

The President's Position.

We are not of that class of politicians which follow blindly in the lead of Administrations or prominent political leaders. We have always endeavored to exercise our own judgment, and to act in accordance with our convictions, in regard to the issues that from time to time have divided public opinion.

The First Infraction of the Laws.

There is a well authenticated rumor that Pittsburg was the scene, on Monday last, of the first violation of the Federal Laws since the beginning of the difficulties with the South.

Why is he Silent?

The President elect, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, sits by his fireside, passive, unmoved and silent as the grave, whilst fully cognizant of the fact that his election has produced a civil commotion that threatens to upheave the very foundations of the Government.

The SATURDAY EVENING POST.—This well-known literary and family newspaper fully retains its pristine vigor and excellence.

The following from the Rockingham (Va.) Register, a paper which represents the conservative and moderate portion of the people of Virginia, and which supported and fought for Mr. DOUGLAS to the last, will serve to show our readers what could have been expected from the South, had the President made the warlike demonstration of sending troops to the Southern forts.

"We have not been in the habit, recently, of praising the President of the United States, for the reason, that we didn't think he deserved to be praised; but his present position and trials claim for him the sympathies of a great people, and his recent conduct entitles him justly to praise from every friend of the South and of the Union.

ALLEGHENY MALE AND FEMALE SEMINARY.—We refer our readers to the advertisement of this well established institution of learning in another column. The worthy Principal, Rev. W. W. BRIM, informs us that the prospects of the school are at present very fair, and that no efforts will be spared to make it successful.

GEN. JACKSON ON UNION AND COERCION.

In the crisis which now besets this nation, the opinions and declarations of the wise and great statesman of an earlier period of the Republic are naturally looked to as lights for the guidance of the present generation.

But the Constitution cannot be maintained, nor the Union preserved, in opposition to public feeling, by the mere exertion of the coercive powers confided to the general government. The foundation must be laid in the affections of the people; in the security it gives to life, liberty, character, and property, in every quarter of the country; and in the fraternal attachment which the citizens of the several States bear to one another, as members of one political family, mutually contributing to promote the happiness of each other.

But each State has the unquestionable right to regulate its own internal concerns according to its pleasure; and while it does not interfere with the rights of the people of other States, or the rights of the Union, every State must be the sole judge of the measures proper to secure the safety of its citizens and promote their happiness; and all efforts on the part of the people of other States to cast odium upon their institutions, and all measures calculated to disturb their rights of property, or to put in jeopardy their peace and internal tranquility, are in direct opposition to the spirit in which the Union was formed, and must endanger its safety.

It is a little singular that people should insist on the President strengthening the Southern forts, and yet when his officers undertake to do so, they are mobbed as they were at Pittsburg.

Christmas passed off quietly, barring a "nice little bit of a row" in the evening.

A happy New Year to all our readers.

THE UNION DISSOLVED.

PASSAGE OF THE ORDINANCE OF SECESSION BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

Charleston, Dec. 20.—Mr. Rhet's resolution to appoint a committee of thirteen, to provide for the assembling of a Convention of the seceding States, and to form a Constitution, was adopted.

Mr. Inglis made the report of the committee to prepare and draft an ordinance proper to be adopted by the Convention, as follows:

An Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact, entitled the Constitution of the United States of America.

"We the people of the State of South Carolina in Convention, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby ordained, That the ordinance adopted by us in convention on the 23d day of May, A. D. 1788, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying the amendments of that said Constitution, are hereby repealed, and that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and the other States, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved."

The ordinance was taken up and passed by an unanimous vote of 196 votes, at a quarter past one o'clock.

As soon as its passage was known without the doors of the convention, it rapidly spread in the street among the crowd collected, and was hailed with immense cheering.

Mr. Miles moved that the clerk telegraph to the members of Congress at Washington immediately. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Desaussure offered a resolution, that the ordinance be engrossed on parchment, under the direction of the Attorney General, and signed by the President and members this evening, at Institute Hall, and that it be placed among the archives of the State—the members proceeding there in procession at half-past six o'clock.

Mr. McGrath said—I think a special matter in relation to the ordinance should be immediately considered. To my understanding, there is no Collector of the Port nor Postmaster now within the limits of South Carolina. What you have done to day has extinguished the authority of every man in South Carolina, deriving his authority from the General Government.

