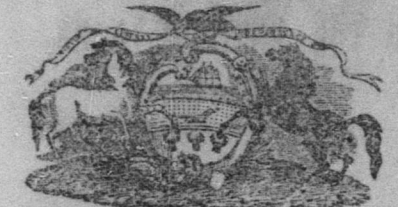


BEDFORD INQUIRER.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, Feb. 8, 1861.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

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 of one session. Jan. 18, 1861.

ATTENTION!

We have been sending out for several weeks, accounts of our delinquent subscribers. We most earnestly request them to pay up. Others that we may have overlooked, will please do the same thing. Court Week will be a favorable opportunity for them to pay. Our circumstances are such that we must have money, as we have about \$900, to pay on first of April. Crops have been good, and persons have no excuse for not paying us. If they have not sold their grain, let them bring the amount of their indebtedness to us in that kind of stuff, and we will make the money out of it. We hope every one owing us will pay attention to this notice. Town subscribers, please pay attention.

'The Union must and shall be preserved.'—JACKSON.

MASS MEETING OF THE PEOPLE.

A mass meeting of the Republican party of Bedford County, will be held at the Court House, in Bedford, on the evening of Tuesday, the 12th day of February, inst., being the Tuesday evening of Court Week.

The members of the party, and all others who are opposed to secession and disunion, now attempted to be carried out by the Democratic leaders of the South, all opposed to treason, and to breaking up the Government, and who are in favor of the Constitution, the Union, and the Laws, are invited to be present. By order of the County Committee.

S. L. RUSSELL, Chairman. Feb. 1, 1861.

THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION.

On Monday last, the 4th inst., delegates from a number of the States met in Washington, in accordance to the recommendation of the Virginia Legislature, for the purpose of adopting measures of compromise and conciliation, that may again unite the North and the South, and thus restore peace to the country.

The following delegates have been appointed to the Convention by the Legislatures or Governors of the States named:

- Maryland—Reverdy Johnson, Wm. S. Giddings, A. W. Bradford, John W. Crisfield, J. Dixon Roman.
Virginia—John Tyler, J. A. Seddon, W. C. Rives, Geo. W. Summers, John W. Brockenbrough.
Kentucky—Jas. B. Clay, Ex-Gov. Moorehead, James Guthrie, J. F. Bell, Wm. O. Butler, C. A. Wickliffe.
New Jersey—U. S. Olden, R. F. Stockton, J. K. Randolph, R. M. Price, P. D. Vroom, Benj. Williamson, F. T. Frelinghuysen, T. J. Stryker, Wm. C. Alexander.
North Carolina—Thos. Ruffin, J. M. Morehead, Geo. Davis, David S. Reid, D. M. Barringer.
Pennsylvania—Wm. M. Meredith, Thomas White, James Pollock, David Wilmot, T. E. Franklin, Andrew W. Loomis and Wm. McKimman.
Ohio—Ex-Gov. Chase, Thos. Ewing, J. C. Wright, Wm. Grovesock, V. H. Horton, R. H. Hitchcock, and F. T. Baskus.
Delaware—G. B. Rodney, D. M. Bates, J. W. Houston and Dr. Kidgley.

The above list embraces one ex-President, one Governor, ten ex-Governors, one ex-Archbishop, two ex-Secretaries of the Treasury, most of the others are ex-United States Senators, State Judges, &c.

Rhode Island and Tennessee, and probably other States, have also appointed delegates. The conference assembled at noon, on Monday, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gurley. Hon. John Tyler, was appointed President. The session is continued with closed doors, and it is impossible to obtain the proceedings. It is to be desired that they may arrive to some understanding that the people can approve, and which may not make the whole nation, a nation of slaveholders and slavery-extensionists.

ACCIDENT.—We regret that Peebles Heckerman, a youth of about 13 years of age, son of Rev. H. Heckerman, of this place, whilst skating on the street last Saturday, met with a severe fall, by being tripped, accidentally, by another boy. He fell on his head, receiving a severe contusion, and has been bedfast ever since, and insensible, and for some days no hope was had of his recovery. We are glad to state, however, that he is now doing better, and hopes are entertained that he may get well. This should be a warning to the boys.

