

# AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.  
CARLISLE, PA., FEB. 14, 1861.

THANKS.—We are indebted to Senator Brierley, for Congressional documents. Also, to Messrs. Crawford, Lowther and Marshall, of the State Legislature, for continued favors.

MILITARY GENERAL.—A private named WEBSTER, died at the Carlisle Garrison, on Saturday, and was buried with military honors on Monday morning.

TROOPS FOR WASHINGTON.—On Thursday last fifty-five U. S. Dragoons, fully equipped, left the Carlisle Garrison for Washington, where they are now stationed.

POST OFFICE REGULATION.—We would again remind the public that postage must be fully prepaid by stamps on all letters or packages addressed to Governors, Heads of Departments, and members of the Legislature, of this and other States, in default of which they will be sent to the Dead Letter Office, Washington, D. C.

HORSE THIEF ARRESTED.—A young man named DAVID HOOVER, of Frankfort township, this county, was arrested at Hockersville, on Saturday last, on the charge of stealing a horse that belonged to JOSEPH CONNER, of the same township. When arrested, HOOVER was sleeping in a wagon-bed, and the horse he had stolen was tied to the fence. He was brought before Justice SMITH, in Carlisle, who committed him to jail to await his trial. The horse was identified as the property of Mr. CONNER, and was delivered up to him.

PADDY ON A SPEEL.—On Monday last, five Irishmen, (from Baltimore), who had been indulging very freely in tanglefoot whiskey, were arrested by the Chief Burgess, on the charge of disturbing the peace. They were hard looking specimens, out of work, and on the tramp. When they reached Carlisle, they replenished their bottles, and then (merely for a little fun, they said,) commenced war on all the colored men they could lay hands on.—Several rounds were fought, when the fun was stopped by the Burgess. Justice SMITH committed the offenders.

HOON WIND.—A sudden change in the weather took place on Thursday last, about noon, which was followed by the highest wind of the season. Ladies had to forego the pleasure of promading, and gentlemen were in many instances subjected to the mortifying alternative of giving chase to a fugitive tite, or pursuing their journey hated. If there ever was a wind that blowed nobody good, the wind of Thursday was one of that ilk.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY.—From the annual report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools we glean the following intelligence relative to the public schools of Cumberland county:

Whole number of schools,	194
Number yet required,	2
Average number of months taught,	6.31
Number of male teachers,	154
Number of female teachers,	43
Average salaries of male teachers,	\$37.41
Average salaries of female teachers,	\$20.62
Number of male scholars,	5,365
Number of female scholars,	4,801
Average number attending school,	4,531
Cost of teaching each scholar per month, (cts.),	71
Amount of tax laid for school purposes,	\$38,768.31
Amount received from State appropriation,	\$1,684.07
Cost of instruction,	\$30,084.24
Cost of fuel and contingencies,	\$1,847.59
Cost of school houses,	\$11,258.93
Salary of County Superintendent,	\$500.00

HENS KEEPING HOLIDAY.—A gentleman friend who keeps a large flock of laying hens, that generally yield him about a dozen of eggs each day, observed that he always failed to get his supply on Sunday. On this day he and his family were in the habit of attending church, and the chickens were entrusted to the care of a little darkey. Finally, he took little knob-head to task. "How come it," he asked the sable poultry-keeper, "that our chickens never lay on Sunday?" "Why," replied young hopeful, as his black eyes twinkled, "hens allers tink Sunday holiday—day neber layson Sunday!" Our friend said nothing, but something appeared to whisper in his ears that some of his colored neighbors were in the habit of eating eggs on Sunday.

IN TOWN.—Our former fellow-citizen, Tros. M. BIDDLE, of Philadelphia, paid our town a short visit the beginning of the week, and received a warm welcome from his numerous friends.

THE NEWS.—Very little news of an exciting character is now stirring. True, there are many telegraphic dispatches going the rounds, the majority of which, however, are wretched sensation canards, circulated to-day to be contradicted to-morrow. The peace convention at Washington, and the Southern convention at Montgomery, Ala., are both in session, but little, if anything has been done in either of them. When news of a reliable nature comes to hand we will lay it before our readers.

SEASON OF LENT.—The season of Lent commenced yesterday, Feb. 13, and will continue for forty days, the obligation of its observance resting upon all of the Roman Catholic faith who have reached the age of twenty-one years, unless specially dispensed. Archbishop Kendrick has issued the regulations to be observed, which require that but one meal per day shall be taken, Sundays excepted, and that at or about noon. A collation will be permitted in the evening, to consist of bread, butter, cheese, fruit, salad, vegetables and fish. The exemptions from these regulations are those under twenty-one years of age, the sick, nursing women, those who do hard labor, and those who through weakness cannot fast with out prejudice to their health. The occasion is one of much solemnity in the Catholic Church.

