

BEDFORD INQUIRER.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, March 1, 1861.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

F. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

law operating upon all other Railroad companies incorporated by this Commonwealth. The semi annual installment of the said sum of thirteen millions five hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$13,570,000) and the balance of the said debt and interest so to be paid into the State Treasury as is herein provided, are herein pledged to, and the same shall be applied only to the payment and extinguishment of the principal and interest of the funded debt of this Commonwealth, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

Sec. 4. That for the purpose of developing the resources of the State, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is hereby authorized and required to spend the sum of eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars in and to the Chambers Valley Railroad Company, the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad Company, the Fayette County Railroad Company, (between Greensburg and the Youghiogheny River,) the West Pennsylvania Railroad Company, (between Blairsville and Butler,) the Elizabeth and Crosson Railroad Company, The Bedford Railroad Company, (between Hopefield and Bedford,) The Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad Company, and the Phillipsburg and Waterford Railroad Company, (between Tyrone and Brookville,) the Tyrone and Lock Haven Railroad Company, the Milford and Centre County Railroad Company, (between Lewistown and Reedville,) The Chambersburg and Allegheny Railroad Co., (between Chambersburg and the point of connection with the Bedford Railroad near Hopefield,) or their successors or assigns, in sums proportioned to their respective lengths between the above designated points, by purchasing their bonds respectively from said Companies, payable in twenty years, with interest semi annually, secured by a first mortgage created for the purpose on their property, real and personal, and franchises acquired and to be acquired, and the said companies are hereby respectively authorized and empowered to create and issue such bonds, and secure the payment thereof by such mortgages, by and with the consent of a majority of their respective stockholders present at a meeting to be called for that purpose, of which notice shall be given, as provided by their charters or by laws respectively; said bonds, and the mortgages given to secure the same shall not exceed in amount the sum required for the cost of the superstructure of bridges, the rails, cross-ties, the chairs and spikes, and laying the track of the said roads, respectively; and the proceeds of the said bonds, so secured, shall be exclusively applied to the said purposes; and the said purchase of bonds, shall be required to be made of each of the said companies in installments, after sections of said roads, respectively of the length of miles from each end, as hereinbefore designated, shall have been duly and properly graded and the masonry completed, and after the said grading and masonry shall have been approved by a competent civil engineer, appointed by the Governor for that purpose; and who shall be paid for his services by the said companies receiving aid under the provisions of this Act; and when each section of five miles so graded from each end of the said roads respectively, shall have been so completed and such certificate so given, then the pro rata proportion of the said bonds shall be purchased, and so continued from time to time until the amount payable to the said companies shall be exhausted; and the sum paid upon the completion of the said sections as aforesaid respectively, shall be exclusively appropriated and be used for the purposes above mentioned, upon the section for and in respect to which the purchase is made; and for no other purpose or portion of said road whatsoever. Provided, however, that if either of the said Companies shall fail to grade and prepare for bridges, superstructure, and laying of track at least one section of five miles at each of such end of its road within one year; or the whole of their respective roads within three years from the passage of this Act, any such Company, so in default, shall no longer have any right to demand or require any further purchase of their bonds as aforesaid, and the sums which any such defaulting Companies would have been entitled to demand in payment of their bonds, shall be added pro rata to the purchase to be made of such of the said Companies as shall comply with the provisions of this section.

SEC. 6. That if any stockholder or stockholders of any rail road, canal, or slackwater navigation Companies shall be dissatisfied with, or object to any of the provisions of this Act, then it shall and may be lawful for any such stockholder or stockholders, within six months after the passage of this Act, to apply by petition to the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the chief office of the said companies may respectively be held; to appoint three disinterested persons to estimate and appraise the damage if any, done to such stockholder or stockholders, and whose award, or that of a majority of them, when confirmed by the said Court, shall be final and conclusive. And the person so appointed shall also appraise the share or shares of said stockholders in the said company at the full market value thereof, without regard to any depreciation in consequence of the passage of this Act, and the said company may, at its election, either pay to the said holder the amount of damages so found, or the value of the stock so ascertained, and upon payment of the value of the stock as aforesaid, the said stockholder shall transfer the stock so held by him or said company, to be disposed of by the Directors of said company, or be retained by them for the benefit of the remaining stockholders. And all laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

President Lincoln at Harrisburg. The 22d of February was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony all over the country. At Harrisburg it was the occasion of one of the most imposing demonstrations ever witnessed in the State. The "Stars and Stripes" were raised on that day over the dome of the State Capitol, in which ceremony the President elect of the United States participated. We have not room to give a detailed account of the proceedings. In answer to Gov. Curtin's welcoming address, President Lincoln spoke as follows:

GOV. CURTIN AND FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA:—Perhaps the best thing I could do would be simply to endorse the patriotic and eloquent speech which your Governor has just made in your hearing.