The population of the United States, according to the census of 1860, is 31,647,489, of which number 3,999,353 are slaves. This makes the free population 27,648,136—an increase of 7,650,980, about 38 per cent, since 1850. The slave population has increased, during the same period, 795,040; about 25 per cent.

AID FOR KANSAS.

A few weeks ago, we noticed a meeting for the relief of the sufferers by famine in Kansas, and the appointment of a committee to solicit contributions. Mrs. Gracia Barnes and Miss Mary Russell, of that committee, deserve much credit for their perseverance, and faithful discharge of duty. They collected thirty dollars from our citizens, and paid it over to Fr. Jordan, Esq., to be forwarded to John E. Williams, Esq., who is acting as treasurer of funds raised for this purpose. Below we publish his acknowledgment of the money, and hope it may encourage others to contribute to so good a cause.

METROPOLITAN BANK, New York, January 31, 1861.

FR. JORDAN, Esq., Dear Sir:—I have yours of the 28th inst., with \$30 in aid of the Kansas sufferers.

The want is much more pressing—from last advices—than we had any idea of.

Do stimulate your people to greater exertions in behalf of these brave people.

Yours, with respect, J. E. WILLIAMS, Treasurer.

Gen. Simon Cameron.

As an evidence of the feeling among the people of Blair county relative to Mr. Lincoln's tender of a position in the Cabinet to our distinguished fellow citizen, Gen. Simon Cameron, we clip the following item from the Hollidaysburg Register, of a late date. We may remark, en passant, that the sentiment prevalent in Blair county extends throughout the entire State. The Republicans demand, as a matter of right and justice, that the old Keystone shall be represented in the Cabinet, and with unexampled unanimity designate Gen. Cameron as the man:

HON. SIMON CAMERON.—This is Court week in this county, and the occasion has afforded us a favorable opportunity of gathering public sentiment in regard to Mr. Lincoln's selection of Gen. Cameron as a member of his Cabinet; and we gladly make the announcement that our people are almost unanimous in their approval of it, regarding it as the best, both for Pennsylvania interests and the country at large, that could have been made. And as it is in Blair county, so we doubt not, it is in the larger portion of the State.—Mr. Cameron is the people's choice. Attempts have been made, we know, and perhaps are still making, to drag the President into a reconsideration and withdrawal of his voluntary tender of a place to Mr. Cameron, but they will not succeed. Mr. Lincoln is not to be driven about after that fashion. He is a man of commanding firmness, and what he says and does in regard to such matters may be set down as done and well done.

The Philadelphia Daily Record, a strictly commercial journal, the editor of which is a Democrat in politics, defends Gen. Cameron against the secret assaults made upon him in certain circles, and comes out unequivocally in favor of his selection as a Cabinet officer, for the following well founded reasons:

No state in the Confederacy has so much wealth and prosperity at stake; none so important in population and internal resources, and none so well entitled by position and interest, to a Cabinet representation in the Federal Government, as the Keystone State, and that, too, independently of having cast her electoral vote for the dominant party. Her claim to an early consideration is self-evident, and we know of no man within her borders who is more entitled to the responsible position, or better fitted by habits and experience for it, than Simon Cameron. Although a shrewd and successful politician, he is not a politician only. He is one of the few public men who, in addition to political sagacity, possess the comprehensive ability and practical experience necessary to control the financial department of a great nation.

Mr. Cameron is warmly welcomed and closely connected with the most important interests of the State of Pennsylvania, and no man is more thoroughly familiar with her wants and the various processes required to advance or to secure important rights and privileges. He has ever been a sound and persistent advocate of a protective tariff, and as the State voted for Mr. Lincoln more upon a tariff basis than anything else, her claims should be considered an imperative demand that the most important position in the new Cabinet be filled by a Pennsylvanian. Simon Cameron commenced life, at the very 'bottom of the ladder,' but by energy and unflinching perseverance he quietly and surely ascended to his present position, and not only accumulated property and wealth for himself, but also managed and directed several model institutions and important works of internal improvement, with the most signal ability and success, and the most unblemished business integrity. A man so eminently qualified to care for his own business and for that of others entrusted to his control, is, in our opinion, far better qualified to provide for the financial contingencies and fluctuations of a National Treasury, than all the bankrupt 'windy' politicians in the country combined. If Mr. Lincoln is judiciously advised, Simon Cameron will be the next Secretary of the Treasury, and the State of Pennsylvania will have no just cause for complaint.