EASTER.—This annual festival occurs this year on the 13th or 14th day of March. Easter was celebrated by our pagan ancestors in April, as a festival in honor of Eostre, the Sax-a goddess of love, or Venus of the north. It is now observed by the Christian church as a festival in commemoration of our Saviour's resurrection, and answers to the Passover of the Hebrews.

Doubtful.—The weather.

Certain.—That this weather can't last much longer.

## THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The Peace Conference at Washington, on Wednesday, on the motion of ex-Secretary Guthrie, of Kentucky, appointed the following Committee, consisting of one from each State represented, with instructions to report some plan likely to lead to an adjustment:

Guthrie, Ky., Chairman; Fowler, New Hampshire; Hall, Vermont; Ames, Rhode Island; Baldwin, Connecticut; Vroom, New Jersey; White, Pennsylvania; Bates, Delaware; Johnson, Maryland; Seldon, Virginia; Ruffin, North Carolina; Ewing, Ohio; Smith, Indiana; Logan, Illinois; Hartin, Iowa.

Mr. Guthrie, in urging the appointment of the committee, made an able speech, in which he showed the great importance of a speedy settlement of the political differences now distracting the country. He had more at stake in this matter than any other section of the Union, and he called upon the convention to come forward, and in a proper spirit, laying aside all prejudice and bias, adjust the differences which had well nigh destroyed, and if not speedily remedied, would entirely destroy, our glorious Union.

Messrs. William C. Rives, of Virginia, Chase, of Ohio, Judge Ruffin, of North Carolina, B. C. Smith, of Indiana, and Tuck, of New Hampshire, also spoke in favor of an adjustment.

Reports from Washington yesterday say the Pennsylvania Commissioners have signified their willingness to accept the Crittenden proposition.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY RAIL-ROAD.—In the House of Representatives, a few days since, Mr. MARSHALL read in place "a further supplement to the act incorporating the Cumberland Valley Rail-Road," the first section of which reads as follows:

Sec. 1. That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful for said company to charge more than three cents per mile toll, and two cents per ton per mile for transportation, and not exceeding two and a half cents per mile for each passenger.

We hope this supplement may pass. The Cumberland Valley Rail-Road, having no competition, its charges for passengers and freight are exorbitant, and amount to an imposition, if not direct robbery. It receives for carrying the mail, too, four times as much as it should receive, thus imposing upon the Government. The dividends declared by this road for many years, in addition to the sinking fund that has accumulated, is evidence that its charges are entirely too high, and that it is making money too fast. The road is managed by a few men, who, by hook and by crook, and by special legislation, have managed to grab all its stock, and are thus enriching themselves at the expense of the agricultural interest of our Valley, the business men of our own town, and our people generally. We repeat, then, that this road should be compelled to reduce its charges about one half. Justice and fair dealing require this, and our people are all in favor of it. We hope Mr. MARSHALL'S bill may pass both Houses and become a law.—More anon.

GEN. SCOTT.—We notice that the fire-eating journals of the extreme South, continue to assail, with fiendish malignity, the old veteran Gen. Scott. We see too, that a number of Northern papers, of both parties, are publishing long articles in defence of the hero. All unnecessary.—Gen. Scott requires no defence. He is known to the people—they have heard of him before—have unlimited confidence in his patriotism, sagacity and bravery. They know too, that he is doing his duty now at Washington, and is determined to put down treason, come from what quarter it may. He has said that Mr. LINCOLN shall be inaugurated without molestation, and every good citizen applauds his course. No, no, Messrs. fire-eaters, your attacks upon the scarred veteran can avail nothing—they fall harmless at his feet, and are laughed at by the people. Let old "Lundy's Lano" alone—you gnaw a file.

REPEAL OF THE TONNAGE TAX.—We notice that a bill has been introduced in the lower House of our State Legislature providing for the repeal of the Tonnage Tax now paid to the State by the Pennsylvania Rail Road. This tax amounts to a quarter of a million per annum, and in ten years more would approximate a half million. This sum will be lost to the State should the bill now reported become a law. The Republicans have the matter in their own hands, and we will not be surprised if they repeal the tax. Nearly every member of that party pledged himself to oppose the repeal of this tax, but yet it is said the bill now reported will certainly pass. We will see.