I am quite sure that I am unable to address to you anything so appropriate as that which he has uttered.

Reference has been made by him to the distraction of the public mind at this time and to the great task that lies before me in entering upon the administration of the General Government. With all the eloquence and ability that your Governor brings to this theme, I am quite sure he does not—in his situation he cannot—appreciate as I do the weight of that great responsibility. I feel that, under God, in the strength of the arm and wisdom of the heads of these masses, after all, must be my support. As I have often had occasion to say, I repeat to you—I am quite sure I do not deceive myself when I tell you that I bring to the work an honest heart; I dare not tell you that I bring a head sufficient for it. [A voice—"we are sure of that."] If my own strength should fail, I shall at least fall back upon these masses who, I think, under any circumstances will not fail.

Allusion has been made to the peaceful principles upon which this great Commonwealth was originally settled. Allow me to add my meed of praise to those peaceful principles. I hope no one of the Friends who originally settled here, or who lived here since that time, or who live here now, has been or is a more devoted lover of peace, harmony and concord than my humble self.

While I have been proud to see to-day the finest military array, I think, that I have ever seen, allow me to say in regard to those men that they give hope of what may be done when war is inevitable. But, at the same time, allow me to express the hope that in the shedding of blood, their services may never be needed, especially in the shedding of fraternal blood. It shall be my endeavor to preserve the peace of this country so far as it can possibly be done, consistently with the maintenance of the institutions of the country. With my consent, or without my great displeasure, this country shall never witness the shedding of one drop of blood in fraternal strife.

Attempt to Assassinate the Hon. Van Wyck, of New York.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.

A most cowardly and brutal assault was made, about half-past eleven o'clock last night, upon Hon. Mr. Van Wyck, member of Congress from the West Point district, N. Y., by three ruffians, armed with bowie knives. Mr. Van Wyck had just left the residence of Senator King, on Capitol Hill, and was passing down by the north wing of the Capitol to his lodgings, when a stout built man came up behind him, and struck him with a bowie knife in the breast over the heart. The knife penetrated the outside and inside coats, passing through a folded copy of the Globe, and then nearly through a thick memorandum book, both of which were in the breast pocket of his frock coat, not quite reaching the skin.

Mr. Van Wyck struck the man a blow under the jaw which staggered him, when the second ruffian struck a blow at Mr. Van Wyck with a bowie knife, which the latter caught with his left hand, making a terrible gasp across the palm. At the same time he (Van Wyck) knocked the fellow down with his right, and instantly drew a revolver and shot the first ruffian, who dropped and was caught by his friends.

The third ruffian knocked Mr. Van Wyck down with his fist. This blow, together with the effect of the one he first received, and especially from the profuse bleeding of his hand, weakened him very much, and observing that the ruffians were making an escape with their wounded companion, who appeared to him quite helpless, he sank himself almost exhausted upon the side walk, and did not rise again. But as soon as he gathered sufficient strength he made his way to his hotel, which he did not reach till after twelve this morning. He said very little about the affair, except to one or two confidential friends, Dr. Lee, of the House who dressed his wounds, and to the police, in the hope that the parties might be discovered; but up to to-night no trace of their whereabouts has been ascertained.

Mr. Van Wyck is quite nervous this evening, and is suffering considerable pain from the wound in his hand, but is in no serious danger.

Mr. Van Wyck cannot account for this attack upon him, unless it has grown out of his speech at the last session, which created so much excitement and discussion, because of its severity against the system of slavery, wherein he cited instances of slave burning. For some time after its delivery he received letters threatening his life. Outside of this he has no knowledge of having created the enmity of any human being. He is a man who never visits gambling or drinking saloons, and while he is a resolute man when assailed, in his daily walk he is very quiet and gentlemanly.