VIRGINIA ELECTION.

The election in Virginia, on Monday, for members to the State Convention, has resulted in the triumph of the Unionists. Hon. Sheridan Clemens, who, a short time ago, in Congress, made a patriotic union speech, has been triumphantly elected in the Wheeling district. The result of this election will be gratifying to all lovers of the union. May it not be the beginning of the return of reason in the South With Virginia and Maryland true to the Union, disunionists will be foiled.

SHRINER'S MEDICINE.—We have used a couple of bottles of Shriner's Cough Medicine in our family, with great success, for coughs, colds, &c., and we have no hesitation in recommending these medicines to our readers.—H. C. Reamer has a constant supply on hand. See advertisement.

The 'Farmer and Gardener,' as also the 'American Bee Journal,' for February, are received.

The 'Farmer and Gardener,' as also the 'American Bee Journal,' for February, are received. The former, in addition to its usual embellishments, contains a finely engraved frontispiece of the celebrated Farmer's Market, of Philadelphia, the finest office of its kind in the world. In addition to this it is filled to repletion with the most useful and seasonable reading. The American Bee Journal comes to us with all the promises made in the first number fulfilled. As this is the only journal of its class in the United States, and as it is not only printed in the most unexceptionable manner, but edited with marked ability, it cannot fail to succeed. The publishers, desirous of introducing these two valuable works, offer them both, together with a prepaid copy of a handsome Premium Book, for the trifling sum of One Dollar and Fifty Cents; or, either one of them and a Premium Book for One Dollar. This is certainly cheaper than any other publications of the same size and character in the United States. Specimen numbers are furnished without charge, by the publishers, A. M. Spangler & Co., No. 25 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

During our visit to Lowell we were shown through the Laboratory of our celebrated countryman, Dr. J. C. AYER. Scarcely could we have believed without proof what is seen beyond disputing. They make a barrel of solid Pills, about 15,000 doses, and three barrels of Cherry Pectoral, 120,000 doses, per item. To what an inconceivable amount of human suffering does this point! 170,000 doses a day!! Fifty millions of doses per year!! What acres and thousands of acres of sick beds does this spread before the imagination! And what sympathies and woe! True, not all of this is taken by the very sick, but alas, much of it is. This Cherry Drop and this sugared Pill are to be the companion of pain and anguish and sinking sorrow—the inheritance our mother Eve bequeathed to the whole family of man. Here the infant darling has been touched too early by the blight that withers half our race. Its little lungs are affected, and only watching and waiting shall tell which way its breath shall turn. This red drop on its table is the talisman on which its life shall hang. There the blossom of the world just bursting into womanhood is stricken dead. Affections most ardent care avails not, she is still fading away.—The wan messenger comes nearer and nearer every week. This little medicine shall go there, their last, perhaps their only hope. The strong man has, planted in his vitals, this same disease. This red drop by his side is helping him wrestle with the inexorable enemy; the wife of his bosom and the cherubs of his heart are waiting in sick sorrow and fear lest the rod on which they lean, in this world, be broken.

O, Doctor! Spare no skill, nor cost, nor toil to give the perishing sick the best that human art can give.—Galveston, Texas, N.E.

IRON CITY COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.—Perhaps no similar institution in this country is more extensively or more favorably known than this, the teachers have long enjoyed enviable reputations; the course of study is full and comprehensive.—Upward of FIVE HUNDRED young men are now engaged in active business, in the cities of Pittsburg and Allegheny alone, who have graduated at this College within the past four years, more than triple the number from any other School in the country, in the same time.—Pittsburg Commercial Journal.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST for February has been received. It is one of the best agricultural works extant, and ought to be in the hands of all our farmers and gardeners.—Price \$1. Orange Judd, New York.