RAILROAD BRIDGE DESTROYED.—During the high wind which prevailed on the 7th inst., six spans of the Northern Central Railroad bridge over the Susquehanna at Dauphin, were blown down. The bridge was an open one, and it seems almost a mystery how the wind could strike it with sufficient force to carry away the heavy timbers. The loss will be a serious one to the company, but it will not interfere with trade or travel, as the cars of the company can reach Dauphin by the Pennsylvania and Dauphin and Susquehanna tracks on the Harrisburg side of the river.

DEMOCRATIC TRIUMPH.—We have the pleasure of recording a brilliant victory achieved by the Democrats in Lanester on Tuesday of last week. Mayor SANDERSON was re-elected Mayor of the city by a majority of upwards of seven hundred votes, and the entire Democratic ticket is elected. It will be remembered that Mayor SANDERSON was elected by a very meagre majority last year, and that LINCOLN had a clear majority in the city last fall. The Opposition had this year nominated a full ticket, which they dubbed a union, headed by a Douglas Democrat named Wiley. A full vote was polled, and the Opposition did everything in their power to defeat Mr. SANDERSON. Truly may we chronicle this as one of the first fruits of "the second sober thought" of the people of Pennsylvania.

REMARKABLE CHANGE.—The weather, which was cold and blustering during the greater part of last week, suddenly changed, and the two last days, so far as temperature was concerned, was not much unlike spring days.

FLAG.—Our State Legislature has ordered a national flag to be placed on the dome of the capital. The clerks have ordered it and it is to be raised and unfurled on the 22d of February, the anniversary of Washington's birth day.

## PLUNDERING THE STATE.

Two grand schemes for plundering the State, on a large scale, have been concocted by speculators and borers at Harrisburg, and are expected to be carried through successfully, with the approbation of a Black Republican Legislature and a Governor of the same style.

One is, to authorize the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company to borrow five millions of dollars on a mortgage which shall come in first and take precedence of the lien held by the State, for the purchase money promised to be paid for the State canals sold to that company. This, if it becomes a law, will result in what was contemplated by the original contractors of the "Sunbury and Erie swindle" of '53,—paying nothing for the canals, and using the proceeds arising from their resale for the benefit of stock and railroad speculators.

The other is, to release, by law, and without consideration, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, from the payment of what is known as the tonnage tax—a tax which amounts, yearly, to about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars—equivalent to the annual interest of five millions of the State debt.

These, both, are matters which deeply interest the tax payers of all parts of Cumberland county and all other parts of the Commonwealth. Just look at them.

When the canals were sold to the Sunbury and Erie Company, it was sold to the people for the purpose of reconciling them to the sale, that the purchase money (three millions, five hundred thousand dollars,) would relieve the tax payers, by operating as a reduction of the State debt, to that amount.

So, also, when the Main Line was sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at a price much below its cost, the people were told that this tonnage tax would make up for that, and greatly relieve the tax payers.

Now, however, with a Black Republican Governor, and Black Republican Legislature, it is proposed to plunder the State of both the purchase money for the canals and the tonnage tax—the two equivalent to eight and a half millions of dollars! Tax payers of Pennsylvania, what say you?

## The Committee of Working Men.

The Philadelphia Working Men's Committee of thirty-three attracted much attention in Washington. The representatives of fifty thousand of their class, and bearing a demand for a peaceful settlement of our national troubles, they were entitled to all the respect they received. Their mission was a high and sacred one, and they performed it like men who appreciated their duties. The politicians who get their regular pay can afford to jest over our troubles, but the honest, hard working men, whose families have to be fed, and whose means of living are threatened, will not much longer tolerate the heartless selfish miscreants who continue their ruinous policy. The working men of the North have just made a beginning. Much remains to be done by them.

DESIGNS OF THE ULTRA REPUBLICANS.—The New York Herald's Washington correspondent says it is well known that there are a large number of Republicans in both Houses who are doing everything in their power to defeat a settlement of the questions at issue between the sections. They are fanning the secession flame by every means in their power, using every argument to exasperate the Southern people, and drive the slave States out of the Union. It is the action of these men that has prevented and still prevents the more moderate and conservative Republicans from coming forward with the olive branch of peace. These ultra Republicans are anxious, nay striving, to bring about a dissolution of the Union, and it is these bold, bad men who are exerting their baneful influence to prevent a settlement.

GEN. JACKSON ON COERCION.—ADVICE OF A PATRIOT.—General Jackson, in his farewell address to the American people, in March, 1837, thus alluded to coercion. He said: "If such a struggle is ever begun, and the citizens of one section are arrayed against another in doubtful conflict, let the battle rest as it may, there will be an end to the Union, and with it an end to the hopes of freedom. The victory of the victors would not secure to them the blessings of liberty. It would avenge their wrongs, but they would themselves share in the common ruin."

