

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.
CARLISLE, PA., JAN. 24, 1861.

WE return our thanks to our Senator, Dr. CHAMFORD, for sending us documents.

CUMBERLAND FIRE COMPANY.—At a regular meeting of the Cumberland Fire Company, held January 19, the following officers were elected for the year 1861:

President—Thomas B. Thompson.
Secretary—Philip Quigley.
Treasurer—E. D. Quigley.
First Director—Peter Spahr.
Second Director—F. Kenner.
Third Director—John Davis.
Fourth Director—Hiram Gipp.
Fifth Director—Alfred Harder.
Finance Committee—Augustus Zug, A. J. Reighen, James M. Allen.
Committee of Repairs—William Matthews, S. Stouffer, John Bailey.

LOOK WELL.—The grain fields, since the snow has melted, look green and vigorous, and give promise of an abundant harvest.

A PREDICTION.—Most of our weather-wise people predict an unusually early Spring this year. Hope the prediction may prove true.

RETURNED.—The students of Dickinson College, who have been spending the winter vacation with "the old folks at home," have returned to their studies.

ITS NAME.—The Harrisburg papers, in giving a list of the names of the various military companies which attended the inauguration of Gov. CURTIN, make some strange errors.—One of the Carlisle companies is called by one of them the "Lawrence Rifles," and by another the "Lawrence Rifles." The name of the company (Capt. KURTZ'S) is the "SUMNER RIFLES," so called in honor of that gallant soldier and accomplished gentleman, Col. E. V. SUMNER, of the United States Army. Will those papers make the correction?

BOTH OUR VOLUNTEER COMPANIES, the "Light Infantry," Capt. R. M. CURTIN, and the "Sumner Rifles," Capt. KURTZ, attended the Inauguration of Gov. CURTIN.

FINE WEATHER.—The weather for the last four or five days has been delightful for this season of the year, the sun bright and reasonably warm. But, the weather, just now, is like a miss in her teens—very fickle.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The latest news from the "seat of war" is unimportant. Affairs at Charleston are *status quo*. But the Rebellion is spreading throughout the South, and lively times are anticipated.

DESERVE COMMENDATION.—Should our unfortunate difficulties in the nation be amicably settled—which God in his mercy grant—the people will ever remember with grateful hearts, the praiseworthy and persevering efforts of Senators BIGLER and CRITTENDEN.—No man in the Senate has labored as they have. A friend at Washington writes us, "Messrs. CRITTENDEN and BIGLER are constantly at work, night and day; indeed they scarcely sleep. May their glorious efforts to save the Union be crowned with success!"—All true patriots will respond, Amen!

LEGALIZING THE SUSPENSION.—A bill is now pending in the House at Harrisburg, providing for a resumption of specie payments by the Banks of the Commonwealth on the second Monday of February, 1862, and relieving all institutions with banking privileges from the penalties incurred by suspension on the 19th of November last.

PUBLIC OPINION.—Senator BIGLER has presented a large number of memorials from citizens of Pennsylvania, praying for the adoption of the Crittenden resolutions—amongst others one from Lancaster county.

GOV. CURTIN'S INAUGURAL.

On our first page will be found the Inaugural Address of Gov. CURTIN. Some sentiments in it, of course, we cannot endorse, but yet we are free to admit that it is moderate and conservative in sentiment, and many of its recommendations are creditable to the head and heart of the new Governor. He recommends the repeal of all obnoxious laws having a reference to the rights of the South, and expresses the opinion that Pennsylvania is ready and willing to do full justice to our Southern brethren. These sentiments will find a response in all parts of Pennsylvania, except in the Legislature. That body appears to contain a majority of rabid Abolitionists, who are doing all they can to plunge the country into a bloody war. Fortunately, the edicts of the Legislature have little influence either in or out of the State, and if the people had an opportunity now, they would hurl two-thirds of its insane members from the seats they disgrace. Under the circumstances, therefore, we honor Gov. CURTIN for the stand he has taken in favor of peace, secession, and prosperity. We believe he is disposed to do right, and for this we respect him.

From present appearances, the leaders of the Republican party may be said to be united against Mr. CRITTENDEN'S propositions; yet it will be observed that the Legislature of Virginia, like her sisters of Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Missouri, will close on those propositions as the condition upon which they will refuse to co-operate with the open enemies of the Government.

FORNEY'S PRESS.

