

BEDFORD INQUIRER.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, Jan. 18, 1860.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

Won't some of our subscribers who never pay us any money, bring us some flour, wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat and wood? We need all these things, and haven't the money to buy them.

Bedford Classical Institute.

REV. JOHN LYON, PRINCIPAL.

THE second session of the second school year of this institution, will open Monday February 4th 1861. No pupil received for less than 2 quarters or one session. Jan. 18, 1861.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

At the Republican caucus for U. S. Senator, Monday evening a week, six ballots were taken, as follows:

Table with 6 columns: Candidate Name, 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th. Candidates include Cowan of Westmoreland, Wilcox of Bradford, Walker of Erie, Pollock of Northumb., Stevens of Lancaster, Williams of Allegheny, and Hickman of Chester.

At the Democratic caucus— First ballot—Foster of Westm'd had 17, Witte of Phila. 8, Bidgood of North'm 7, Magraw of Lancaster 1.

At the election, in joint ballot, on Tuesday week, the vote stood— Edgar Cowan, Republican, 98—63 Maj. Henry D. Foster, Democrat, 85

Every member of the Legislature was present, and voted. Both candidates reside in Greensburg, and are the leading counsel—in opposition—on almost every trial in the county.

The Committees are appointed in each branch. In the Senate—

Col. Wharton our Senator, is on the following Senate Committees: Banks, Canals, and Inland Navigation, Militia, and New Counties and County Seats.

Mr. Ashcom, our member is on the following House Committees: Education, New Counties and County Seats. Mr. Schrock, is on the Committee on Pensions and Gratitudes, and Mines and Minerals.

Last Tuesday, occurred the Inauguration of Gov. Curtin.

Col. Slifer having accepted the station of Secretary of the Commonwealth, and purposing to resign as State Treasurer, Hon. Henry D. Moore of Philadelphia, was by the Republicans unanimously nominated for State Treasurer, both for the vacancy, and for a year from 1st May next. Election on Monday, 21st inst.

"Union saving" resolutions have been proposed in each Branch.

In the House, the seat of a Member from Luzerne, and one from Philadelphia, are contested.

P. S. On the 10th inst., Col. Slifer having resigned as State Treasurer, Mr. Moore was elected for the vacancy, receiving 95 votes to 85 for Rowe.

The Lyceum will meet at the Court House on Saturday evening next. Declamation by J. G. Fisher; Essay by Wm. Ryan. Question for discussion: "Should Congress adopt the 'Crittenden Amendments' as a settlement of our national difficulties?" Affirmative, C. N. Hickok; Negative, S. L. Russell.

The Bedford Temperance Organization, will hold its next regular meeting at the Court House, on Monday evening next, 21st inst., at 6 o'clock.

An address will be delivered by Rev. Thos. Hayden. The public are invited to attend.

Judge Smalley, U. S. Court, N. Y. in his charge to the Grand Jury has decided that South Carolina, is guilty of high treason, and all who aid and abet her. Several arrests, it is thought will be made of persons who have sold arms to the traitors.

The remains of Mrs. Elizabeth McDowell, who died in Pittsburgh, in October 1859, were brought to this place on Friday last, and interred in the Presbyterian burying ground, by the side of her husband, the late Charles McDowell, Esq.

HON. H. D. MOORE.—This gentleman has been elected State Treasurer, to fill the unexpired term of Eli Slifer. He will also be elected for the full term. No better man could be elected to that important office.

Mr. Seward made a great speech in the U. S. Senate on Tuesday. It is conciliatory, and meets with the views of all conservative men in the country. We will publish it as soon as we can find room for it.

Col. S. S. Wharton of the Senate, and Messrs. Ashcom, Schrock and Sellers of the House, have our thanks for many favors.

GOOD NEWS FROM LOUISIANA.—A majority of the delegates elected to the Convention in Louisiana, are opposed to secession.