These words of the venerable patriot ought to be inscribed in letters of gold and everywhere distributed. A civil war is the end of the Union. Let no Republican, after this, presume to quote Andrew Jackson, in favor of coercion.

THE MORRILL TARIFF BILL.—The special committee of the Senate on Morrill's Tariff bill, have reported it with numerous amendments. Some vital changes have been made, which will not only delay the passage of the bill in the Senate, but will probably prevent its passage in the House. The rates in this bill have been reduced so as to conform more with the tariff of 1846, while a change has been made as to the time which goods may remain in the bonded warehouses.

SECESSION OF TEXAS.—The Texas convention passed a secession ordinance on the 1st inst., by a vote of 105 to 7. The ordinance is to be submitted to the people on the 22d inst., and, if ratified, to take effect on the 22d of March. Gov. Houston is reported to have recognized the convention. He thinks the people will decide to go with the South, if a confederacy is formed. Texas will resume that independence which came into the Union to maintain.

THE BLOODY CODE.—The special advocates of a bloody code to subdue the South richly amply the idea of a slave insurrection and a general massacre of the whites at the South. History furnishes a lesson which they seem to have forgotten. England attempted, during the Revolution, to do the same thing with the thirteen slave colonies, led by slaveholding generals, were not abandoned by "the God of battles" because of that fact.

The total number of hands employed in the English cotton factories in 1856 was 370,100; the estimated number of persons indirectly dependent in cotton manufactures is 1,000,000. England obtained from other countries than the United States 860,000 bales of cotton.

## LET THE PEOPLE RISE!

We have received a pamphlet (who sent it we know not,) containing a review of our troubles, as expressed by a Southern Unionist. It gives many of the "causes" of our present domestic difficulties, and makes a strong appeal for the preservation of the Union. We copy the concluding portion of this pamphlet, as follows:

"We are now in the midst of a fearful storm, which is shaking our Government to its foundations. Our politicians have been weighed in the scale and found wanting." While the fair, beautiful form of our Union lies quivering in the agonies of approaching death, the masters, the foreign people, who make and unmake politicians by a breath. If our legislators will insist upon gagging the popular voice by refusing to authorize the call of a constitutional convention—why, rather than permit ourselves to drift into the horrible maelstrom of civil war, let the people of every State rise, with proper dignity and calm deliberation—resume their original sovereignty—elect a national convention, to consist of one member from each congressional district, and let this convention submit their plan of compromise to the popular vote. If the people themselves cannot agree upon a settlement, then let us endeavor to effect a peaceable separation between the North and South—based essentially upon the old common-law principle of joint stock partnership. Let all federal property revert to the States, and let the American people, from this time forward, be put up at auction to the highest bidder, and the proceeds equally divided between the two confederacies.

All public debts, or other obligations, might be equally apportioned. As the District of Columbia would revert to Maryland and Virginia, the federal property of the capital might be appraised by a joint commission for full title and possession.

Should all efforts for compromise or a peaceable separation fail—if war must come, let us for the honor of our fathers, and of our proud name among nations, God forbid that the American people should permit themselves to be dragged into any movement against their sovereign will, or become mere political flunkies, to follow in the wake of mad fanaticism, mob violence, or ambitious demagoguery!"

A DIRECT VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.—It is said that if the Convention now sitting at Washington, to arrange some plan of adjustment between the border States, looking to the reunion of all the States, do not agree upon some feasible plan, that they will propose to submit the propositions of the Conference directly to a vote of the people. We believe that if the people had an opportunity to settle these troubles, they would do it speedily and satisfactorily. The difficulty is to get the matter before them. The mere recommendation of the Conference at Washington would not be sufficient. The State Legislature would have to provide for holding such an election, give authority to the election officers, and make an appropriation to defray the expenses of the election. Some of the State Legislatures would probably not do so. Would our own? We cannot pretend to say what it would do in such an event, but we believe that if it could do the public will and the public good, that it would provide the means for a popular expression of opinion upon the issues now involved in the present crisis. There is not the least doubt in our mind what the result would be. The ballot-box would decide that the people of this country are in favor of the Union, and of such guarantees as will secure peace in the Union, and consequently the continued prosperity of the country. But however they might decide, the question properly belongs to them, and not to the representatives of parties or of sections. Practically the people seem to be of no account with the politicians. They are set entirely aside in the South by the leaders who have initiated secession; and in the North the dominant party seems to take the last election as conclusive of public opinion upon national issues. But if the Government is going to pieces through the bad management of partisan politicians, whom the people have trusted with its power, the least the politicians can do is to give the people an opportunity to save it. So says the Public Ledger.