True enough. The South will agree to the CRITTENDEN propositions, but the Black Republicans say "no." They will agree to nothing. No fair man, no man who desires peace and the perpetuity of the Union, can object to Mr. CRITTENDEN'S plan. It is fair, magnanimous and just. Its adoption would not only settle our difficulties, but would stop the discussion about slavery forever; business would again take a start, and prosperity again crown the efforts of the American people. Why, it is then, that the Black Republicans oppose the CRITTENDEN proposition? Because it would rob them of their political capital—the slavery question. The only principle now held in common by the Republicans is opposition to slavery. They desire to keep this question open, so that by misrepresentation they may hold power. Will the people permit these political demagogues to go on in their mad career? Will they continue to suffer merely to gratify the place-hunters who oppose all attempts to compromise our difficulties? We trust not.

"WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE?"

When the names of Messrs. LINCOLN and HAMILTON were emblazoned on the banners and floated conspicuously from the mastsheads of all the Republican papers of this and the other Northern States; and during all the time that it was deemed necessary to have "Wide-Awakes" and "Invincibles" to parade our streets, carrying torches, and keeping step to the music of "Dixey's Land," we heard nothing scarcely from their papers but sneers at the idea of any trouble following the success of their sectional principles and the election of their candidates. If any Democrat or "Union party" man dared to express his honest conviction that disunion might follow such an event, he was derided and laughed at, and his honest expressions of anxiety and fear were spoken of as "tricks of the enemy." "No, no," they said, "the South know their weakness too well to attempt any such foolishness as breaking up this government;" and this was followed up by insulting and aggravating comparisons between the two great sections of our country, very often based upon false statistics, and always intended to give the Northern people a false estimate of the resources and strength of the South. From the natural alarm of the people of Virginia, consequent upon the JOHN BROWN raid, they used every argument to impress upon the Northern mind the idea that the Southern people were cowards, and that any amount of abuse and insult could be heaped upon them with impunity. By means of such arguments, or rather assertions, as these, continually harped upon, echoed and re-echoed from the pulpit, the press, and the stump, they at last accomplished their purpose, and brought a majority of our Northern people to believe that our Southern brethren were "unworthy sons of worthy sires"—not deserving of their consideration, and beneath their contempt. The Democratic party, because it declared to the people that the Union could only be preserved by giving equal and exact justice to all sections; because it declared through its press and by the lips of its orators, that the doctrines of the Republican party were at war with the equality of the States, and consequently antagonistic to the spirit and principles upon which the Government was founded, and were therefore dangerous in the extreme; because it done this in a spirit of devotion to the Union, it was assailed and charged by its enemies with endeavoring to drive the people (through a fear of the desolation of the confederacy,) to their support. How often during the late campaign, did the Republican press ring out with the sentence, "The Democratic cry of disunion will avail them nothing in this crisis." And unfortunately, alas! for our country, this prediction was verified.

Thus the campaign was carried on by appeals from the Democracy in the name of the Constitution and the Union on the one side, and on the side of Black Republicanism by appeals to the prejudice and passion, that they themselves had created in the Northern mind and heart, by false charges against their Southern brethren. Stimulated by hate, and by the assurance that no evil would follow the success of their principles, a majority of our people, misled by demagogues, and disregarding the advice of reason and patriotism, cast their votes for LINCOLN and HAMILTON. But scarcely had victory been declared for the Black Republican party, ere the mutterings of the storm that had been predicted, were heard, and now when its terrible and disastrous consequences are being felt by all conditions and classes of society; when the republic is slaking to its very foundation, and we (in all human probability) are on the verge of the greatest of all earthly calamities, civil war; now when all these evils, predicted and dreaded by the Democracy, are upon us—evils for which none other are responsible save the leaders of the Black Republican party—these very men, who are the authors of all our woes, are asking, with cool impudence, "who are responsible?" And then, with a shameless of frontery entirely unpardonable, endeavor to throw the responsibility upon the Democratic party! The task, however, is a fruitless one; they have deluded the people much too long; they have been false teachers and false prophets; their leaders have been (many of them,) bright lights—but, alas! beacon lights upon a rock-bound shore, that have served only to allure our gallant ship of State amid terrible breakers, from whence no human arm, thus far, has been able to rescue her. But their power over the popular mind has gone by forever; the people are awakening, the scales of passion and prejudice are falling from their eyes, and they will no longer be led by these leaders of the blind, lest they again fall into the ditch of error and ruin.