The Bedford Gazette, and other traitorous organs, are filled with articles in defence of the secessionists, and condemning all who are in favor of maintaining the Union at all hazards. For their benefit we publish the following article from that old, conservative paper, the Washington National Intelligencer. The article was written by Mr. Eaton, formerly a member of Congress from Texas, and he states nothing that he is not able to substantiate.—Read his letter, and pause and reflect: From the National Intelligencer.

DISUNION PROGRAMME.

The autajointed communication, disclosing the designs of those who have undertaken to lead the movement now threatening a permanent dissolution of the Union, comes to us from a distinguished citizen of the South, who formerly represented his State with great distinction in the popular branch of Congress. Temporarily sojourning in this city, he has become authentically informed of the facts recited in the subjoined letter, which he communicates to us under a sense of duty, and for the accuracy of which he makes himself responsible. Nothing but assurances coming from such an intelligent, reliable source could induce us to accept the authenticity of these startling statements, which so deeply concern not only the welfare but the honor of the Southern people. To them we submit, without present comment, the programme to which they are expected to yield their implicit adhesion, without any scruples of conscience as without any regard to their own safety.

WASHINGTON, January 9, 1861.

I charge that on last Saturday night a caucus was held in this city by the Southern Secession Senators from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. It was then and there resolved in effect to assume to themselves the political power of the South, and to control all political and military operations for the present, they telegraphed to complete the plan of seizing forts, arsenals, and custom houses, and advised the Conventions now in session, and soon to assemble, to pass ordinances for immediate secession; but, in order to thwart any operations of the Government here, the Conventions of the Seceding States here are to retain their representations in the Senate and the House.

They also advised, ordered, or directed the assembling of a Convention of Delegates from the Seceding States at Montgomery, on the 12th of February. This can of course only be done by the revolutionary Conventions usurping the powers of the people and sending delegates over whom they will lose all control in the establishment of a Provisional Government, which is the plan of the dictators.

This caucus also resolved to take the most effectual means to dragoon the Legislatures of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas and Virginia into following the Seceding States. Maryland is also to be influenced by such appeals to popular passion as have led to the revolutionary steps which promise a conflict with the State and Federal Governments in Texas.

They have possessed themselves of all the avenues of information in the South—the telegraph, the press, and the general control of the postmasters. They also confidently rely upon defections in the army and navy.

The spectacle here presented is startling to contemplate. Senators entrusted with the representative sovereignty of the States, and sworn to support the Constitution of the United States, while yet acting as the privy counsellors of the President, and anxiously looked to by their constituents to effect some practical plan of adjustment, deliberately conspire a conspiracy for the overthrow of the Government through the military organizations, the dangerous secret order, the Knights of the Golden Circle, "Committees of Safety," Southern leagues, and other agencies at their command; they have instituted as thorough a military and civil despotism as ever cursed a wretched country.

It is not difficult to foresee the form of government which a Convention thus hurriedly thrown together at Montgomery will irrevocably fasten upon a deluded and unsuspecting people. It must essentially be a monarchy founded on military principles, or it cannot endure. Those who usurp power never fail to forge strong chains.

It may be too late to sound the alarm.—Nothing may be able to arrest the action of the revolutionary tribunals whose decrees are principally in "secret sessions." But I call upon the people to pause and reflect before they are forced to surrender every principle of liberty, or to fight those who are becoming their masters rather than their servants.

EATON.

As confirming the intelligence furnished by our informant, we may cite the following extract from the Washington correspondence of yesterday's Baltimore Sun: "The leaders of the Southern movement are consulting as to the best mode of consolidating their interests into a Confederacy under a Provisional Government. The plan is to make Senator Hunter, of Virginia, Provisional President, and Jefferson Davis Commander in Chief of the army of defence. Mr. Hunter possesses in a more eminent degree the philosophical characteristics of Jefferson than any other statesman now living. Col. Davis is a graduate of West Point, was distinguished for gallantry at Buena Vista, and served as Secretary of War under President Pierce, and is not second to Gen. Scott in military science or courage."

