. Suppose a man scourged him, pursued him. The slave had surely the right to resist, and, in his defence, to kill his assailant. By the law of England he would be justifiable homicide. By the law of Georgia it would be murder," &c.

The Attorney General answered:

"That in all the cases put by the right honorable gentleman no doubt could arise. The bill expressly said the fugitives must be tried *by the laws of the country where they were found*."

Mr. MACAULAY asked:

"Whether he was to understand, then, that an action not criminal in a free man would be held not to be criminal in a slave"

The Attorney General said:

"He was of opinion that an English magistrate would not be at liberty to enter into the question as to whether the fugitive brought before him was a slave or not. He could only enter into such questions of common law (which, of course, means English law) as might arise out of the case; and if the accused person was not shown to be a criminal no extradition could take place."

Lord PALMERSTON then declared his understanding of the intended law to be "that in no case where a slave was charged with the offence of murder or robbery would any English magistrate be justified in delivering him up for trial, unless the offence he was charged with was one which was looked upon as murder or robbery *by the law of England*; and he apprehended that *any* act that a slave might commit in resisting the coercion of his master *could not amount to murder*, and would not justify a magistrate in giving up the fugitive," was not excepted to by the Law Officers of the Crown. At the same time Lord DERBY (then Lord STANLEY, and Colonial Minister) used these words:

"No fugitive could, under the treaty, be surrendered as a murderer, unless his offence were such as our laws would qualify with this epithet."

The *Times*, which discusses this case with the gravity becoming one of such international, legal, moral, and social importance, thus sums up:

"Anderson is demanded not as a slave, but as a murderer; and the question is not whether the courts will give effect to the claims of a master over a slave who is on English soil, but whether, in deciding what is murder within our extradition treaty, they will guide themselves by the laws of England or the laws of Missouri—by the code of the freeman or that of the chattel. Should the court of Queen's Bench in England agree in opinion with the Court of Queen's Bench in Canada, America will have acquired a right under the treaty to have the negro delivered up to her, and there can be doubt that we know of in the laws of this country to prevent that delivery from taking place. At the same time, we do not seek to conceal from ourselves the vast importance of the impending issue. If the decision be in favor of the negro, we cannot help seeing that at a very critical moment a most weighty and damaging censure will have been passed by the very highest authority on the laws and practices of the United States—a censure not likely to be soon forgotten or forgiven, since it must be founded on the assumption that their laws cannot be enforced, because they are contrary to the very first principles of natural justice. If, on the other hand, the decision should be against the negro, we cannot regard without apprehension the excitement of feelings in this country which may for years to come poison our relations with one-half of the United States."

The Political Revolution.

The Secession movement has now attained the dimensions of a great revolution, and as such must be treated. The argument against the legal right to break up the Union, and to resist the authority of the General Government, is unanswerable. But, six States have now assumed an attitude of hostility to it, and others are preparing to follow their example. It may be easily shown that they have no constitutional authority for this action, but they have, nevertheless, resorted to it. From present indications, this revolution will inevitably widen in extent until all the slave States, with perhaps two or three exceptions, become connected with it, if some peaceable plan of adjustment is not devised. It is not probable that any concessions will be acceptable to the ultra Gulf states—but the border States may be prevented from joining them in their desperate movement, by judicious action.

No proposition has yet been brought forward which is perfectly acceptable to all parties and all sections, nor is it likely that any such measure can be devised in the existing state of public sentiment and the conflict of opinion which prevails. It is an easy thing to assail, and to point out objections which by many will be deemed insuperable, against any plan of compromise that has yet been, or will hereafter be, brought forward. If the Union is to be preserved, or if a line which will divide the slaveholding from the non-slaveholding States is not to be drawn, every man who is attached to it should be prepared to offer up some sacrifice of prejudice or opinion upon the altar of his country. Disunion and civil war stare the nation full in the face, and the time has come when we must rather choose between evils than expect to have the Government administered in a manner which is exactly and entirely in accordance with our individual judgments. It is to be hoped, therefore, that, instead of criticising too severely and sharply the different peace propositions which have been brought forward by Northern and Southern men, the necessity of prompt action of some kind will be distinctly recognized; and that attention will be directed rather towards promoting an agreement and common understanding among that large class who still believe our Union to be worth preserving, than towards weakening the efforts made to maintain it.