Hon. Ed. McPherson made an able speech in the House of Representatives, at Washington, on the 23d ult., on the all important topic of the times. We will try to lay it before our readers next week.

FOR SALE.—We have on hand a Scholarship Warrant in the Iron City Commercial College, at Pittsburg, which we will sell on reasonable terms.

The Destitution in Kansas.

Kansas has at last, after unparalleled wrongs from the Federal Government, been admitted into the Union as a State. Her misfortunes appear to be not ended, however, for her citizens are suffering the unimaginable horrors of destitution and famine. Much has been done for their relief by contributions from benevolent individuals in the East, but their wants are still far from being supplied. We must remember that we are in the midst of Winter, and that the insufficient amounts already sent to the sufferers in Kansas are soon consumed, while there is no opportunity of obtaining aid except from contributions. When Spring returns the trials of the settlers will be much mitigated, and perhaps another Autumn will bring abundant crops, but until then the poor people must rely upon the generosity of those who are willing to contribute of their abundance to relieve the distress of their fellow creatures.

The following letter will convey some idea of the state of things in Kansas:

W. C. Bryant, of the Kansas Relief Committee, New York: For the last four days we have had a snow storm. No cars have been in during that time. The number of the suffering and distressed is truly alarming. God only can 'temper the wind.' Our people are 'ashore.' My labors are greatly increased: over seventy teamsters are here now. Some have been twelve days on the road, and have the most fearful apprehensions of the condition of their families. One old man from Woodson county just said to me, 'I left my wife and ten children nine days ago, with only one week's provisions, and there are no neighbors within four miles. I hope this storm did not extend to them'—and so on he talks and weeps, and longs to be home. I shall start off over one hundred tons to-morrow. Some teams have been delayed here by the storm. We have a fearful responsibility, trying to give daily bread to thirty thousand of our fellow citizens. Truly, &c.

S. C. POMEROY.

Athens, K. T., Jan. 18. The Treasurer of the Kansas Relief Fund at New York acknowledges the receipt of \$12,977 59 up to January 25. We hope that the citizens of Philadelphia will do their share in the praiseworthy work of affording relief to these destitute fellow creatures.—Daily News.

The Legislature of South Carolina, in reply to a request from Virginia, 'unanimously resolved that they have no desire or intention to procure amendments or new guarantees to the Constitution of the United States.' They also 'resolved that the separation of South Carolina from the Federal Union is final.' So the South see that they must all be 'dragooned' by the mad-caps of one State.

Gov. Curtin to Gov. Hicks.

One of the first official acts of Gov. Curtin, was to send the following letter to Gov. Hicks of Maryland:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, Jan. 15, 1860.

My Dear Sir:—I have just returned from the ceremony of my inauguration; and, as the first act of my official career, I wish to express to you my profound admiration of the patriotic resolution you have displayed in assisting to maintain the Union of our beloved country in the present perilous crisis. In common with all the citizens of Pennsylvania, I have regarded with the deepest respect and gratitude your firm and manly resistance of the efforts that have been made to swerve you from the path of duty which you had wisely resolved to follow, and in behalf of those citizens, I tender to you assurances of all the aid that an earnest sympathy and an active co-operation in whatever measures of just conciliation may be proposed can give you.

In order that I may learn by what means we can best sustain you and your Union-loving coadjutors in the accomplishment of the noble purpose you have in view, I have informally commissioned the Hon. R. M. Palmer, Speaker of the State Senate, the Hon. Gideon J. Bell, a leading and influential member of our House of Representatives, and Morton McMichael, Esq., a distinguished citizen of this Commonwealth, to wait upon you for me, and in my stead, to convey you personally the opinions I entertain, and to confer with you generally on all such topics as may be necessary to a full, mutual understanding of our respective wishes and objects. These gentlemen are amply authorized to speak to you in my name, to spread before you my views, to receive from you any suggestions you may feel inclined to make; and they are, also, amply qualified to explain to you the feelings and opinions of the people of this State on the great questions which now agitate and distract the public mind.