Mr. Gregg said, after South Carolina has abrogated the Constitution of the United States, are its laws still of force? I think not. All the laws of Congress fall instantly to the ground on the act of secession.

Mr. Gregg said there is now no law on the subject of the collection of duties in South Carolina, now that we have accomplished the work of forty years.

Mr. Hayne said—The Congress of the United States is no longer our Government. It will be for our Legislature to say what laws of the United States shall be continued and what not. The simple act of secession does not abrogate all the laws. We have a great many laws on the statute book which were passed by the Governor and Privy Council.

Mr. Gregg said that the Congressional laws for the collection of revenue are for the support of the Federal Government at Washington, and these and all the Post Office laws fall, on our dissolution with that Government.

Mr. Mazyek—There is no duty for the Collector of the Port to go, and the Post Office is swept off. My opinion is, that the present system of postal arrangements is a nuisance, and the public can be better served by private parties between the cities, like in Philadelphia and New York, with a postage of one cent instead of three, and less important places ten cents, or more.

Mr. Dunkin—If the ordinance be ratified, things will go on in the Custom House and Post office exactly as now, until other arrangements are made by this Convention. There is nothing in the ordinance to affect the dignity, honor or welfare of South Carolina. We must keep the wheels of the government going whether the Constitution of the United States is or is not entirely abrogated by the ordinance. What is a legal tender for the payment of debts? Is it not the gold and silver of the United States? In case of the clearing and entry of vessels, we will be very liable to have the same confiscated.

Mr. Carroll—The present revenue can be continued till the act of the Legislature authorized otherwise.

Mr. Crown—There is no longer any communication with the government from which we have just separated.

Mr. Duncan—The spirit of the ordinance temporarily suspends all laws till we treat with the General Government.

Mr. Gregg—The President of the United States has thrown down the gauntlet in his message. He has said it is his duty to collect the revenue, and he will do it. On the one side the Federal Government claims the right, and declares its intention to execute the power of collecting revenue in our ports. On the other side we have declared we are free. I desire no compromise. It is necessary to maintain from fifteen to thirty per cent duties. If these imposed by the Congress of the United States should continue to be levied, our people would suffer a terrible calamity. As for carrying the mails let the present contracts be assumed by South Carolina instead of the United States.

Mr. Rhet's—This great revolution must go with as much danger as possible to the country by making the Federal agents our machinery. The Federal laws of taxation must not exist over us. We are now contending with the great principle of taxation. I trust the present system of taxation has fallen forever.

Mr. Barwell—we have seceded from the United States and established our independence. We cannot allow the United States to exercise authority over us any more. Let our postal convenience be sacrificed if necessary. Never was anything purchased worth having unless at some cost and sacrifice.

Mr. Mazyek—In regard to the mail, all Federal relations must be removed. Let us appoint our own officers. Let the Collector of the port battle with the difficulties as they come.

At 3.40 P. M., the Convention took a recess to meet at the Institute Hall at 6 o'clock, for the purpose of signing the ordinance of secession.

As the members of the Convention were leaving St. Andrew's Hall, the chimes of St. Michael's Episcopal Church pealed forth "Auld Lang Syne" and other tunes.

The National Crisis.

TIMELY COUNSEL.

If, in seeking to give liberty to the negro, we have destroyed our own, let us, at least, have enough of common sense to refrain from the further egregious folly of slaying each other for the sake of that negro, also. If, undervaluing the great boon of our prosperity, we can no longer consent to enjoy it in common, let us divide what we possess on the one hand, and what we owe on the other, and preserve ourselves and our families at least from the horrors of civil war, and the degradation of financial discredit. If there are any among us who are of a different way of thinking, we think we can with some degree of confidence admonish them that the times are eminently favorable for the exercise of discretion, and that for their own well being and comfort, and for the well being and comfort of the vast majority of our people, who are men of peace not men of war, it would be well to be discreet now, if they were never discreet before. Passion must not be permitted to get the better of patriotism, or if patriotism be dead, passion must not calculate too confidently on having its own way. We have sacrificed already too much for the negro; let us see to it that we sacrifice nothing more.

