

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor. CARLISLE, PA., JAN. 3, 1861.

A PARTNER WANTED.—A young man with a small capital, who wishes to travel, can hear of a favorable opportunity by calling on the editor of this paper.

GOVERN.—Well, young ladies, leap year is passed and those of you who did not take our advice and, as the preachers say, "improve the occasion," cannot blame us that the year 1861 finds you running into old maids.

CHAIRS.—We invite the attention of our readers to Mr. W. D. REICHNER'S Union Fancy Chair Factory, advertised in our columns. Mr. R. gives his attention exclusively to the manufacture of Mahogany, Maple, Birch and Walnut Case Seats.

SENATOR BIGLER'S SPEECH.—On our first page will be found the able speech delivered by Senator BIGLER, in the U. S. Senate, on the 11th ult. We wish all our readers to give this speech a careful perusal.

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A telegraphic despatch from Richmond says that many of the prominent men of Virginia coincide in the opinion expressed by Mr. Hives, in his letter to Mr. Boteler, that a firm and dignified demand by the South for their constitutional rights, would be considered by the North. The more general sentiment, however, is that a dissolution cannot be avoided, and that Virginia must go with the South.

CIVIL WAR!

Our national difficulties have at length assumed a most alarming appearance, and we are now threatened with civil war. This beautiful country, purchased by the heart's blood of our forefathers, will, ere long, we fear, be the scene of a deadly strife—a strife of brother against brother, father against son!

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IMPORTANT FROM CHARLESTON.

PORT MOULTRIE ABANDONED.

Guns Spiked and Gun Carriages Burned.

THE GARRISON AT FORT SUMNER.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—A special despatch from Charleston, dated this morning, to the American office, states that the Government troops have abandoned Fort Moultrie, having first spiked the guns, and retreated to Fort Sumter, commanding the harbor.

The troops were all conveyed to Fort Sumter. This movement has created intense excitement, and the Convention is now in secret session.

The gun carriages, it is said, were burned. It is reported that a train has been laid to blow up the fort. The latter is, however, doubted. The excitement and indignation of the populace are increasing.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—Maj. Anderson states that he evacuated Fort Moultrie in order to allay the discussion about that post, and at the same time to strengthen his position.

The Military Ordered out to Protect the Arsenal.—CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—The military have been ordered out to protect the magazines and arsenals in the locality.

It is reported that a military corps from the interior is en route for this point.

Major Anderson "Taking the Responsibility."—CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—Evening.—I have just had an interview with Capt. Foster, now in command at Fort Moultrie, and he says that Major Anderson has acted on his own responsibility. Fort Moultrie has not been set on fire, and is still held by Capt. Foster, who is in command of a few regulars.

Special Cabinet Meeting Last Night.—WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The Administration having received a despatch relative to Major Anderson's movement, a Cabinet meeting was immediately called, which remained in session for several hours, and adjourned till 8 o'clock to-night.

The Latest from Charleston.—CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—Evening.—The Gov. has been tendered, to-day, troops from Georgia, Alabama, and different portions of South Carolina, and many companies may be here to-morrow.

The President will not Receive the South Carolina Commissioners Officially.—Attack on the Fort Ordered by the Secretary of War.—WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—President Buchanan has just declined to receive Messrs. Barnwell, Orr and Adams, as Commissioners from South Carolina, but announces that he will receive them as citizens of the United States or as individuals. In no way, he says, can he recognize any foreign embassy made up from one of the American States.

The Commissioners are deliberating whether to accept of the offer, and whether to send a bill for the payment of the expenses of talking, the vote will also be offered.

Reported Discharge of the Workmen in Fort Sumner.—BALTIMORE, Dec. 29.—The Sun has a special despatch from Charleston, saying that the carpenters and brick-layers from Baltimore, employed at Fort Sumner, refuse to bargain against South Carolina, and have been discharged by Major Anderson. They will return home in the steamer Keystone to-day.

From Washington.—WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The Cabinet have just adjourned, after a protracted session of six hours. The affairs at Charleston was the subject under consideration. Secretary Floyd stated to the members of the Cabinet, that Major Anderson was withdrawn from Fort Sumner he could not remain in the Cabinet.

Secretary Thompson and Thomas were understood to entertain the same view, but the events of to-day changed their minds somewhat. The President determined, after full deliberation, not to withdraw Major Anderson, and Mr. Floyd's resignation was therefore accepted.

Secretary Floyd's resignation is explained as follows: The South Carolina Commissioners demanded, as an ultimatum, the withdrawal of all the Federal forces from the Charleston forts. The President was willing to restore the status quo, but would not concede the demand to withdraw all the forces. The issue in Cabinet was upon this point, Mr. Floyd taking sides with the commissioners' demand, and the Executive opposing it, and hence Mr. Floyd resigned.

Among the persons named as Mr. Floyd's successor is General Benjamin F. Butler, of Massachusetts, who has been in confidential consultation with the President for several days.

The President is engaged in preparing a special message, which will be communicated to Congress on Monday, setting forth all the facts connected with the affairs now transpiring at Charleston, and also the facts in regard to the South Carolina commissioners, for Congress to take such action in the premises as they may deem proper. Monday will be an eventful day in our history. Look out for an explosion.

The Secretary of the Treasury has just received a despatch from Charleston, stating that the revenue cutter in the port of Charleston had been seized by the authorities, and that the captain, who is a native of Charleston, has resigned. This intelligence was immediately communicated to the Cabinet.

The Navy Department at two o'clock received a despatch from Lieut. James P. Foster, commanding the sloop *Janet*, which was carried into Charleston, stating that his taken before a State judge, writ of habeas corpus, that the judge remanded the prisoner to his custody on the ground that he had no jurisdiction, and that on his way to the *Boards* with his prisoner he had been taken by force from his custody by a mob.

Foreign complications affairs in Charleston more and more. The people of that city seem determined to precipitate an issue with the Government.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The report which prevailed throughout the city this afternoon that Lieut. Gen. Scott had been appointed Secretary of War, ad interim, produced a thrilling effect, and occasioned much indignation among the secessionists, who are fully aware that Gen. Scott is in favor of extensive military preparations.

The truth is, Postmaster General Holt is in temporary charge of the Department, and to-night was attending to the duties there in company with the chief clerk, Gen. Scott, who has not been at the Department or the President's house to-day.

Both Secretaries Thompson and Thomas were at the Cabinet meeting to-day, though rumor had declared otherwise.

Many reports prevail, and which serve only to add to the already intense excitement.

Mr. Bingham's bill further to provide for the War Office, Dec. 29.—As it was not yet stipulated or agreed to by the President that the troops should be withdrawn from the forts in Charleston harbor, the Administration does not consider that it is under any obligation to do so.

As to the request of the South Carolina Commissioners for the restoration of the military status, this is considered by the larger portion of the Cabinet impossible.

Secretaries Floyd, Thompson, and Thomas, who had to the constitutional right of succession, were separated on the South Carolina question from their Cabinet associates.

There was no positive decision at the meeting to-day, although the prospect is certain.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—No decisive action was taken by the Cabinet to-day relative to the Charleston forts.

The President's special message will probably be transmitted to Congress on Wednesday. It is understood that he will submit for such facts as have come to his knowledge, for such legislative action as may be considered necessary concerning the secession movement.

Senator Hunter intends introducing a measure...

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