"Who are responsible?" Well may the Republican leaders ask the question, and we call upon them, in the name of justice and reason, to permit their own consciences to answer. It is in vain, worse than in vain, for them, in view of the facts that stand out to the knowledge of all the world, to say that they are innocent of this great crime against the peace and happiness of our beloved country. They will be held, and justly too, by all coming time, as the authors of our present misfortunes. Their bitter and unbolvy crusade against the South has yielded its legitimate fruits, in the utter prostration of all our commercial and national prosperity. They may exclaim, with MACNEZIE, when the ghost of the murdered BANQUO entered the banquetting chamber, "Thou canst not say I did it—shake not thy gory locks at me;" and yet, if the Union be destroyed, the blood of their country will be upon their hands and hearts; "nor can all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from their hands."

Far better and nobler would it be, if the Republicans, instead of vainly endeavoring to shift the responsibility upon innocent men, were to come out boldly and acknowledge their past errors, and endeavor to repair, as far as in them lies, the great wrong they have inflicted upon their country, and upon their own and coming generations.

FORGING THEIR BATTLES OVER AGAIN.—There is an "irrepressible conflict" among the Missouri militia that made the late march to the south-western border and came back again. After one duel growing out of it, Col. J. F. SNYDER has now had his head cut off by the Governor for saying that the expedition was all a farce. The expedition has cost the State treasury between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and that is the only substantial result.

IS THERE NO HOPE?

"Lost! lost!" were the exclamations uttered by the venerable Cass, when the news reached Washington that South Carolina had seceded. He was speaking of the Union. No wonder, indeed, that he tears trickled down his furrowed cheeks, as the conviction was forced upon him that the Union was dissolved, and that self-government had proved a failure.—It was a sad thought for the old statesman, Gen. Cass—a sad thought for all lovers of their country.

But, notwithstanding the expression of opinion by Gen. Cass that the confederacy was lost, thousands and tens of thousands of American citizens in all sections of the country, and embracing all parties, assembled in "Union Meetings" to devise, if possible, some plan to restore peace and confidence, and re-unite the Union. "At first the Republicans took the lead in these meetings—and this was right, for they had created the mischief—and the Democrats joining with them heartily, strong hopes were entertained that a compromise would be effected and our country saved. The South—or at least the good men of the South—made no unreasonable demands; they only contended for their rights, by demanding protection for their slave property in the States where slavery exists; also to have leave to go into the common Territories upon terms of equality with the North, and enjoy their own property, receiving the protection of a common Government until they shall come into the Union as a sovereign State and choose their own institutions. Or, they said, they would be satisfied to re-enact the Missouri compromise line and extend it to the Pacific, making all territory north free, and all south slave. There was nothing unreasonable in these demands, and judging from the strong expressions of opinion in the Northern States, by the Republicans as well as the Democrats, a hope began to be felt in all sections that our difficulties could and would be amicably settled. But, Mr. LINCOLN at last opened his mouth in opposition to compromise; his strong Abolition feelings would not permit him to do anything or say anything tending to fraternal feeling and conciliation. How unfortunate for our country! No sooner had Mr. LINCOLN'S opinions been made public, than the Republican leaders (nearly all of whom are on the look-out for office,) changed front, and yelled out "no compromise!" Our State Legislature is disgraced daily by blood-thirsty speeches being delivered by Black Republican demagogues and traitors. Sneers, insults and abuse are heaped upon the South, and the rights of that section of the Union scoffed at and denied. Like SEWROTHS, the Republican voice is "still for war," and the South is defied. In Congress, too, the same spirit prevails. A few days since the CRITTENDEN proposition was defeated in the Senate, every Republican Senator (CAMERON of this State being the number,) voting "no." Thus it appears the Republicans are determined to "let the Union slide." They will do nothing to prevent the awful catastrophe. FORNEY appeals to them through his Press, and begs them to retrace their steps, and save the country; but FORNEY has no influence now. "Old Abe, the rail-splitter," has the dispensing of patronage, and the tens of thousands who are looking to him for favors, will shape their opinions to accord with those of the President-elect. So we go.

What then, can be done? Must this country be destroyed, merely because a few thousand mad-men at the South and the fanatical and treasonable Abolitionists at the North, have so decreed it? We confess we have little or no hope. But yet the people can save the country, if they will. Let them, then, act—let them push aside the traitors who dare say there shall be "no compromise." Let all who are opposed to the dismemberment of the Union, and to the coercive war policy of the Black Republican party, which would drench our country with the blood of our brethren, and which is calculated to destroy every effort for conciliation, and the restoration of peace, happiness, and prosperity, be up and doing. Let the miserable traitors in Congress and in our Legislative halls, continue to declare there shall be "no compromise." No matter—the people are still supreme, and their will must be obeyed.