The affair having become known to-night, creates intense feeling, especially in Congressional circles.—Herald.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

The Democratic State Convention met at Harrisburg on the 21st and 22d inst., and passed the following resolutions, which we condense: The 1st declares the States of the Union to be sovereign and independent. The 2d That the Government has all necessary powers for preserving itself and enforcing its laws. 3d. Resolves, that the Republican party is responsible for the evils which have lately come upon the country, including the diphtheria and whooping cough. That the dissensions in the Democratic ranks is hereby healed. That "Old Abe" is wrong in saying nothing is going strange. 5th. The Southern people have a right to take their negroes into all the territories of the United States. 6th. That all fugitives must be delivered up. 7th. Endorses the Crittenden plan. 8th. That the Democracy will oppose, discountenance and prevent any attempt on the part of Republicans in power to use coercion on the Southern States. 9th. Approves the conduct of the Border Slave States. 10th. Condemns the course of Governor Curtin in not putting two or three secessionist disunion Locofocoes on his list of Commissioners to the Peace Conference.

We believe the action of this miserable body of traitors will meet the hearty approval of Yankee, Rhett, Davis, Pickens and the whole cascade of disunionists in the Rattlesnake Republic. We can't see why it should not. Alas! poor, defunct Bedfordism.

BEFORD LYCEUM.—Will meet in the Court House, on Saturday evening. Decliner, S. L. Russell, Essayist, J. H. Filler. Question for debate, Resolved, that in the event of no compromise being effected, it is the duty of the general government to acknowledge the independence of the States which have established a "Southern Confederacy." AF. G. H. Spang. Neg. O. H. Gaither.

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The 22d of February passed off pleasantly in this place. The Bedford Riflemen paraded in full numbers and made a fine display.—The 22d, was a great day in Harrisburg. The President elect was there. A flag was raised over the dome of the capitol. Mr. Lincoln replied to speeches of welcome to Gov. Curtin, and to the Speakers of the two Houses of the Legislature.—The citizens of Scott, Rankin, Smith, and other counties, in Mississippi, are in almost a state of starvation—the drought last summer destroyed their corn crop, and now discussion is adding to their calamities.—Jeff. Davis is now at Charleston, advising against the attack on Fort Sumter.—General Twiggs, commanding the U. S. Military Department, in Texas, has surrendered the government property to the traitors, and offered his services to Georgia, his native state. This is one of the greatest acts of villainy in these secession times.—Guthrie's proposition, it is thought, will be adopted by the Peace Conference. Things look favorable in Washington.

There is a movement again on foot to have a bill passed annexing Middle Woodberry Tp. to Blair County. Our citizens should send out their remonstrances immediately, or it may be too late.—The Tariff bill has passed the House with no material changes from the Senate bill, except the amendment laying a duty on tea and coffee. It will go before a committee of conference.—The bill to stop the mail in the States where the mail service is obstructed has passed the Senate.—The U. S. Arsenal at Little Rock, has been surrendered, on demand of the Governor of Arkansas. Capt. Totten, and his men have been allowed to march through that State under protection of the Governor, with their private property, and what public property they took with them to the arsenal.

In another column, we publish the speeches of Mr. Lincoln, at Philadelphia. They ought to be read by every one. In the proceedings at the "Continental," as published in the Daily News, of the 22d ult., we find the following: Among the few distinguished gentlemen introduced, was Mr. Jordan, of Bedford county, one who had "rendered service in the last campaign." "Ah! Mr. Jordan, I am glad to see you, they tell me that Jordan is a hard road to travel." Presently Col. Philip S. White made his appearance in the room; soon the eagle eye of Mr. Lincoln caught a glimpse of the man who told the first anecdote of the "rail-splitter." "Phil. White," said the President, "I am glad to see you, I hope you are well." "A little boy, we believe of Charles E. Lee, the City Solicitor, was introduced: "Mr. Lincoln, I want to shake your hand." "There it is, my son," said the President. "Grow up to be a man, and a lover of your country."

We call attention to the bill for the continuation of the tonnage tax, which we publish in to-day's paper. As we stated last week, it passed the House, and is now before the Senate. It is thought it will also pass that body, but it may be somewhat amended. We also call attention to the article on our first page, from the Philadelphia Press, in relation to the subject. It is to the interest of Bedford County that this bill should pass, as according to its provisions, the Bedford Rail Road Company will secure a sum sufficient to insure its completion. But it is not on that account alone that our people favor the continuation of the tonnage tax on the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company, but on account of its evident justice, as will be seen by the article we publish from the Press.

The Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln will take place next Monday, if no accidents happen to prevent it, such as assassination, &c. By an article from the Harrisburg correspondent of the N. Y. Times, published in another column, it will be seen that this was the cause of his departure to Washington from Harrisburg, in advance of the time specified in the programme.