The Governor of Pennsylvania has appointed Eli Slifer, late State Treasurer, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Samuel A. Parviance, of Pittsburgh, Attorney General. Gov. Curtin was inaugurated last Tuesday. His inaugural address is conciliatory. We will publish it next week. Hon. Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, resigned his position in the Cabinet on Tuesday—thus relieving the President of another of his secession advisers. His reasons for resigning are that the Government has dispatched the Steamship Star of the West to Charleston to reinforce Maj. Anderson. Philip Frank Thomas has also resigned as Secretary of the Treasury. This is the last of the traitors in the Cabinet. It is said the President gave him a quiet hint to resign.—Gen. J. A. Dix of New York has been appointed in his place. Buchanan's Cabinet is now clear of traitors.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:—

At the opening of your present session, I called your attention to the dangers which threatened the existence of the Union. I expressed my opinions freely concerning the original causes of these dangers, and recommended such measures as I believed would have the effect of tranquilizing the country, and saving it from the peril in which it had been needlessly and most unfortunately involved. Those opinions and recommendations I do not propose now to repeat. My own convictions upon the whole subject remain unchanged. The fact that a great calamity was impending over the nation, was even at that time acknowledged by every intelligent citizen. It had already made itself felt throughout the length and breadth of the land. The necessary consequences of the alarm thus produced were most deplorable. The imports fell off with a rapidity never known before, except in time of war, in the history of our foreign commerce. The Treasury was unexpectedly left without the means which it had reasonably counted upon to meet its public engagements, trade was paralyzed, manufactures were stopped, the best public securities suddenly sunk in the market, every species of property depreciated more or less, and thousands of poor men, who depended on their daily labor for their daily bread, were turned out of employment. I deeply regret that I am not able to give you any information upon the State of the Union which is more satisfactory than what I was then obliged to communicate. On the contrary, matters are still worse at the present time than they were. When Congress met, a strong hope prevailed the whole public mind that some amicable adjustment of the subject would be speedily made by the Representatives of the States and of the people, which might restore peace between the conflicting sections of the country. That hope has been diminished by every hour of delay, and as the prospect of a bloodless settlement fades away, the public distress becomes more and more aggravated. As an evidence of this it is only necessary to say that the Treasury notes authorized by the act of the 17th of December last, were advertised according to law, and that no responsible bidder offered to take any considerable sum at par, at a lower rate of interest than 12 per cent. From these facts it appears that, in a government organized like ours, domestic strife, or even a well grounded fear of civil hostilities, is more destructive to our public and private interests than the most formidable foreign war.

In my annual message I expressed the conviction, which I have long deliberately held, and which recent reflection has only tended to deepen and confirm, that no State has the right by its own act, to secede from the Union, or throw off its Federal allegiance at pleasure.—I also declared my opinion to be, that, even if that right existed, and should be exercised by any State of the Confederacy, the Executive Department of the Government has no authority, under the Constitution, to recognize its validity, by acknowledging the independence of such a State.

This left me no alternative as the Chief Executive officer under the Constitution of the United States, but to collect the public revenue, and protect the public property so far as this might be practicable under the existing laws. This is still my purpose. My province is to execute, not to make laws. It belongs to Congress exclusively to repeal, modify or enlarge their provisions to meet the exigencies as they occur. I possess no dispensing power. I certainly have no right to make an aggressive war upon any State, and I am perfectly satisfied that the Constitution has wisely withheld that power even from Congress. But the right and duty to use the military force defensively against those who resist the Federal authority in the execution of their legal functions, and against those who assail the property of the Federal Government, is clear and undeniable. But the dangerous and hostile attitude of States towards each other has already far transcended and cast into the shade the ordinary Executive duties already provided for by law, and has assumed such vast and alarming proportions as to place the subject entirely above and beyond the Executive control. The fact cannot be disguised that we are in the midst of a great Revolution. In all its various bearings, therefore, I commenced the question to Congress as the only human tribunal under Providence possessing the power to meet the existing emergency. To them exclusively belongs the power to declare war or authorize the employment of the military force in all cases contemplated by the constitution, and they alone possess the power to remove the grievances which might lead to war, and secure peace and union to this distracted country.—On them, and on them alone, rests the responsibility.