With assurances of the most cordial esteem, I am, my dear Sir, very truly,

A. G. CURTIN.

His Excellency, THOMAS H. HICKS, Governor of Maryland.

Gov. Hicks, in his reply, expresses his obligations to Gov. Curtin, reciprocating the patriotic sentiments of the letter, and pledging himself for the Union.

The Commissioners since speak of Gov. Hicks in terms of the highest commendation as a frank, straightforward, practical man, full of energy and pluck. They concur in the opinion that the people in and around Annapolis are strongly for the Union; indeed, they think the Union men are certain of Gov. Hicks' unflinching determination to preserve the Union; and that the Union sentiment is kept quiet, and is not therefore, nearly so demonstrative as the secessionism. This seems to be their impression, not only derived from their own observation, but confirmed by the opinion of the Governor.—They left him highly satisfied with their interview, and deeply impressed with the sincerity and high toned manliness of the chief magistrate of Maryland.

Parson Brownlow for the Union—He is Ready for a Fight.

The Knoxville (Tenn.) Whig, edited by the Rev. W. G. Brownlow, comes to us overflowing with Union sentiments of the most earnest and unmistakable character. We extract some paragraphs:

THE PARSON AND SENATOR JOHNSON—HE WILL FIGHT THE SENATOR'S TRADUCERS. A portion of the Breckinridge Democracy are stating that Whigs and Union men originated the burning of Johnson in effigy. All men making this statement, whether of high or low degree, are liars and scoundrels, and I so publish them upon my responsibility. I am no admirer of Senator Johnson, and don't shoulder his quarrels, but write to vindicate myself from the conspiracy of the scoundrels I have published the names of. I seek no difficulty, and will not attack any man, but shall spend the entire day, on Gay street, unaccompanied by any man, to give these God-forsaken, hell-deserving scoundrels an opportunity to inflict upon me such punishment as their mad-wise wisdom may dictate!

A PIECE OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY. As regards my activity, I was born and raised in Wythe county, Va., and my parents were both natives of the same State. I have lived in East Tennessee for thirty years; and, although I am fifty-five years of age, I walk erect, have but few gray hairs, and look to be younger than any whiskey-drinking, tobacco-chewing, profane-swearer secessionist in any of the cotton States of forty years!

I am for my country, and on the side of the general government, and in every contest, either at sea or on land, I shall rejoice in the triumph of the government troops fighting under the stars and stripes. Should Tennessee go out of the Union, I shall continue to denounce secession and war against the storms of fanaticism at the North, and the assaults of demagogues and traitors at the South, who' their numbers be legion. In all candor, I believe that in a Southern Confederacy the freedom of speech and of the press will be denied and for the exercise of them I will be hung.—But, come what may, through weal or woe, in peace or war, no earthly power shall keep me from denouncing the enemies of my country, until my tongue and pen are paralyzed in death! Once destroyed, this Union can never be reconstructed. And, with others, I have resolved that no earthly power shall prevail against it; that it shall be 'perpetual,' as our fathers intended it—'one and indivisible, now and forever.'

W. G. BROWNLOW, Editor of the Knoxville Whig.

Western Virginia.

A gentleman just returned from Western Virginia, through which he had been traveling for the last few weeks, reports that one sentiment in that region, and that is in favor of standing by the Federal Government and the Constitution as it is. The people say that they will hear their way to the Atlantic coast, if Eastern Virginia should dare do anything that will cut them off from it. They defy the politicians who want to carry the State out of the Union.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TRANSMITTING THE VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I deem it my duty to submit to Congress a series of resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Virginia on the 19th inst., having in view a peaceful settlement of the existing questions which now threaten the Union. They were delivered to me on Thursday, the 24th inst., by Ex-President Tyler, who has left his dignified and honored retirement in the hope that he may render some service to his country in this hour of need.