BENEFIT OF THE POOR.—It is on *this* evening that the performances will take place at Walnut-street Theatre, for the benefit of the Poor. The performances will include the drama of "The Surgeon of Paris" and "All that Glitters is not Gold," with Comic Singing by Mr. W. A. Chapman, and comic acting, (*Ginger Blue*, in "The Virginia Mummy," by Mr. Frank Brewer. From the present appearance of the box-office, there will be a very full house.

Sudden Death of a Philadelphian in a Court-room.

EASTON, Pa., Jan. 30.—While Mr. Wm. Shaefer was giving his testimony in a case in court here this afternoon, he fell over, and died almost immediately of apoplexy. He was seventy-nine years old, and a resident of Philadelphia.

The Cosmopolitan Art Association.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—The annual award of premiums by the Cosmopolitan Art Association has been postponed until the 18th of April, to which time the subscription books will remain open.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, January 30.

The reflection that he has conveyed most sorrow to the patriotic heart since the commencement of our national troubles, is that which grows out of the apprehension that no government based upon public opinion can be permanent, and the wild and wanton course of the Disunionists seems to confirm this apprehension. But, are we not too ready to abandon ourselves to despair? Is not public opinion in the United States still the vital spark of our liberties? Do we not witness the manifestations of its power on all hands? Even in those States that have left the Union, every day presents proofs to us that the authors of the great mischief to which these States have lent themselves, fear while they fetter the utterances of the people around them. Men are, for the time being, compelled to assume an ultra position, and to appear to endorse ultra sentiments, in order to save themselves in their business and their property. The iron hand is laid upon the freedom of the press as well as upon the freedom of speech, and every means is resorted to to create the impression upon outside barbarians that there is a unanimous judgment in favor of disunion. Yet, in spite of all these attempts, frequent expressions of devotion to the Constitution, and to the Republic, force their way out. It is not the army and the navy of the United States that the Disunionists dread so much, as it is the awakening indignation of the people whom they have deluded. In the free States public opinion is gathering into a perfect tempest of wrath, and politicians, in order to rescue themselves, find it to be their true interest to fall in with what is fast becoming the ascertained wishes of the masses, and to approve that which the masses ask for. Before such a demonstration as this most of the leaders of parties surrender their prejudices and their records, and those who prefer to stand by these prejudices and records, prepare with proper equanimity for the obscurity that assuredly awaits them.

In any other country, such dissensions as ours would long ago have provoked bloodshed. Not a city would be without its mobs and its turbulence, and this Federal capital, instead of being, as it is at the present writing, quiet and composed, would be crowded with armed men, each intent upon the life of his fellow, or determined to test the permanency of our Government by the wager of battle. I was greatly struck with the overwhelming devotion of our people to the Union last evening, at the President's levee. Never before has the East Room been so jammed with American citizens from all parts of the country. The officers of the army and navy were present in uniform in all their strength, and the sentiment that animated the entire mass was that "the Union must and shall be preserved." What stronger indication of the irresistible character of American public opinion could be found than in the present position of the champions of the Republican party, including the President elect himself? It was accordance with the sentiment that the safety of the new Administration and their own lasting popularity can only be found in faithfully representing that which the people are beginning to manifest as their own wish. Wonderful, most wonderful, have been the strides that public opinion has made among those Southern men who have hesitated in the present emergency. The speech of the Hon. J. Morrison Harris, of Maryland, in the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon, was a signal confirmation of this assertion. Deeply devoted to the cause of the South, and a few weeks ago, for reasons satisfactory to himself, profoundly impressed with the belief that the proper course for Maryland to pursue was that of masterly inactivity, he now plants himself upon the firm foundations of the Union, and entreats Congress and the country by declaring his determination to adhere to it until every vestige of a hope of a proper adjustment has disappeared.