THE STATE SENATE AGAINST PEACE!
In the State Senate, on Thursday, Mr. CLYMER, a Democratic Senator, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That all State enactments, unfriendly to the domestic institutions of any of the States, are unwise and impolitic, and should be promptly repealed from the statute book.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
The yeas and nays were required by Mr. WELSH and Mr. CLYMER, and were as follows, viz:

Yeas.—Messrs. Blood, Clymer, Crawford, Mott, Schinckel and Welsh—6—all Democrats.
Nays.—Messrs. Benson, Bond, Finney, Gregg, Hill, Hamilton, Hiestand, Imbrie, Irish, Ketcham, Landon, Lawrence, McClure, Meredith, Penney, Robinson, Sorrell, Smith, Thompson, Wharton, Yardley and Palmer, Speakers—21—all Republicans.

So the question was determined in the negative.

A Good Resolution.—The following resolution was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives of this State, on Thursday last:

Resolved, That we fully approve the bold and patriotic act of Maj. Anderson in withdrawing from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, and the determination of the President to maintain that officer in his position; and that we will support the President in all constitutional measures to enforce the laws and preserve this glorious Union.

We wish the House had went a step farther, and endorsed the Crittenden Compromise, or something else of a similar kind looking to a peaceable solution of our National difficulties.

VIRGINIA AS A MEDIATOR.—We have seen nothing recently which more clearly indicates the position of the border States than the following resolution, passed unanimously by the Legislature of Virginia:

Resolved, That if all efforts to reconcile the unhappy differences between the two sections of the country shall prove abortive, then every consideration of honor and interest demands that Virginia shall unite her destinies with her sister slavholding States.

Thus, in a few direct words, Virginia notifies the Northern States that in case the differences now distracting the country are not reconciled, she will unite her destinies with the South. And her position is the position of all the border States. They are all for Union in a certain contingency, and against it in another.

MR. BIGLER'S PROPOSITION.

The bill of Senator Bigler, of our own State, providing for taking the sense of the people of the several States, on certain proposed amendments to the Constitution, offers a complete and perfectly just and equitable solution of the difficulties which are at present distracting the country.

Mr. Bigler proposes that on the 12th of February next an election of the people of the several States shall be held to decide upon proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The bill provides, in detail for the manner in which this proposed election should be conducted, and then gives the amendments to the Constitution, which are to be valid as part of the Constitution, when ratified by conventions in three-fourths of the States held for that purpose.

The amendments provide for a division of the territory now owned, or hereafter to be acquired by the United States, by an East and West line on parallel 36 degrees 30 minutes of North Latitude, involuntary servitude being prohibited North of this line, and recognized, sustained and protected by all departments of territorial governments South of this line, it being the duty of Congress to admit such territories as States into the Union, where they have the required population. Congress is to have no power to abolish slavery in territory under its exclusive jurisdiction, situated within the States, and it is made its duty to pay the owner the full value of the fugitive slave, when the recovery is prevented by intimidation or violence, or when rescued by force, the country where said violence may occur being responsible for the amount. Congress shall not prevent the transportation of slaves from one slave State to another, but the African Slave trade can never be revived except by the unanimous consent of both houses of Congress.

The President is to hold office for six years, and not to be eligible to a re-election.

Amendments to the Constitution to alter these provisions in regard to slavery are forbidden, except by the unanimous consent of all the States.

In many particulars, Mr. Bigler's proposition coincides with that of Mr. Crittenden. It takes the vexed question of slavery forever out of the power of Congress, and banishes it from the field of partisan politics. It gives the decision of the great question of the Union to the people themselves, to whom the Union belongs, and leaves them to say whether they wish it now to terminate, or to have its youth and strength renewed and the bonds which bind it together made indissoluble.

It is a proposition just to the North and South alike, and equitable in its provisions. The early day at which it proposes that the great question shall be submitted to the people, shows the imminence of the danger which threatens the Republic. The majority of the North, would prefer to see the present difficulty settled amicably, and settled quickly, and Mr. Bigler's bill affords a fair, a favorable and a statesmanlike way of doing it.

The bitterness of partisan politics, and the pride of personal opinion must be laid aside, and some fair and equitable compromise, like that proposed by the Senator from Pennsylvania adopted, or the country must suffer disasters as are most painful even to reflect upon. The people look to Congress at once to agree upon some measure to protect the nation from anarchy and civil war, and the Union from final dissolution. Mr. Bigler has presented such a measure, and the representatives of the people should obey their desire, and let the popular will decide upon it.

Who Wants Peace?

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE that the Republicans will not permit the people to vote on the only plan of agreement which has the least chance of success—the Plan of Mr. CRITTENDEN.