The dictates of true patriotism and wise statesmanship are to hold out the olive branch—to treat the aggrieved States, whether in or out of the Union, as American brethren and friends—to bear with them in an amicable and fraternal spirit—to the end that if the present Union goes to pieces on the rock of sectionalism and abolitionism, the several States will preserve such a spirit towards each other that they could consistently, after the sad experience of a few months, or perhaps years, of unhappy separation, come together again in a friendly spirit and form a more perfect Union, with new guards for the better security of all.

In case of the dissolution of the present Union, there could hardly be a hope that a general convention of delegates from all the States, now elected and held, could agree upon anything, as the convention would be like the Presidential Electoral College—a partisan, sectional one under the control of uncompromising anti-slavery leaders. The great hopes of the future will depend upon the middle States, free and slave. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois on the one side, and North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri on the other, could form a confederacy that would defy the world in arms, and one that would draw the extreme States, North and South into it, as sure as Rhode Island and South Carolina came into the present Union. Michigan and New England could take their choice—to go back again into a Union with the slave States, or go with the fugitive slaves to Canada.—New York Express.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

A writer in the Buffalo Commercial, a Lincoln paper, makes the following confession in regard to the responsibility of the North for the present crisis:

"Let the North, especially New England, remember that for this fearful result they are primarily and mainly responsible, by their treasonable legislation, by bar-room and pulpit assaults upon the South, in which unholy alliance of things sacred and profane, all epithets have been exhausted, all sound principle abandoned, and new terms of denunciation and hatred invented, irritating at last to madness the excitable population of the South, who, for a quarter of a century, have had these coals of fire heaped upon their heads.

"Let the North and West remember, also, that the necessary subjugation of the seceding States will be a victory without honor and causes of profit: that half a century of prosperity will hardly restore the national loss, or heal the resulting emities; that commercial distress and almost universal bankruptcy will clothe our cities in mourning, and reduce all real estate, both in city and country, to half its present value. Let them restore the integrity of the Constitution, repeal all treasonable laws, and offer the olive branch to their exasperated brethren at the South. If war must come, let them go into this dread conflict with clean hands; let them purge themselves of nullification before they proceed to punish it in others."

How it Came to Pass.

In 1850, as is well known to the whole country, Mr. Clay and Mr. Seward took opposite sides on the pending Compromise bills.—The contest ended in the victory of Clay over Seward, Clayton & Co., by the enactment of the Compromise. The Southern Whig Tariff States stood firmly by Henry Clay. Gov. Seward, irritated by this defeat, and having no hope of seducing the South from the ranks of Clay, who had denounced him as an Abolitionist, proclaimed a ceaseless agitation by the North until the country should be arrayed in sectional antagonism. His policy was to kill Clay, by making slavery the issue, which would drive off the eight Southern Tariff States from the Whigs North, and which would secure the junction of the Western Free Trade States.

This policy was the only possible hope of Seward for the Presidency, the South having thrown him off irrevocably. He has played his game well and boldly, and by the aid of the McMichaels, who were with him in opposition to Clay, he has been enabled to seduce Pennsylvania from companionship with Southern Tariff States, and throw her into the embrace of the inexorable Free Trade States.

The whole matter, which has now culminated in the most imminent peril of dissolution, is the result of a cold blooded conspiracy of the Abolition wing of the Whig party, beaten by Clay in 1850, to sweep off the Southern Whig States, which were true to Clay, for Northern Free Trade States expected to be true to Seward.

True it is that the fruit of all his labors turned to ashes on his lips, and he has the consolation of reflecting, that for ten years he has been indefatigable in the work of a conspiracy to convulse his country in dissolution, and all for the benefit of a man who joined the nefarious project only at the eleventh hour, and the additional gratification that his defeat was brought about by a vegetable philosopher, who he himself had raised from the gutter. He now reaps, as a just retributive reward, a blasted ambition and a gnawing conscience.—Pennsylvanian.

THE CENSUS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

We give below a table showing the population, number of dwellings, manufacturing establishments, farms, and number of deaths in a year of Pennsylvania. It is our opinion that the table is somewhat incorrect, from the fact that the totals do not correspond exactly with the figures of the counties. We have, however, copied the returns from the most reliable papers we receive, and have no way of correcting what we believe to be blunders:

Table with columns: COUNTY, Dwellings, Farms, Manufacturing Establishments, Deaths. Includes Eastern District and Western District data.