BROAD TOP MINER.—We have received the first number of a very neat paper, published at Coalmont, Huntington County, with the above title. It is neutral in politics, and will pay considerable attention to the development of mining interests of Broad Top. Hope it may succeed, but it is a bad time to start a paper. A. Tyhurst, Esq., is the editor and proprietor.

The following gentlemen are said to compose the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln. W. H. Seward, N. Y. Secretary of State; Edward Bates, Mo., Attorney General; Simon Cameron, Pa., Secretary of the Treasury; C. B. Smith, Ia., Interior; Gideon Wells, Ct., P. M. General; John A. Gilmer, N. C. Navy; Montgomery Blair, Md., War.

It affords us pleasure that Gen. Cameron will go to the Cabinet—thus triumphing over his enemies.

We call attention to the notice of Mr. Chas. W. Greene. He intends opening a school, in Bedford, on the 8th April, next. Mr. Greene is one of the teachers in the Union School, in this place, and a gentleman every way qualified to take charge of a first class school.

Since Mr. Lincoln's arrival in Washington, the prospect of a peaceable settlement of our national difficulties are much improved. The greatest confidence can be placed in the firmness and patriotism of the President elect.

Our friend, Mr. Wm. W. Shuck, and his bride, arrived home last week, from their wedding tour. A splendid nuptial was given them by Mr. Samuel Stueck and lady.

Little dog barking at the sun.—The Gazette criticising Mr. Lincoln's speeches.

MR. LINCOLN IN PHILADELPHIA.

A Flag Raising at the Hall of Independence.

The ceremony of raising the flag of thirty-four stars over the Hall of Independence, in Philadelphia, on Friday morning, by Mr. Lincoln, was attended with all the solemnity due such an occasion, the scene being an impressive one. At the rising of the sun crowds of people streamed from all parts of the city towards the State House, and very soon every inch of ground was occupied, a vast number of ladies being present. The weather was cool and bracing.

At seven o'clock Mr. Lincoln was escorted to the Hall, and there received by Theodore Cuyler, who warmly welcomed him to its venerable walls in the hour of national peril and distress, when the great work achieved by the wisdom and patriotism of our fathers seems threatened with instant ruin.

MR. LINCOLN'S SPEECH.

Mr. Lincoln responded as follows: "Mr. Cuyler—I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here in this place, where we collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live.—You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to the present distracted condition of the country.—I can only say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this hall. I have never had a feeling politically, that did not spring from the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence." I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted the Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that Independence. I have often inquired myself what great principles or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the Colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country but to the world for all future time.—[Great applause.] It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men. This is a sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

"Now, my friends, can this country stand upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world—if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful.—But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it. [Applause.] Now, in my view of the present aspect of affairs, there need be no bloodshed or war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course, and I may say in advance that there will be no bloodshed unless it be forced upon the Government, and then it will be compelled to act in self defence. [Applause.] "My friends, this is wholly an unexpected speech, and I did not expect to be called upon to say a word when I came here. I supposed it was merely to do something towards raising the flag. I may, therefore, have said something indiscreet. [Cries of "No, no,"] I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, in the pleasure of Almighty God, die by."

Mr. Lincoln concluded amid great applause. The members of the City Council paid their respects to him and the procession moved directly towards the platform erected in front of the State House.

At Mr. Lincoln's appearance on the platform, he was hailed with outbursts of applause from the surrounding multitude.

Mr. Benton, of the Select Council, made a brief address inviting Mr. Lincoln to raise the flag.

MR. LINCOLN'S SECOND SPEECH.

Mr. Lincoln replied in a patriotic speech stating a cheerful compliance with the request. He alluded to the original flag of thirteen stars, saying, that the number increased as time rolled on and we became a happy, powerful people. "Each star adding to its prosperity. The future is in the hands of the people. It was on such an occasion we could reason together, re-affirm our devotion to the country and the principles of the Declaration of Independence." "Let us make up our minds that whenever we do put a new star on our banner it shall be a fixed one, never to be dimmed by the horrors of war, but brightened by the contentment and prosperity of peace. Let us go on to extend the area of our usefulness, add star upon star, until their light shall shine over five hundred millions of a free and happy people."

Mr. Lincoln then threw off his overcoat in an off-hand, easy manner, the backwoodsian style of which caused many good natured remarks.

Rev. Mr. Clark addressed the Throne of Grace in an impressive prayer, many spectators uncovering themselves when the flag was rolled up in a man-of-war style, then adjusted, a signal fired, and amid the most excited enthusiasm the President elect hoisted the national ensign.