The Senator from Kentucky is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. He can, therefore, have no partisan or personal purpose to subvert in urging the adoption of his proposition. All the leading Democrats say they will support it. The Republicans are not asked to support it, if they don't like it,—but they are asked to transfer it from the politicians in Congress to the people themselves. The people could vote upon it,—"yes," or "no,"—in less than thirty days, and the decision, we have no doubt, would be in favor of Reconciliation and Union and Peace.

But, the CRITTENDEN plan has been defeated in the U. S. Senate. A few days since a direct vote was had, when the bill fell by the following vote. Let the public scan this vote, and then say who it is that shuts the door to compromise and peace, and hurries on the nation to civil war.

Mr. BIGLER asked for a vote on the CRITTENDEN resolutions, which was agreed to, and the resolutions negotiated—yeas 14, nays 31, as follows:

YEAS—14.
Bigler, Pa. Malloy, Fla.
Bragg, N. C. Pearce, Md.
Bright, Ind. Rice, Minn.
Crittenden, Ky. Saulsbury, Del.
Fitch, Ind. Slidell, La.
Hemphill, Texas. Thompson, N. J.
Latham, Cal. Wigfall, Texas.

NAYS—31.
Anthony, Republican, Rhode Island.
Baker, Republican, Oregon.
Bingham, Republican, Michigan.
Cameron, Republican, Pennsylvania.
Chandler, Republican, Michigan.
Clark, Republican, Vermont.
Collamer, Republican, Vermont.
Dixon, Republican, Connecticut.
Doolittle, Republican, Wisconsin.
Durkee, Republican, Wisconsin.
Fessenden, Republican, Maine.
Foster, Republican, Connecticut.
Grimes, Republican, Iowa.
Hale, Republican, New Hampshire.
Harlan, Republican, Iowa.
King, Republican, New York.
Sumner, Republican, Massachusetts.
Simmons, Republican, Rhode Island.
Ton Eyck, Republican, New Jersey.
Trumbull, Republican, Illinois.
Wade, Republican, Ohio.
Wilkinson, Republican, Minnesota.
Wilson, Republican, Massachusetts.

Evan CAMERON voted no, when he knows very well that the people of Pennsylvania, if allowed to vote at this day, would give a large majority in favor of Crittenden's proposition.

FURNACE "BLOW" OUT.—The Monitor Iron Works, the largest in Pennsylvania, except one, have been stopped, and about 1000 men have been thrown out of work in the depth of winter.

The Deings of Our Legislature.

The Republican Legislature of Pennsylvania is acquiring an unenviable distinction, and is, besides, greatly injuring the reputation of our State. Governor Banks of Massachusetts, Governor Morgan of New York, Governor Goodell of New Hampshire, Governor Washburne of Maine, and some other Republican Governors of Republican States, have recommended the repeal of the personal liberty bills passed by the Legislatures of their States, and have declared themselves in favor of proper conciliation and concession. Thurlow Weed has expressed the same sentiments. Various other Republicans, in and out of Congress, have taken the same ground—and to crown all, Governor Seward, the originator of Black Republicanism, and the Premier of the incoming Lincoln administration, has just for himself and doubtless for his chief, declared himself in the same manner.

But the Republican Legislatures of this State, whose members claim to be the conservatives, *par excellence*, of their party—who profess not to love the negro, and not to be identified with the Abolitionists, but to be part and parcel of that "conservative belt" so proudly disclaimed by Republican papers—this Legislature, either ignorant of the events occurring all around us, or seized with sudden insanity, has refused to contribute anything to the pacification of the country and to the settlement of the controversy which is now shaking this Union to its very foundations. On the 10th inst., one Mr. Gordon offered in the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That we affirm the doctrine of the Chicago platform as expressing the sentiments of a large majority of the people of Pennsylvania, and that we have no reason to ignore it. We do not believe that anything is to be done for our POLITICAL CONSCIENCE CONFESSION ON OUR PART."

Against this resolution not one single Republican voted. Immediately afterwards they rejected a resolution of Mr. Armstrong, which had a squinting towards an adjustment on the basis of the Missouri Compromise.

Several things are observable in this movement. The People's Party, up to the day of the Presidential election, repudiated the Republican party. They had a distinct organization of their own. They also made war upon the Chicago platform, because of its containing what has been christened "the Dutch plank"—to them an odious and offensive feature. They pretended to be free from all taint of Abolitionism, and to be especially pure and holy. Where are they now?

By voting for this resolution they have thrown off their disguise. They have put themselves alongside of the rankest Black Republicans, and merged themselves in the Anti-Slavery ranks. With the tune of "Dixey's Land" still sounding in their ears, they have gone "where the good niggers go."