Total 1,558,553 16,172 12,159 267,840

Increase 335,100 69,984

Table with columns: COUNTY, Dwellings, Farms, Manufacturing Establishments, Deaths. Includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Crawford, Clarion, Columbia, Centre, Clinton, Clearfield, Cambria, Erie, Elk, Fayette, Fulton, Forest, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Jefferson, Lycoming, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mercer, Mifflin, Montour, McKean, Northumberland, Potter, Somerset, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Washington, Wyoming, Warren, Westmoreland.

Total 1,551,888 12,465 8,556 247,907

Population. Dwellings. Man. Est. Eastern District 1,558,553 267,840 12,159 Western District 1,351,888 247,907 8,556

Total 3,013,441 514,847 20,704

Eastern District 62,398 Western District 98,625

Total 160,923

BLACK REPUBLICAN PROSPERITY.—DULL TIMES.—The steamer Traveller will discontinue her trips between this city and New York, after Thursday—and there will be no morning boat from New Haven, and no night boat from New York, after that time, until further notice. As an evidence of the complete stagnation of business, it may be stated that at this season of the year there is usually more freight down than the boats can comfortably manage; but that for the past week there has hardly been more than one horse could draw! Only \$15 was taken on the up freight on Monday night, and less than three dollars on the down freight on Tuesday morning! It tells a hard story for New Haven mechanics, as well as for those on the Northern railroads.—New Haven Register.

THE RESULT TO WESTERN POCKETS.—A contemporary illustrates the effect of Lincoln's election on West, by citing the case of one State. The others are as bad, if not worse off:

"Michigan gave Lincoln 20,000 majority.—Michigan has 4,000,000 bushels of wheat to sell, which before Lincoln's election brought ready \$1 05. It now is a drug at 80 cents. The loss on 4,000,000 at 25 cents per bushel, amounts to the snug little sum of one million, one hundred and twelve thousand dollars. This falls almost wholly on the farmers. The same may be said of all the Wheat States."

DEPRESSION IN CONNECTICUT.—A letter from Stafford says: "Our satinet mills are running only three quarters time. This town produces from one-half to two million yards of satinet per year, besides one large cassimere, one stockinet, one cotton, and two cotton warp mills.—The mill of P. Converse is entirely closed."

BUSINESS DEPRESSION IN RICHMOND.—We learn from Richmond, Va., that Messrs. Kent, Payne & Co., the largest dry goods house in that city, have discharged all but four of their clerks. Messrs. Anderson & Co., proprietors of the Tridrag iron works, have discharged from eight hundred to nine hundred hands, and retain the rest on only one-half pay. There is great depression there in all branches of trade.

PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

THE undersigned will offer at Public Sale, on Thursday, the 17th day of January next, on the premises, the highly improved and valuable MANSLION PROPERTY of JAMES CONRAD, dec'd., late of Blair township, Blair County, adjoining the town of Newry. The township from Newry to Bedford, runs through the farm from North to South dividing it into almost equal parts. The said farm contains about 150 acres, more or less, about 150 of which are cleared, and under good fence; On which are erected a good two-story weatherboarded house, almost new, a large frame bank barn, built within a few years, with horse and cow stables under, wagon shed, corn-crib, hog pen, and other out-buildings. There is a first-rate well of water at the door, and an excellent orchard of choice fruit on the premises. Poplar Run, a small but beautiful stream of pure water, runs through the Northern part of it close by the barn and house. The grain in the ground will also be offered for sale on that day, and if the real property is not sold, it will be relet at that time.

Also, at the same time, will be offered for sale, a small farm, containing about 70 acres, more or less, about a mile distant from Newry, in Freedom township, being the southern part of the Mile farm, about 50 acres of which is cleared, the balance woodland, all of which is of an excellent quality of soil, and has a good spring on the premises. There will also be offered for sale, on the same day, one vacant lot, No. 4, fronting on Bedford street, in the town of Newry; also a portion of lot No. 2, on the same street, (course of the Diamond), which is a Store room, now in the occupancy of the Messrs. Melchior, with other improvements;

Also, 5 acres, more or less, of limestone land, on the Chimney Ridge, will be offered, on which is erected a Lime-kiln, now in blast, and carried on very successfully, by the above named enterprising firm. The land contains an exhaustless bed of limestone, of the very best quality;

Also, the undivided half of 90 acres, more or less, of unimproved land, in Junata township, will be offered for sale at the same time. It is well timbered, and of a good quality, when cleared for farming purposes. The joint proprietor will also offer his part for sale at the same time.