The bold speech of Sherrard Clemens, published in *The Press*, yesterday, has produced the most gratifying results in Western Virginia, and in other parts of the South; and that Andrew Johnson, who has lately been burnt in effigy in Tennessee, bids fair to become, more than ever, the favorite of his fellow-citizens, on account of his masterly defence of the Union, and his equally masterly appeal in favor of sustaining the Government, and enforcing the laws made in pursuance of the Constitution. Men like Bouligny and Davidson, of Louisiana; Cobb and Houston, of Alabama; and Hamilton, of Texas, will thus see that it is their duty to remain in Congress, no matter what their States may do; or to return to their seats, should they, in a moment of honest impulse, retire from them There is not a Southern State, except South Carolina, which has acted upon the advice of the enemies of the Republic, that does not contain thousands of men who have sworn to seize upon the first opportunity to exhibit their undying attachment to the Government as it is; and I predict that, in a very short time, we shall see such a contest between the friends and the enemies of the Republic, in those States, as has never been witnessed.

All these are the solid triumphs of public opinion, and unless I am greatly mistaken, this heretofore irresistible element in our nationality will presently be developed in such magnitude and majesty as completely to overwhelm those who have proceeded upon the theory that they could overthrow established institutions, defy constitutional enactments, and laugh at and ridicule the holy recollections of the American Revolution, and of the men who figured in the trying times of 1776 and 1800. The American people are often misled; but they correct their mistakes with equal courage and readiness. When a single man may hesitate about doing, many men frankly and immediately do; and it is a peculiar and striking characteristic of our countrymen that what seems to them to be right, no matter how it may apparently contradict their own collective record, rapidly wins their affections, and crystalizes and consolidates them into an organization in favor of it. The President is a sublime instance of the truth and the vigor of this public opinion. Having for three long years discarded its teachings, he at last became so conscious of its justice and its potency that he separated himself from the men who had so long ruled and ruined him, and obediently followed the plainly understood mandates of those whose servant he is. If the private letters of the chiefs of the Disunion conspiracy, written to each other, could be put in print, it would be found that every one entertains as firm and as unconquerable dread, not only of the sentiment of the people of the free States, but of the heartfelt affection for the Union of those immediately around them. It would be monstrous if it were otherwise. Have we been lying to each other in all our past professions of devotion to the Union? Have we been uttering base falsehoods when protesting our gratitude to the men who fought, and bled, and died to secure for us the liberties we now enjoy? Has the veneration for Washington and Jefferson and Jackson died out in all our hearts? Can it be possible that the people of the South no longer thrill when they hear the Star Spangled Banner, Hail Columbia, or Yankee Doodle? A nation's traditions, a nation's prejudices, a nation's glory over all that is bright and splendid in its history, cannot be extinguished at once No man can obliterate regard for his family and friends in an instant, and, above all, no free people can change the love it feels for its benefactor in a day or a night. I am more than ever convinced that we need no standing armies to maintain this Union; that the public opinion of our country is as healthy and as resistless as ever, and that out of the fiery trials of the ordeal through which we are now passing we shall emerge purified and prepared for new contests, having adjusted all difficulties by a fair recognition of the rights of the States, and having laid the foundations of a perpetual Government so strong that hereafter no parricidal hand can be raised against it.