These Solomons in the Pennsylvania Legislature have, in this brief sentence—"We do not believe that anything in our political conduct demands concession on our part"—insulted the many thousands of merchants, manufacturers, laboring men and other citizens who petitioned them, as they had the right to do, to remove offensive laws from the statute book of our State, and to meet the present crisis in a conciliatory spirit.

They have placed conservative Pennsylvania in the front rank of Anti-Slavery States, and made her stand in a threatening, offensive and hostile attitude towards the fifteen States of the South.

An Appeal to the People!

The following address to the people of the United States, originated with Senator Bigler and John Cochran, of New York, has been signed by Mr. Crittenden and many other members of Congress. The propositions are those introduced into the Senate by Mr. Crittenden. The object is to get the approval of the people in order that the proposed amendments may be passed by a vote of two-thirds as amendments to the constitution:

Your country is in imminent peril. The federal Union is in process of disruption. Without your aid Congress can do little to retard the impending calamity. The Senate Committee of Thirteen have reported their inability to agree upon any basis of adjustment between the North and South. The House Committee of Thirty-three have arrived at no satisfactory conclusion. Meanwhile, the work of dissolution is moving forward with frightful strides, and mutual exasperation and discord is inflaming the whole land. The remedy is in your hands. You have the power to arrest the movements which are certain to involve the whole nation in a deadly internecine country. The undersigned, representing all the sections of our common country, in view of these unhappy surroundings, have deemed it our duty to appeal directly to you. We have reason to believe that the following proposed amendments to the constitution, if passed by a two-thirds vote of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the States, would have the effect to allay promptly and permanently the sectional strife about slavery, and re-establish relations of peace and good-will between the States and the people. We therefore earnestly and urgently recommend that, with as little delay as possible, you express your judgment on the proposed amendments. You can best tell how this can be done, whether by public meetings, conventions of delegations, through the ballot box. If action can be had at all, to be effective it must come promptly, and in such form as to indicate unmistakably your will on the subject, so that your representatives in Congress may govern their actions accordingly. Meanwhile we shall endeavor to maintain the government and preserve the public peace.

CONTEMPIBLE CONDUCT.—SIRION CAMERON, who misrepresents the people of Pennsylvania in the U. S. Senate, is making himself contemptible before the country by his zig-zag course in regard to our difficulties. His anxiety to get in the cabinet has evidently affected his back-bone, if ever he had any.—"Occasional," the Washington correspondent of the Public Ledger, thus speaks of SIRION: "The conservative Senators who profess to be the friends of the Union, and who voted for Crittenden's proposition was lost on Wednesday, but when they found that the motion for reconsideration had prevailed without their consent, they changed their record. Is this the part of statesmen? Would Henry Clay have done so? Can there be any hope of salutary action here influencing the people of the country in the behalf of accommodation if such games are to be played?" None.

ARKANSAS.—The Arkansas Legislature has unanimously passed a bill submitting the question of a State Convention directly to the people, who are to vote on the 18th of February. If a majority is found to favor the calling of a Convention, the Governor is empowered to appoint a day for its meeting.

Republicans on the Right of Petition.

Some time since a petition was widely circulated in Philadelphia, and numerously signed by members of all political parties—Breckenridge and Douglas Democrats, Bell and Everett men, and in many instances by Republicans; all of whom, desiring that something should be done to arrest the ruinous and downward tendency of things, and to prevent civil war, and the destruction of the Union, solicited Congress to consider and adopt the Crittenden resolutions. This petition was sent to the Hon. Thomas B. Florence, member from the First Congressional District, who, in the discharge of his duty to the citizens of Philadelphia and to the country, embraced the very first opportunity to present the petition, to the House. We learn from the daily Globe, containing the proceedings of Friday last, the reception which the petition received at the hands of the Republican members of that body. We quote from the Globe:

Mr. Florence.—Before the House adjourns, I ask the privilege of presenting a memorial from citizens of Philadelphia, signed by men of all political parties—Democrats, Republicans, and Union men or national Americans. It is very numerous, signed, and I think it I do not care about having it printed, but will move that it be referred to the committee of thirty-three.

Mr. Burnett.—I object to the reference of anything to the committee of thirty-three.

Mr. Florence.—Then I trust it may be the consideration of this body. The petition is very short, and asks the consideration of the Crittenden resolutions. It is from men of all parties in the city of Philadelphia. As such, I present it and ask that the sacred right of petition may be at least accorded to my people.

The Speaker.—Objection is made to the reference of the petition to the committee of thirty-three.

Mr. Florence.—Then I ask that it may simply be read.

Mr. Sherman.—I object.