TERMS will be made known on the day of sale, and possession given on the 1st day of April next.

PETER O'HAGAN, Executor.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE, AND HARPER'S WEEKLY.

The Publishers have the pleasure of announcing that Harper's Magazine for the ensuing year will contain new Stories BY THACKERAY AND THE AUTHOR OF "ADAM BEDE" and that in the next Number (Nov. 24) of Harper's Weekly a new Novel by Charles Dickens, entitled

GREAT EXPECTATIONS, will be commenced. Mr. Dickens' Tale will be richly illustrated by John McLenan, Esq. These works will be printed from the Manuscript and proof-sheets of the Authors.

Any person who remits Four Dollars to the Publishers will receive both Publications for one year, and will thus provide himself with the best reading of the day, published in a beautiful and attractive style, for a very small sum of money.

Harper's Weekly will be sent gratuitously for one month—as a specimen—to any one who applies for it. Specimen Numbers of the Magazine will also be sent gratuitously.

TERMS OF HARPER'S MAGAZINE. One Copy for one year \$3.00 Two Copies for one year 5.00 Three or more Copies for one year 2.00 And an Extra Copy, gratis, for every Club of Eight Subscribers.

TERMS OF HARPER'S WEEKLY. One Copy for Twenty Weeks \$1.00 One Copy for One Year 2.50 One Copy for Two Years 4.00 Five Copies for One Year 9.00 Twelve Copies for One Year 20.00 Twenty-five Copies for One Year 40.00 An Extra Copy will be allowed for every Club of Twelve Subscribers.

HARPER & BROTHERS, Publishers, Franklin Square, New York.

BEDFORD RAIL ROAD COMPANY.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the Bedford Rail Road Company, will be held at the office of the Company, in Bedford Borough, on Monday, the 17th day of January, 1861, between the hours of one and three o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of choosing a President and twelve Directors for the ensuing year.

JOHN P. REED, Secretary.

ALLEGHENY MALE AND FEMALE SEMINARY.

RAINSBURG, Bedford Co., Pa. REV. W. W. BRIM, A. M., Principal, Miss A. L. BRIM, Preceptress, Miss S. J. BRIM, Teacher on Piano Forte.

This institution, under the supervision of the above named persons, assisted by other competent Teachers, affords a full course in Mathematics, Natural sciences, Languages, and Belles Lettres, in music, Painting, &c., it gives extended instruction. The next session will commence on Jan. 22nd. Students admitted at any time. Habits of health, system and promptness, views, moral, social, and domestic, are here made prominent objects of education. That the physical powers, as well as the mental, may be cultivated—Calisthenic exercises are necessary—here the Students meet each day for systematic physical exercise.

Will pay for board, including furnished rooms, room rent, fuel and tuition in common English, per term of eleven weeks. Extras, at moderate charges, even less than heretofore, for the circular calls for. Students prepared for the highest class in college.

For Circulars, or particulars, address W. W. BRIM, Rainsburg, Bedford Co., Pa.

PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

The subscribers will offer at public sale, on the premises, on Friday, the 4th day of January next, the following valuable real estate, to wit: A tract of land situated in Soate Springs township, Bedford county, containing 76 acres and 20 perches of good limestone land, adjoining lands of Maria B. Croyle, Barclerod's heirs, Watson's heirs and others, and known as the "Scott Farm." The improvements are a two story log house, log stable and other out-buildings; also an excellent orchard thereon. About 60 acres of this land is cleared and under fence—balance timber.

Sale to commence at 12 o'clock, M., when terms will be made known.

WESLEY HARTZEL, WILLIAM HARTZEL.

FOR RENT.

The subscriber offers for rent the Store Room known as the "Kerns Stand," immediately opposite the store of N. Lyon & Sons, and lately occupied by J. & J. M. Shoenker. ALSO the Dwelling house at present in the occupancy of W. M. Hall, Esq. Application should be made soon.

F. C. REAMER, Dec. 21st.