A stiff breeze caught the folded bunting and threw it out boldly to the winds. Cheers followed cheer until hoarse voices prevented a continuance.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Important from Washington City.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Sudden Departure of Mr. Lincoln for Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—In the Peace Conference this morning, Mr. Chase, of Ohio, offered a starting proposition to the following effect: That whereas, it is inexpedient to proceed in the consideration of the grave matters involved in the resolutions of the State of Virginia calling a Conference together, until all the States have participated in its proceedings, and until simple time is afforded for deliberation among all the delegates.

Thereupon resolved, that the Convention adjourn to meet again on Thursday, the 1st of April, and that the President of the Convention be requested to address letters to the Governors of the several States, urging them to appoint Commissioners to this Conference, to meet at that time.

SECOND DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—At noon, to-day, the people in the Capitol got news of Mr. Lincoln's unexpected arrival in Washington, this morning.

All sorts of speculations were set afloat as to its cause. One report is that General Scott telegraphed to him to come on immediately. Another is that he was sent for because yesterday there was a chance of the adoption of the modified Guthrie plan in the Peace Conference, and that his presence was imperatively demanded, either to sustain the straight out Republicans, or to go in for a compromise.

Mr. Lincoln occupied a high berth in a sleeping car, so that even people on the same train did not know he was on board. He was met at the station by a few friends who were in the secret, and was driven immediately to lodgings at Willard's Hotel.

Soon after he arrived he retired to rest for a short time. Among the earliest callers on him were Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, and Mr. Seward.

Soon after it became known that he was in town, the people began to flock towards Willard's, and it became necessary to engage a number of policemen in the lower halls of the hotel. The crowd increased as the news spread through the city, but at this time (12 1/2 o'clock) hundreds are still incredulous about Old Abe's being here.

Mr. Van Wyck is not any better. The object of the attempt to assassinate him could not have been robbery, as nothing was taken from him. Some skillful detective officers, of Baltimore, are on the track of the assassin, and it is strongly intimated that three other members have been picked out for similar attempts. A good deal of excitement is caused by this affair.

THIRD DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—1 P. M.—Vice President Hannibal arrived here early this morning, having come on from New York by last evening's train, House of Congress this morning and was warmly welcomed by his friends.

The Pennsylvania delegation in the House have been in conference on the Tariff bill. Some of the members said that while they would oppose the Tariff bill, they would change their votes rather than send the bill to a Committee of Conference.

FOURTH DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—1 1/2 P. M.—The House has passed the Oregon War Debt bill, appropriating two millions of dollars.

The Tariff bill has been taken up, under a suspension of the rules. Mr. Sherman says the bill will probably pass this afternoon.

Mr. Sickles is trying to "dilute" for its defeat. Mr. Saxton, Feb. 23.—The people of Harrisburg were astonished this morning by the announcement that Mr. Lincoln had started for Washington, at three o'clock this morning, having received despatches requiring his immediate presence in Washington.

Madame Hemor is as busy as usual. Some say there was a plot to assassinate him on his passage through Baltimore, but such a thing is not believed. The Baltimore Committee are here, but did not have an interview with him.

Baltimore, Feb. 23.—Mr. Lincoln arrived here at 8 o'clock this morning, in a coach, and proceeded direct to Washington.

His family and the remainder of the party will arrive at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Much excitement has been occasioned by this sudden move.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Not a little sensation prevailed throughout the city this morning, as soon as it became known that Mr. Lincoln had arrived in the early train.

clock Mr. Lincoln left on a special train. He wore a Scotch plaid cap and a very long military cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable. Accompanied by Superintendent Lewis and one friend, he started, while all the town, with the exception of Mr. Lincoln, Col. Sumner, Mr. Judd, and two reporters, who were sworn to secrecy, supposed him to be asleep.

From the Charleston Mercury. The Southern Confederacy as Viewed by a South Carolinian.

MONTGOMERY, Feb. 14, 1861.

Upon one point there appears to be a fixed determination and straightforward action here. Reconstruction is dead. A Southern Confederation is established, and the Southern Confederation is a fixed thing. But what sort of a Confederation? Here the Convention is at sea; and vague dreads of the future, and terrors of the people, and, in some degree, a want of statesmanship, paralyze all useful and essential reform, and weaken men into inaction.