The Speaker.—Then it cannot be received.

Mr. Florence.—I desire that it may be printed.

Mr. Longnecker.—I call the gentleman to order.

Mr. Florence.—The situation in which the country finds itself at this time has prompted the citizens of Philadelphia to ask that their voice may be heard in the councils of the nation; and in fulfilling my duty to them to-day, I present this paper.

The Republican party, whenever Abolition petitions have been offered, no matter how outrageous their sentiments, or how absurd their requests, have been loud mouthed and bold in their advocacy of the sacred right of petition. But when a petition is presented, signed by the conservative men of the most conservative city of one of the most conservative States of the Union, having for its object the adoption by Congress of resolutions which would forever settle the agitating question of slavery, the "sacred right of petition" is no longer regarded by these Black Republican patriots. John Sherman, the endorser of Helper, objects, and Longnecker, who misrepresents the sentiment of his State, resorts to a parliamentary dodge to prevent its reception, and the Speaker sustains the objection.

In the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, also, the right of petition is denied. We quote from the Daily Legislative Record, of Friday:

Mr. Seltzer of the city, refused to present to the House petitions for the repeal of the objectionable sections of the Penal Code. He says a large majority of his constituents are opposed to it.

Thus it appears, the right of petition is to be denied the people, both at Washington and Harrisburg.

OUT!

Five States have now bolted from the Union, as follows:

South Carolina, Dec. 20/Florida, Jan. 10.
Mississippi, Jan. 9/Alabama, Jan. 11.
Georgia, Jan. 19.

The Senators and members of Congress from Florida, Alabama and Mississippi retired from the Capitol on Saturday.

THE FIRST DISUNION SPEECH IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.—The first disunion speech ever made in the United States Senate was made by Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, in regard to the Louisiana enabling act, on January the 14th, 1811. He said:

I am compelled to declare it as my deliberate opinion that if this bill passes, the bonds of this Union are virtually dissolved; that the States which compose it are free from their moral obligations; and that, as it will be the right of all, so it will be the duty of some, to prepare definitely for a separation—AMICABLY IF THEY CAN, VIOLENTLY IF THEY MUST."

This same Josiah Quincy is yet alive, and despite his advanced age, is one of the most radical and extreme Abolitionists in New England, and is for coercing those who are acting on the doctrine which he enunciated in his youthful manhood.

THE CRITTENDEN RESOLUTIONS.—A vote was taken on the Crittenden proposition of compromise, in the U. S. Senate, on Tuesday last, and it was defeated by a vote of 23 for, to 25 against—all the Republican Senators voting in the negative. A motion was afterwards made by Senator Cameron to reconsider the vote. This motion came up for consideration on Friday and was carried—all the Republican Senators, except Mr. Dixon, of Connecticut, voting against the reconsideration. Mr. Cameron first voted aye, but afterwards changed his vote to nay!

The further consideration of the resolutions was postponed until yesterday, when they would come up in the Senate; at the same time the compromise resolutions of the committee of Thirty-Three will come up in the House. The present week will, therefore, be a very important one in Congress, as well as to the country. We hope for the best.

The citizens of York, Pa., held a large and earnest meeting on Tuesday night of last week, for the purpose of expressing their devotion to the Union. Resolutions favoring the Crittenden compromise and the repeal of the Personal Liberty bills; pronouncing unjust and ill-advised the course of South Carolina, and declaring it the duty of the Federal Government to collect the revenues at Charleston, were unanimously adopted.

MISSOURI LEGISLATURE.—CONVENTION BILL PASSED.—The Convention bill passed the Senate on the 10th inst., by a vote of 32 yeas to 2 nays. The bill provides that the voters shall decide, at the time of the election of delegates, whether the secession ordinance, if passed, shall be submitted to the people for ratification. The election for delegates is to be held on the 18th of February, and the Convention will meet on the 28th.

PUBLIC MEETING IN DICKINSON TOWNSHIP.

A meeting of citizens of Dickinson township and vicinity was held at the Cumberland Hall, on the evening of the 17th inst. The meeting was organized as follows:

President—PHILIP SPANZER.
Vice Presidents—Peter Zinn, David Lefever, Wm. A. Coffey, Sam'l. Stuart, John Hollinger, Mathew Guibraith, David Coover, Abram Kurtz, Andrew Eckert, Joseph Solenberger, Wm. Galbraith, John Shuster, Eli Bushman, Sam'l. Harper, Jacob Bottem, Wm. McLaughlin.

Secretary.—Daniel Eitor, T. M. Galbraith, John C. Hutchinson, Geo. W. Martin, Wm. Sheaffer, John Homberger.