The Conference to assemble here on the 4th of February will probably represent public opinion more correctly than any other body that could be assembled at the present juncture. In the dark days of the Revolution, Virginia sent her best-beloved son to protect the liberties of the people, and the invocation for peace at the present time has come with singular propriety from her. I am glad to know that the New England States will all be represented in this Conference; that Mr. Lincoln himself demands that Illinois shall have her best citizens present, and I am also filled with the patriotic hope that its deliberations will be guided by wisdom, and that no partisan disputes will be permitted to stay or stain the harmony of its proceedings. Woe to the politician who may obtain a seat in that Conference, and who will seek to divide it by introducing party feuds into its discussions! and woe to the party that, after it shall arrive at a patriotic decision, will dare to array itself against that decision!

As showing the anxiety of the Southern men to hail every indication on the part of the Northern people to stay the conspiracy in the Cotton States, I need only mention that when the news of the repeal by the Legislature of Rhode Island of the personal-liberty bills on the statute-books of that State reached Baltimore, one hundred guns were fired in honor of the event. The greatest solicitude is manifested to hear from Pennsylvania and other free States. Now, I know it is said by many of the Republicans that they will not treat with traitors with arms in their hands, but it ought to be remembered that we are treating with the Border Slave States, and not with the Cotton States; and, as I have repeatedly said in this correspondence, the former entertain as much contempt and indignation at the proceedings of the latter as we do ourselves. OCCASIONAL.

THE LECTURE OF REV. NATHANIEL WEST, D. D.—We have received a neatly-printed pamphlet copy of the lecture delivered by Rev. Nathaniel West, D. D., in West Philadelphia, on the recent fast day appointed by the President in regard to the causes of the decline of the Ancient Republics. We published it a short time ago in the columns of *The Press*; but for the gratification of a large number of persons who desired to preserve it, in a convenient form, this pamphlet edition has been issued. It is scarcely necessary to assure our readers that it is deeply interesting, and that it will abundantly repay an attentive perusal. It is for sale by T. B. Peterson & Bro.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, January 30, 1861.

The Republicans of the House of Representatives held a caucus in the east committee room last night, commencing at seven and not breaking up until twelve o'clock. A long discussion ensued upon the propriety of repealing the last clause of the 95th section, which prohibits a master from arresting his slave in a riotous manner. An informal ballot showed that thirty-three Republicans were in favor of the repeal. Adding the twenty-nine Democrats to these makes the total amount to sixty-two, or a clear majority of *twenty-four* in the entire House. There is an equally large majority, in proportion, in the Senate.

A bill of very great importance to all laborers throughout the State passed the House yesterday, and has been sent to the Senate for concurrence. It was read in place by Mr. Collins, and at first only related to the county of Fayette; but, on motion of Mr. Gordon, of Jefferson, the act was made general. It is entitled, "An act for the better security of the wages of laborers."

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That all wages that may be due from the owner or owners of any manufacturing establishment to any laborer or laborers in or about such establishment, for any period not exceeding two months immediately preceding the death or insolvency of such owner or owners, shall be a lien upon such establishment, and shall be first paid from the proceeds of the sale of such establishment: *Provided*, That the same be presented to the officer executing the writ before distribution of the proceeds of the sale.

SECTION 2. That, in case of the dissolution, by death or otherwise, of any partnership firm or incorporated company, all debts due or owing to operatives or laborers for labor performed for such partnership firm or incorporated company, for any period not exceeding one year, shall first be provided for and paid out of the effects or assets of said firm or company in preference of or to any other claim: *Provided*, That this act shall not impair or affect the right of the widow or children of any decedent to retain three hundred dollars, as provided by existing laws of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Preston, an act to regulate intelligence offices. It compels the keepers of intelligence offices to take out a license, for which $50 is to be paid, in any city of the Commonwealth, and $25 in the counties. A violation of this act is to be deemed a misdemeanor, and any person upon being convicted in the Quarter Sessions, to be fined not less than one, nor more than two, hundred dollars—one half to go to the informer, and the other half to the county treasury.