The Union is a sacred trust left by our Revolutionary fathers to their descendants, and never did any other people inherit so rich a legacy. It has rendered us prosperous in peace and triumphant in war. The national flag has floated with glory over every sea.—Under its shadow American citizens have found protection and respect in all lands beneath the sun. If we descend to considerations of purely material interest, when, in the history of all time, has a Confederacy been bound together with such strong ties of mutual interest? Each portion of it is dependent on all, and all upon each portion for prosperity and domestic security. A free-trade throughout the whole supplies the wants of our portion from the productions of another, and scatters wealth everywhere. The great planting and farming States require, and commercial navigating States send their productions to domestic and foreign markets, and furnish a naval power to render their transportation secure against all hostile attacks. Should the Union perish in the midst of the present excitement, we have already had a sad foretaste of the universal suffering which would result from its destruction. The calamity would be severe in every part of the Union, and would be quite as great to say the least, in the Southern as in the Northern States.

The greatest aggravation of the evil, and that which would place us in a most unfavorable light, both before the world and posterity is, I am firmly convinced, that the secession movement has been chiefly based upon a misapprehension at the South of the sentiments of the majority in several of the Northern States. Let the question be transferred from political assemblies to the ballot box, and the people themselves would speedily redress the serious grievances which the South have suffered.

But, in Heaven's name, let the trial be made before we plunge into an armed conflict upon the mere assumption that there is no other alternative. Time is a great conservative power. Let us pause at this momentous point, and afford the people of both North and South an opportunity for reflection. Would that South Carolina had been convinced of this truth before her precipitate action. I, therefore, appeal through you to the people of the country to declare, in their might, that "The Union must and shall be preserved," by all constitutional means.

I most earnestly recommend that you devote yourselves exclusively to the question, how this can be accomplished in peace. All other questions, when compared to this, sink into insignificance. The present is no time for palliation. Action, prompt action, is required. A delay in Congress to prescribe and recommend a distinct, practical proposition for conciliation, may drive us to a point from which it will be almost impossible to recede. A common ground, on which conciliation and harmony may be produced, is surely not unattainable.

The proposition to compromise by letting the North have exclusive control of the territory above a certain line, and giving Southern institutions protection below that line, ought to receive universal approbation. In itself, indeed, it may not be entirely satisfactory, but when the alternative is between a reasonable concession on both sides, and the destruction of the Union, it is an imputation on the patriotism of Congress to assert that its members will hesitate for a moment.

Even now the danger is upon us. In several States which have not seceded, the forts, arsenals and magazines of the United States have been seized. This is by far the most serious step which has been taken since the commencement of the troubles. This public property has long been left without garrison, and troops for its protection, because no person doubted its security under the flag of the country in all the States of the Union. Besides, our small army has scarcely been sufficient to guard our remote frontiers against Indian incursions.

The seizure of this property, from all appearances, has been purely aggressive, and in resistance to any attempt to coerce a State or States to remain in the Union. At the beginning of these unhappy troubles, I determined that no act of mine should increase the excitement in either section of the country.—If the political conflict were to end in civil war, it was my determined purpose not to commence it nor even to furnish an excuse for it by any act of this government. My opinion remains unchanged, that justice as well as a sound policy requires us still to seek a peaceful solution of the questions at issue between the North and South. Entertaining this conviction I refrained even from sending reinforcements to Major Anderson, who commanded the forts in Charleston harbor, until an absolute necessity for doing so should make it self apparent, lest it might unjustly be regarded as a menace of military coercion, and thus furnish if not a provocation, at least a pretext for an outbreak on the part of South Carolina. No necessity for these reinforcements seemed to exist.