These resolutions, it will be perceived, extend an invitation to all such States, whether slaveholding or non-slaveholding, as are willing to unite with each other in an earnest effort to adjust the present unhappy difficulties in the spirit in which the Constitution was originally formed, and consistently with its principles, so as to afford the people of the slaveholding States adequate guarantees for the security of their rights, to appoint commissioners to meet on the 4th day of February next, in the city of Washington, to consider, and if practicable, agree upon some sort of adjustment.

I confess I feel this movement on the part of Virginia with great satisfaction. From the past history of this ancient and renowned Commonwealth, we have the fullest assurance that what she has undertaken she will accomplish, if it can be done by able, enlightened and persevering efforts. It is highly gratifying to know that other patriotic States have appointed commissioners to meet those of Virginia in council.—When assembled, they will constitute a body entitled in an eminent degree to the confidence of the country.

The Federal Assembly of Virginia have also resolved that Ex-President Tyler is hereby appointed by the concurrent vote of each branch of the General Assembly, a commissioner to the President of the United States, and Judge John Robertson is hereby appointed by a like vote a commissioner to the State of South Carolina and all other seceding States that have seceded, or shall secede, with instructions to respectfully request the President of the United States, and the authorities of such States to agree to abstain, pending the proceedings contemplated by the action of this General Assembly, from any and all acts calculated to produce a collision of arms between the States and the Government of the United States.

However strong may be my desire to enter into such an agreement, I am convinced that I do not possess the power. Congress, and Congress alone, under the war-making power, can exercise the discretion of agreeing to abstain from any and all acts calculated to produce a collision of arms between this and any other Government. It would therefore be a usurpation for the Executive to attempt to restrain their hands by an agreement in regard to matters over which he has no constitutional control.

If he were thus to act, they might pass laws which he would be forced to obey, though in conflict with his agreement.

Under existing circumstances my present actual power is confined within narrow limits. It is my duty at all times to defend and protect the Federal property within the seceding States, so far as this may be practicable, and especially to employ the constitutional means to protect the property of the United States, and to preserve to the public of this seat of the Federal Government. If the seceding States abstain from any and all acts calculated to produce a collision of arms, then the danger so much to be deprecated will no longer exist. Defense and not aggression has been the policy of the Administration from the beginning.

But whilst I can enter into no engagement such as that proposed, I cordially commend to Congress, with much confidence, that it will meet their approbation, to abstain from passing any law calculated to produce a collision of arms, pending the proceedings contemplated by the action of the General Assembly of Virginia. I am one of those who will never despair of the Republic. I yet cherish the belief that the American people will perpetuate the union of the States on some terms just and honorable to all sections of the country.

I trust that the mediation of Virginia may be the destined means, under Providence, of accomplishing this inestimable benefit.

Glorious as are the memories of her past history, such an achievement, both in relation to her own fame and the welfare of the whole country, would surpass them all.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 28, 1861.

Late from Fort Taylor, Key West.

The Newport News publishes a letter from Col. Thomas B. Carr, now at work on Fort Taylor, Key West, Fla., to his wife, in Newport:

Key West, Jan. 15, 1861.—A steamer arrived here on Saturday, from Philadelphia, bringing late papers from the North. I see by them that the Government are going to put down this disunion, and also that the fort at Key West had been taken by the disunionists. I wish to let you and all the people in Newport know that Fort Taylor cannot be taken by the whole South put together. The fort is impregnable. It is twelve hundred feet from the shore, and has but one entrance, which is from the land, over a narrow bridge to a drawbridge, which can be shut up in a minute, if necessary.—There is nothing but water around the fort; it commands the town, and could blow it down in thirty minutes. It is in the best condition for a fight, of which, however, there is no danger.

The men worked last Tuesday to stop up all the port holes on the lower tier, which are twenty feet from the water. The fort has seventy 8-inch Columbiad guns, which will send a ball or shell four miles, twenty 24-lb. howitzers, which flank the fort; twelve 12-lb. howitzers, and a company of artillery.

Capt. Hunt made a speech to the men on Sunday, and said that by the papers he saw that the Government intended to put down the disunion movement; and although he did not apprehend any danger, as it was impossible to take the fort, yet to prevent surprise he should be prepared for them (the seceders). He asked the men whether, in case of any attack, they would assist the soldiers in defending the fort, to which they all answered in the affirmative. He thanked them, and said he should continue the work until April, unless ordered otherwise by the Government.