In the Senate, Mr. Nichols called up the act incorporating the Penn Gas Coal Company, which was amended so as to make the stockholders individually liable for debts to the amount of stock held by them. This is a company of Philadelphia gentlemen who have invested their money in mining coal lands in Westmoreland county. Some gentlemen thought they saw a grant of unusual privileges in this bill, and made much opposition at first, but the persuasive arguments of Mr. Nichols overcame all objections, and the bill now goes to the House for concurrence.

Mr. Parker read in place an act to incorporate the Pawnbrokers' Loan association of Philadelphia. Corporators—Samuel Ovenshine, William Duffy, Stephen N Winslow, Samuel L. Croker, Marshall Sprogle, and Wm. W Watt. The object is to form a fund of money to lend to indigent persons, at a rate of interest agreed upon by the parties, provided it shall in no case exceed the rate now chargeable by pawnbrokers under the authority of law; and, provided, that all sums of money in excess of as interest out of the operations, which shall exceed the rate of interest of six per cent. per annum, shall be paid over to the treasurer of the city of Philadelphia for the benefit of the poor. This will put the pawn-broking business under more restrictions, and is likely to ensure to the benefit of the poor. It is introduced in accordance with the provisions of the Pawners' Association of Boston, which has been found to work well.

Mr. Connell read in place a bill to authorize the repayment to holders of rural property in the Twenty-fourth ward of taxes, where the rate has been levied as city property.

Mr. Parker, also an act extending the time of the securities of F. Knox Morton to 1865 to pay the amount for which he is in default.

Naval Intelligence.

The United States ship *Relief* was put formally in commission at the Brooklyn naval yard, on Tuesday. She goes to Porto Grande, Africa, today.

If there be a United States steam man-of-war off Charleston, as reported, it must be one of the gunboats, *Crusader*, *Mohawk*, or *Wyandotte*. The steam frigate, said to be seen off Pensacola, is probably the *Powhatan*, homeward bound from the Gulf.

Lieutenant Willard, of the army, has been ordered to join his regiment in Texas. It is expected that the troops which he joined will be instructed to move North.

A new commissioned officer of the army detached from a regiment now in Texas, arrived in New York on Monday, and merely called at one of the rendezvous to say that he was going to join Major Anderson at Charleston. He was quoted as being ready informed that there would be an inevitable change in his destination. He is now "on probate."

It is feared that General Twiggs' desire to be relieved from the command of the department of Texas, to which he was so recently appointed, is but the precursor of his resignation. He is a native of Georgia, and one of our most gallant officers. He entered the service during the war of 1812, and his name is honorably associated with several important battles.

More recruits from the provincial rendezvous have arrived at Governor's Island, New York, in small, straggling detachments

Notwithstanding the detachment from Governor's Island of about 250 men within a short time, there are now over 500 soldiers, well drilled, available for service in the barracks.

Within ten days 400 United States troops, and a large number of horses and pieces of ordnance, have been added to the already formidable garrison of the Federal capital.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to the Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, January 30.

Captain Faunce, of the Revenue Cutter Harriet Lane.

This gallant officer is now in his city, and gratifies all his friends by taking bold and enthusiastic ground for the Union. He will stand by the flag of his country wherever it flies, and as long as there is a single star shining in its azure blue.

Kansas Senators.

Hon. FREDERICK P. STANTON, Secretary of State of Kansas Territory under Governor WALKER, and Hon. MARCUS J. PARROTT, the representative delegate of the Territory, left this city for Kansas to-morrow, to make a canvass for election to the United States Senate from the new State. There is but little doubt of their success, and still less that, if they are chosen, their ability and energy will give Kansas a commanding influence in the highest branch of the National Legislature.

Speaker Pennington.

This distinguished and popular gentleman gave a brilliant entertainment this evening, at his fine residence on I street. A large number of Senators and Representatives, and most of the notables of the city, were among his guests.

The Massachusetts Delegation and Senator Sumner.