After being thus organized, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, we have been informed that an attempt will be made, by the Legislature of this State, to appropriate one million of dollars, for the purpose of organizing an army in Pennsylvania to make war with the Southern States; and whereas, we are in favor of peaceable measures, to settle our difficulties, with men that should be treated as brothers, if we wish to perpetrate the existence of the only free government on earth. Therefore

Resolved, That we are opposed to the appropriation of money for any such purpose, as might be the means of inaugurating civil war amongst ourselves.

Resolved, That we request our representatives at Harrisburg to carry into effect the recommendation of Governor Proctor in reference to our Anti-Fugitive slave laws.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the compromise measures offered in the U. S. Senate by Mr. Crittenden, with the amendment of Mr. Douglas, excluding negroes or mulattoes from the right of voting in all the states, and the proposition of Mr. Bigler, to forever prohibit the African slave trade.

Resolved, That the men of the North and South who oppose a settlement of our difficulties by compromise, are the true disunionists, and should be treated as enemies to the peace, and happiness, of the country.

Resolved, That these proceedings published in the Volunteer.

THE ISSUE.

What is to be Gained by War?—Senator Douglas, in a patriotic word for conciliation, uttered in a strong speech, by simply stating things precisely as they are, has presented the momentous issue fairly before the country.

Most forcibly does Senator Douglas say: "A war between eighteen States, on the one side, and fifteen seceding States on the other, is to me a revolting thing. For what purpose is the war? To destroy the people, whose passions are excited with the belief that you mean to invade their homes and light the flames of insurrection in their midst. You must expect to exterminate them, or subjugate them, or else, when you have got tired of war, to make a treaty of peace, and then, no matter whether the war lasts one year, or seven years, or thirty years, it must have an end at some time. Sooner or later both parties will become tired and exhausted, and when rendered incapable of fighting any longer, they will make a treaty of peace, and that treaty will be one of separation. The history of this world does not furnish an example of a war of sections, or between States of the same nation, where the war ends in a reconciliation. Such a war always ends in a treaty of peace, which is a final, eternal separation. I don't understand, then, how a man can claim to be friend of the Union, and yet be in favor of a war upon ten millions of people in the Union. You cannot cover it up by the feeling of being angry longer, but you must have a just cause for the war. Now, the question must be met and whatever concessions I am called upon to make, I choose to make voluntarily, before blood is shed, and not afterward. A man has more pride in fighting any longer, than humbles my pride to see the authority of the government questioned, but we are not the first nation whose pride has been humbled.—Republics, empires and kingdoms, alike in all ages, have been subject to being humbled. But where there is a deep-seated discontent pervading ten millions of people, penetrating every man, woman and child, and involving everything dear to them, it is time for inquiring whether there is not some cause for the feeling, and if so, what is the cause for it, in God's name let us remove it. Are we not criminal in the sight of Heaven and posterity, if we do not remove the just cause? If there is no cause, and yet they believe there is, so much the greater the necessity for removing the misconception."

The Recent Revolving Tragedy in Evansville—Fatal Affray Between Two Brothers.

The Evansville Journal of Wednesday gives the annexed account of the late shocking tragedy in that place:

Last night about midnight a tragedy was enacted in this city that probably was never equaled for deadly effects, ferocity and unnatural hate. We have time only for a hasty account of it.

A fierce feud has long existed between two brothers named J. and Paul Evans and Robert M. Evans, members of an old and well-known family of this city. Their grand-father laid out the town of Evansville. They have made several attempts heretofore on each other's lives.

Robert went to a ball at Mozart Hall yesterday evening with a lady. About midnight Paul came intoxicated. He walked up to his brother and asked him to drink with him, but he refused, whereupon Paul drew a knife, seeing which Robert drew a six-shooter. Robert drew a knife and put it between his teeth and commenced firing. Paul returned the fire, and each fired six shots, and then closed and used their knives. They were mortally wounded.

Paul started for the front door and went out in twenty minutes. He was shot in the upper part of the breast, and cut several times in the abdomen.

Robert, when Paul left the room, followed him as far as the inside door, where he fell, struck the wall, and skinned his face. He was carried to a temporary couch, but he also died. He was shot through the left lobe of the brain and in the right side beneath the ribs. They both seemed to die of inward bleeding.

During the encounter, a younger brother, Berry, and one in Congress, one of which it is said hit him. Solomon Gumbert, a son of Simon Gumbert, a bystander, was accidentally shot by one of the random balls in the right thigh, the bullet narrowly missing the femoral artery. His condition is serious.

Such a scene as was