Messrs. Milson and Clemens of Virginia, and Etheridge and Nelson of Tennessee, have made sensible speeches in Congress on the Slavery question. Were the South all as reasonable as they are, secession would soon die off.

The bill for the organization of the militia of the District of Columbia, requiring the customary oaths from the officers, passed by 119 to 42, the Secessionists opposing.

Important Correspondence between the Ministers of Foreign Powers and the Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, January 31.—It appears from official sources that on the 27th of January Mr. Schleider wrote to the Secretary of State, Mr. Black, informing him that he had received a letter from the Bremen Consul at Charleston, stating that the consignee of the 'Copernicus' had tendered duties at the Custom House, which were refused, and from this the Consul infers that the functionaries there are acting no longer for the United States, and the Minister therefore asks how are the Bremen exports and consignees of goods imported from Bremen in Bremen vessels to any port in South Carolina, to act in order to avoid all violations of the revenue laws of the United States? Does the Government hold itself responsible to the owners of goods now stored in or which may hereafter be placed in the United States bonded warehouses at Charleston? and in case of the discontinuance of the United States Custom House at Charleston, will Bremen vessels be permitted to proceed hence on their voyage without hindrance on the part of the United States authorities?

Lord Lyons, under date of December 31st, acquaints the Secretary of State that he has received a letter from the British Consul at Charleston, in which it is stated that South Carolina has passed an ordinance declaring, in effect, that the Custom Houses of the United States in South Carolina are converted into Custom Houses of that State; and that the revenue laws adopted show how duties are to be collected on account of that State. The Consul calls attention to several practical difficulties connected with the entry and clearance of British vessels, which may arise at any moment, and Lord Lyons requests the Government to furnish him, without delay, such information respecting its wishes and intentions as may enable him to give definite instructions to the Consul, and to remove any apprehension which may exist that the abolition *de facto* of the United States Custom Houses will be allowed to subject British vessels or commerce to loss, injury or inconvenience.

Mr. Tassaro, the Spanish Minister, on December 31st, calls Secretary Black's attention to a letter from the Spanish consul at Charleston, relative to custom affairs in that city.

Next, Secretary Black is informed by Lord Lyons that South Carolina authorities have removed the buoys, withdrawn the light ship, etc., and requests that he cause the lights and buoys to be replaced to warn vessels of their danger, and, in conclusion, desires such information as will allay the anxiety of British subjects.

Mr. Schleider also complains, under date of January 8th, that the lights in Charleston harbor have been extinguished.

Among the documents is also a letter from ex-Judge Magrath, dated from Executive Department of South Carolina, saying that the activity of the pilots will prevent any serious injury or inconvenience to commerce.

On the 10th ult., Secretary Black replied to Lord Lyons, and sent a copy of his letter to Messrs. Schleider and Tassaro. He says that he had laid Lord Lyons' communication before the President, who would deeply regret that any injury should happen to the commerce of foreign and friendly nations, and especially that British subjects at Charleston should suffer by the anomalous state of things existing there. Secretary Black then quotes from the law to show that the jurisdiction of the Federal Government is to impose duties on goods imported into the limits of the United States and collect duties in exclusive. Whether the state of affairs now existing at Charleston will or will not be regarded as sufficient reason for not exacting the penalties incurred by British subjects, is a question, says the Secretary, which Lord Lyons will see no necessity for raising until it practically arises. Each case will no doubt have its peculiarities, and Secretary Black regrets that this consideration compels him to decline giving any assurances on the points presented. The Treasury Department, he says, will give public information as to the condition in which South Carolina has put the coast.

WASHINGTON, Jan 31.—The Select Committee of Five have examined about twelve witnesses as to an alleged conspiracy to seize the Federal Capitol. Nothing startling or convincing has been elicited. Lieutenant General Scott was before them more than two hours to-day. He said there was abundant evidence in his mind, to justify him in making military preparations, though it was not of the strongest character.

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