Let the people prepare their minds for a failure in the future permanent Southern Constitution, for South Carolina is about to be saddled with almost every grievance, except abolition, for which she has long struggled, and just withdrawn from the late United States Government. Surely McDuffie lived in vain, and Calhoun taught for naught if we are again to be plundered and our commerce crippled—destroyed by tariffs—even discriminating tariffs. But this is the almost inevitable prospect. The fruit of the labors of thirty-odd long years in strife and bitterness, is about to slip through our fingers.

But is this all we are about to be called on to enact and bear? It is only the beginning. The three-fifths rule of representation for slaves was one of the many Yankee swindles put upon us in the formation of the old Constitution. It is a radical wrong. It most unfairly dwarfs the power of some of the States in any federal representation. The proportion of her black to the white population is very much larger than that of any other slave State.

By the old swindle, her fair proportion of representation was cut down upon all her slaves in proportion, as three to five. The black population being in a majority in our State, two-fifths of more than one-half of the people of the State are entirely unrepresented. And in just the degree that the proportion of the black population in South Carolina predominates over the proportion of the blacks to the whites in any other State, is the swindle augmented and aggravated. South Carolina is small enough without again flinging away what legitimate power she possesses. That power is in her slaves—socially, politically, economically.—The proposition of the three-fifths rule calls upon her not only to stultify herself, but to dwarf her powers.

Is this all? It is not. She is probably to be called upon to brand herself and her institutions. The old Constitution of the United States merely grants to the Congress the power to prohibit by law the further introduction of slaves from Africa or elsewhere, outside of the United States. Terrorism here is about to make its perpetual prohibition a fundamental provision of the Constitution itself. A stigma is thus broadly stamped upon the whole institution before the whole world, and sealed by ourselves.

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

To change the subject: a nice pickle South Carolina has been placed in with regard to Fort Sumter. Three weeks ago it was feared by many that any assault upon that fort was to be postponed to the 4th of February, and then to be turned over to the action of the Southern Congress. Such has proved the fact. What has been gained? President Davis will not be inaugurated until Saturday evening, the 16th of February. This is the earliest period possible. Circumstances may still further delay it.

The Monday two weeks following Lincoln is to be inaugurated at Washington. What opportunity is there between these two dates for Mr. Davis to make preparations for attack—to make his demand upon Mr. Buchanan for its surrender, and to receive an answer before the fourth of March? None whatever. We will have to fight, and we will have to fight Lincoln instead of Buchanan. And who are to do the fighting? South Carolinians, and none but South Carolinians. The fort will, of course, be reinforced if it is in the power of man to do it. Will anybody tell us how lives have been saved by this policy? The attitude of our State has been, in a large measure, demoralized—I will not say disgraced—by the course pursued; the political attitude of the whole Southern Confederation has been embarrassed and complicated, and what is gained? Nothing, that I can see, but the spilling of much more valuable blood than was at all necessary.

WHAT IS A COLUMBIAD?—Enquiries are made as to the nature of the cannon called Columbiads. We find the following description of these formidable guns in an exchange:

A Columbiad is a heavy gun capable of projecting a solid shot or shell with a large charge of powder, at an angle of projection from five degrees below to thirty above the horizon. It may be said, therefore to combine the essential qualities of the gun, the howitzer, the mortar, and may be used in place of either one or the other of these pieces in seacoast defence. It does not differ in its external shape from ordinary seacoast cannon.

At present there are two sizes of Columbiads in use in our service, viz: the 8 inch and 10 inch.—The former weighs about 9,000 pounds, the charge of powder 10 pounds, the solid shot 64 pounds, and the shell 48 pounds. The latter weighs about 15,000 pounds, the charge of powder 16 pounds, the solid shot 128 pounds, and the shell 100 pounds.

It is understood that a certain number of ten-inch Columbiads are mounted aboard, or upon the most elevated portion of Fort Sumpter. As the extra range of these guns is about three miles, an extent of country about six miles in diameter will be commanded by them. This, however, does not embrace the city of Charleston, for that it is understood to be about three or four miles from the fort. Fort Mifflin being only about a mile distant, and being without casemates to protect its garrison or armament, is subject to the direct fire of the Columbiads of Fort Sumpter.

MARRIED.  
At the Hotel of Capt. Reed, in Coalmont, Huntington County, on the 17th ult., by Rev. J. A. Coleman, Mr. SIMON LEWIS to Miss ANNIE B. BOWEN, all of Bedford County.

On the 20th ult., in McConnellsburg, by the Rev. N. G. White, SAMUEL LYON, Esq., formerly of Bedford, to Miss EMMA H. DUFFIELD, all of McConnellsburg.