I was assured by distinguished and upright gentlemen from South Carolina, that no attack on Major Anderson was intended, but that on the contrary, it was the desire of the State authorities, as much as it was my own, to avoid the fatal consequences which must inevitably follow a military collision. And now I deem it proper to submit, for your information, copies of a communication dated the 28th of December, 1860, addressed to me by R. W. Barnwell, J. H. Adams and James L. Orr, Commissioners from South Carolina, with accompanying documents and copies of my answer thereto, dated the 1st of December.

In further explanation of Maj. Anderson's removal from Fort Moultrie, after my answer to the letter from that gallant officer, dated on the 27th of December, 1860, (the day after the movement,) from which the following is an extract: "I will add, as my opinion, that many things convince me that the authorities of the State designed to proceed to a hostile act. (Evidently referring to the orders dated Dec. 11th, of the late Secretary of War.) Under this impression, I could not hesitate, that it was my solemn duty to move my command from a fort which we could not probably have held longer than forty-eight or sixty hours, to this one, where my power of resistance is increased in a very great degree." It will be recollected that the concluding part of these orders were in the following terms: "The smallness of your force will not permit you, perhaps, to occupy more than one of the three forts; but an attack on, or an attempt to take possession of either of them, will be regarded as an act of hostility, and you may then put your command into either of them when you may deem most proper to increase its power of resistance. You are also authorized to take similar defensive steps, whenever you have tangible evidence of a design to proceed to a hostile act."

It is said that serious apprehensions are to some extent entertained that the peace of this district may be disturbed before March next. In any event it will be my duty to prevent it, and this duty shall be performed.

In conclusion, it may be permitted to me to remark that I have often warned my countrymen of the dangers which now surround us.—This may be the last time I shall refer to the subject officially. I feel that my duty has been faithfully, though imperfectly performed, and whatever the result may be, I shall carry to my grave the consciousness that I, at least, meant well for my country.

(Signed) JAMES BUCHANAN. Washington City, Jan. 8th, 1861.

Mr. Howard of Michigan, moved that the message be referred to a special committee of five, with instructions to inquire whether any executive officers of the United States have been or are now treating or holding communication with any person or persons, for the transfer of the forts and other public property.—Whether any demand for surrender has been made, and if so, by whom, and what answer has been given. Whether any officer or officers of the United States have entered into any pledge not to send reinforcements of troops to the harbor of Charleston, and if so, when, where, and by whom, and on what considerations. Whether the custom house, post office, or arsenal, at

Charleston have been seized, and by whom they are held in possession. Whether any revenue cutter has been seized, and whether any efforts have been made to recover it. That the committee have power to send for persons and papers, and report from time to time such facts as may be required by the national honor. The resolution of Mr. Howard was objected to by Houston of Alabama, Crawford of Georgia, and Garrett of Virginia, but was finally adopted by a large majority.

IMPORTANT FROM CHARLESTOWN. THE FIRING UPON THE STAR OF THE WEST CONFIRMED.

AGUSTA, Jan. 10. This morning's Charleston Courier gives the following particulars in relation to the attack upon the steamer Star of the West.

About half past six o'clock yesterday evening, the steamer General Church discovered the steamer Star of the West, and signalled the fact to the occupants of the battery on Morris Island. As soon as the fact was signalled, all Morris Island was astir, and the men were at their posts before the orders were given.

They remained in anxious suspense, but ready for what they believed was sure to come—namely, a volley from Fort Sumter.

The Star of the West rounded the point and took the ship channel inside of the bar, and proceeded straight forward until she was opposite Morris Island, three quarters of a mile from the battery, when a ball was fired at her from the guns of the battery. The Star of the West displayed the stars and stripes, and as soon as it was unfurled a succession of heavy shots was fired.