It appears that the request of Virginia, that the different States appoint commissioners for the purpose of meeting other commissioners of that State, in the city of Washington, on the 4th of February, was laid before the Massachusetts delegation, and a letter was prepared and signed by most of the members of the House, addressed to the Governor, asking him to recommend to the Legislature the appointment of certain eminent citizens from Massachusetts to take part in this great consultation. It is stated and believed that, Mr. Senator SUMNER hearing of this paper, took strong ground against it, and protested to Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS against his having signed the document in question. The latter, in a very prompt and somewhat indignant manner, refused to be controlled by the distinguished Senator, and stated that it was for his constituents and his whole country, and would do everything to maintain the Government and settle existing difficulties. It is due to Mr. ADAMS to say that the example of his Revolutionary fathers, and of the patriotic ex-President JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, who, amid all his eccentricities, was, nevertheless, a warm and untiring friend of the Union, is evidently cherished by him. Throw of such fathers as these, he having begun life as a printer, in Washington, at ten dollars a week, and all his life having been naturally devoted to the interests of labor. He alluded to the present tariff bill before Congress, and spoke enthusiastically of the certainty of its early passage. In regard to the present troubles, he intimated that it all depends on Virginia, and the position she shall take in her Convention He said he did not believe in the doctrine of "reconstruction." He was willing to take the Crittenden proposition as a basis simply of compromise, but he was not prepared to accept it as a whole without important modifications, because to accept it without such qualification would be virtually to give up all we have contended for in the recent canvass. But he was willing to have such a proposition fairly submitted for decision to the verdict of the people. He invoked a spirit of union and conciliation, but without any sacrifice of honor or of principle. He thanked the committee for their expression of confidence, and, after a brief personal interchange of friendly sentiments, the interview was terminated.

Late News from Florida.

Late despatches from Captain MEIGS enable me to state that immediately after the arrival of reinforcements at the Tortugas, the steamer *Galveston* approached, having on board some five hundred filibusters and fire-eaters from Mobile, for the purpose of taking possession of the fort, but when they discovered that Uncle Samuel had been in advance of them, they turned tail, and departed in a homeward direction.

Seizure of the U. S. Revenue-cutter "Lewis Cass" by the Revolutionists at Mobile.

Private telegraphic despatches, just received in this city, state that, on Tuesday, the Revolutionists, by the authority of the Governor of Alabama, took forcible possession of the United States revenue-cutter *Lewis Cass*, and the Government is at this moment in possession of the fact.

The Threatened Attack on the Capital.

The House investigating committee are vigorously and secretly pushing their inquiries in relation to the alleged conspiracy to take forcible possession of the capital on or before the 4th of March next John D. TOMBY, of Baltimore, and Mr. HICKS, a hotel-keeper in Montgomery county, Maryland, were to-day examined, and to-morrow Dr. BOYLE, Navy-agent FLYNN, GODARD BAILEY, ex Secretary THOMPSON, and DANIEL RATCLIFFE, of this city, will appear before the committee to answer regarding the designs of a secret oath-bound organization here composed of furious Disunionists.

The State Commission to Washington.

Massachusetts, Ohio, and Tennessee, to Send Commissioners.

Tennessee Refuses to Attend the Montgomery Convention.

BOSTON, Jan. 30.—The Committee on Federal Affairs has reported in favor of sending five commissioners to the Washington Conference.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 30.—The Senate and House to-day adopted a resolution authorizing the Governor to appoint five commissioners to the Washington Conference, proposed by Virginia. His selections are to meet the approval of the Senate.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 30.—Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Governor of Tennessee that commissioners be sent to Montgomery, Alabama, the Legislature to-day instructed their commissioners to go to Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—A private despatch from Tennessee states that the commissioners appointed by the Legislature have been instructed to meet the Border State commissioners at Washington, instead of those of the Southern States at Montgomery, Alabama.

TEXAS.

IMMEDIATE SECESSION.

General Twiggs Ready to Surrender.

GALVESTON, Jan. 29.—Of the eighty members of the Texas Legislature, only seventeen are co-operationists.