The vessel continued at increased speed; but one or two shots taking effect, her Captain concluded to retire. Fort Moultrie fired a few shots, but they were out of range. The damage done to the steamer was trifling, only two of seventeen shots taking effect, but there is no idea as to the extent of the damage. Fort Sumter made no demonstration except that the guns were run out of the embrasures bearing on Morris Island and Fort Moultrie.

About 11 o'clock a boat from Fort Sumter, bearing Lieut. Hall, with a white flag, approached the city. He had an interview with Gov. Pickens, and was afterwards escorted to the boat and re-embarked for Fort Sumter.

Maj. Anderson to Gov. Pickens.

The communication from Major Anderson is as follows:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA.— Sir—Two of your batteries fired this morning on an unarmed vessel bearing the flag of my Government. I am not notified that she has been declared by South Carolina against the United States, and I cannot but think that the hostile act was committed without your sanction or authority. Under that hope, I refrained from opening fire upon your battery. I have the honor, therefore respectfully to ask whether the above mentioned act— one I believe without parallel in the history of our country, or any other civilized government—was committed in obedience to your instructions, and notify you that if not dissuaded, that I regard it as an act of war, and I shall not, after a reasonable time for the return of any messenger, permit my vessel to pass within range of the guns of my fort. In order to save, as far as in my power, the shedding of blood, I beg you will have due notification made of my decision to all concerned. Hoping, however, that your answer may justify a further continuance of forbearance on my part, I am, respectfully, ROBT. ANDERSON.

Reply of Gov. Pickens.

Gov. Pickens in his reply, after stating the position of South Carolina to the United States, and that any attempt to send United States troops to Charleston harbor to reinforce the forts would be regarded as an act of hostility, says in conclusion:

Any attempt to reinforce the troops in Fort Sumter, or to retake and resume possession of the forts within the waters of this State which you abandoned, spiking the guns and doing otherwise much damage, cannot be regarded by the authorities of the State as indicative of any other purpose than a coercion of the State by the armed force of the government. Special agents, therefore, have been placed off the bar to warn approaching vessels, both armed and unarmed, having troops on board to reinforce the forts, not to enter the harbor. Special orders have been given to the commanders of the forts not to fire at such vessels until a shot across her bow would warn them of the prohibition of the State. Under such circumstances the Star of the West, I have understood this morning, attempted to enter the harbor with troops, and having been notified that she could not enter, she was fired into.

The act is perfectly justified by me. In regard to your threat against vessels in the harbor, it is only necessary to say that you must judge of your responsibility. Your position in the harbor has been tolerated by the authorities of this State, and while the act of which you complain is in perfect consistency with the rights and duties of the State, it is not precluded how far the conduct you purpose to adopt can find a parallel in the history of any country, or reconcile it with any other purpose of your government than imposing on the State the condition of a conquered province.

F. W. PICKENS.

Maj. Anderson's Rejoinder.

The following is a second communication from Maj. Anderson:

To His Excellency, Gov. Pickens: Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, and say that under the circumstances I have deemed it proper to refer the whole matter to my government and intend deferring the course indicated by my note of this morning, until the arrival from Washington of the instructions I may receive. I have the honor also to express the hope that no obstructions will be placed in his way, and that you will do me the favor of giving every facility to the departure and return of the bearer Lieut. T. Talbot, who is directed to make the journey.

H. ANDERSON. Gov. Pickens granted the permission desired, and directed that every facility and courtesy should be extended to the bearer of dispatches, Lieut. Talbot, for his government, both going and returning. DEPARTURE OF LIEUT. TALBOT.—ENTERTAINMENT GIVEN TO HIM AT CHARLESTOWN. CHARLESTOWN, Jan. 10.—Lieut. Talbot left Charleston late last night with dispatches from Maj. Anderson to his government. He goes to Washington for instructions from the President. A party of gentlemen entertained Lieut. Talbot before he left. There is no excitement here.