The special committee has reported in favor of sanctioning the call of the Convention by the people.

But little attention is paid to the message of Gov. Houston, which favors delay as long as possible, opposes the people's Convention, and expresses the opinion that the Union can be preserved.

A resolution to delay the act of secession was twice tabled.

The Military Committee are preparing a bill to put the State in a complete defensive position.

There being rumors that a body of men are moving on San Antonio to take the arsenal, Gen. Twiggs has called in his troops to protect it.

The Knights of the Golden Circle have offered him their services.

Gen Twiggs denies the report of his resignation, but has informed the President that he will not use his sword against his countrymen. He also says that when the proper demand is made by Texas, he will hand the arsenal over to her authority.

The Southern Confederacy.

Hon. Alexander H. Stephens the Conservative Nominee for President.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—From private accounts, received here, the indications are that Hon. Alexander I. Stephens, of Georgia, will be pressed for Provisional President of the contemplated Southern Confederacy, the object being to conciliate the conservative portion of the seceded States.

The Louisiana Convention.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 30.—The State Convention was called to order at 12½ o'clock this afternoon.

Hon. W. J. Vezen, the commissioner from the State of Georgia, was introduced to the Convention, and delivered an address on the issues of the day.

The Convention then elected the following delegate to the Southern Convention at Montgomery, Alaama:

DELEGATES AT LARGE.

John Perkins, Jr., A Declomet.

DISTRICT DELEGATES.

1st District, C. M. Conrad; Second, Duncan F. Kenner; Third, Gen. E. Sparrow; Fourth, Henry Marshall.

No other business was transacted. Adjourned.

North Carolina.

THE CONVENTION BILL PASSED.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 30.—The House this afternoon concurred in the Senate's amendments to the Convention bill, and it has finally passed. The bill orders that the question of Convention or no Convention be put to the people, who are to elect delegates at the same time It also restricts the operation of Federal laws.

The election is to be held on the 28th of February.

Virginia Legislature.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 30.—The House to-day tabled the resolutions of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

The resolutions of the Tennessee Legislature were referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Rhode Island.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Governor Sprague, in telegraphing to ex-Governor Corwin, that the Rhode Island Legislature has appointed commissioners to the Union Convention, adds "God give success to the movement."

The Georgia State Convention.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Jan. 29.—The Convention refused to reconsider the revenue ordinance adopted yesterday.

A resolution was introduced giving the Governor power, under certain circumstances, to make reprisals and grant letters of marque. It was tabled.

An address to the citizens of the South and the world, detailing the causes which prompted Georgia to secede from the Federal Union, was adopted.

An ordinance declaring it to be the fixed policy of the State to guaranty security to all the States was adopted. The Convention then adjourned, to meet at Savannah at the call of the President.

Missouri Legislature.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 30.—A joint resolution was passed by the State Senate yesterday, appointing General Doniphan, Waldo P. Johnson, J. D. Coltter, Judge Hough, General Atchison, Ferdinand Kennett, and Judge Buckner, commissioners to the Convention to be held at Washington on the 4th of February. The same resolution was introduced in the House and laid on the table.

Mr. West, chairman of the House Committee on Federal Relations, reported resolutions taking strong grounds against the action of the New York and Ohio Legislatures, in offering aid to the General Government to coerce seceding States, which were passed—yeas 88, nays 16.

New Jersey Legislature.

TRENTON, Jan. 30.—The Republican members of the State Legislature have published a pamphlet, totally dissenting from the resolutions passed on Friday last on the subject of our national difficulties, and have expressed their views on the subject by publishing the minority report, and signing their names thereto

They have also appointed a committee to present their views to Congress

Senator Cook, of Mercer county, introduced a bill to-day, declaring it a felony to sell or deliver any arms or munitions of war to persons in any of the seceding States, or to enlist in the military or naval service of such States, and shall be published by imprisonment in the State prison for