When this country was at war with Mexico, the same Republicans who are now so ferocious for a fight with the South, approved of Corwin's plan of the Mexicans welcoming the American soldiers with "bloody hands to hospitable graves," and voting to stop the supplies. That was the kind of patriotism they exhibited in those days; but now, when it comes to shooting down their own brothers, they are eager for the fray.

THE AMOUNT OF TOBACCO ON THE GLOBE.—The present annual production of tobacco, has been estimated, by an English writer at 4,000,000 pounds! This is smoked, chewed and snuffed. Suppose it be made into cigars, 100 to the pound, it would produce 4,000,000,000. Four hundred billion cigars. Allowing this tobacco, unmanufactured, to cost on the average 10 cents a pound, and we have \$400,000,000 expended every year in producing a noxious, deleterious weed. At least one and a half times as much more is required to manufacture it into a marketable form and to dispose of it to the customer.

The Sunbury American says, that should the proposition of Senator Bigler, to take a vote of the people on Mr. Crittenden's proposed amendments to the Constitution, be adopted, there can be no doubt that they would be sustained by Pennsylvania, by a majority of not less than TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND. In this Congressional district, nine tenths of the votes would be in their favor.

The first piece of Continental money coined by the United States of America had as a motto, "Mind your own business." Had the North lived up to this motto, says the New Orleans Commercial Bulletin, we should now be a happy, prosperous and united people.

The New York Tribune reads Senator Cameron, of this State, out of the Republican party, because he has expressed himself in favor of Senator Bigler's proposition to submit the Crittenden Amendment to the direct vote of the people of the States. The Tribune wants to break up the Union, and is opposed to any compromise.

## Meeting of the Standing Committee.

In compliance with the published call, the Democratic Standing Committee of Cumberland county assembled at Martin's hotel, on Monday last, February 11—fourteen members being present.

After being called to order by the chairman, J. B. Bratton offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the Delegates to the last Democratic County Convention be requested to re-assemble at the Court-house, in Carlisle, on Monday, the 18th inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of selecting Delegates to represent Cumberland county in the Democratic State Convention, to meet at Harrisburg, on the 1st day of February, 1861.

After a short discussion, a vote was taken on the resolution, and it was defeated—yeas 7, nays 7.

A motion was then made and adopted (yeas 10, nays 4,) that the Committee select the Delegates to represent this county in the Harrisburg Convention. The following named gentlemen were then selected by a unanimous vote:

Non-Partisan Delegate—WILLIAM BARR, Esq. Representative Delegates—WILLIAM H. MILLER, Esq., GEORGE H. BOCHNER, and JAMES K. KETSO.

Resolved, That the above proceedings be published. A. DEHUFF, Chairman. J. B. BRATTON, Secretary.

For the Volunteer.

Mr. Editor.—The following extract, taken from a respectable work on the subject of Slavery, is here addressed to abolition preachers and their pious converts:

"It is regarded with admiration, that it is so, with wonder, the sublime morality of those who cannot bear the abstract contemplation of slavery, at the distance of five hundred or a thousand miles off. It is entirely above, or that it is so, it affects a vast superiority, over the morality of the primitive Christians, the Apostles of Christ, and Christ himself. Christ and his Apostles appeared in a province of the Roman empire, when that world was filled with slaves. Forty millions was the estimated number, being one-fourth of the whole population. Single individuals held twenty thousand slaves. A freed man, who was a slave, had a slave, and a young man an infant at the breast. On the 24th of December his wife died suddenly, her existence being terminated with convulsions. She was buried the next day, and on the 28th, three days after the funeral, Weaver removed from the world. The child, who she had just born, has forgotten, disappeared about the same time, and suspicion of some foul play was first excited by the recollection of a remark made by this girl, two days before Mrs. Weaver's death, to the effect that she was 'very low.' It struck the mind of the man, who was so enjoying perfect health; but facts have since been developing pointing to the conclusion that the woman died of poison, purchased and administered by her husband, and Sheriff Miller at once set about the work of tracing the guilty party, which he has managed with commendable discretion and energy."

Supposing that the girl's sister was corresponding with her movements were observed, and she was seen to receive a letter, upon which she remarked "Black Horse," Chester county, being questioned in regard to this, she said it was from her sister, who was married to Weaver, who she wrote, treated her well, &c. &c. As a witness in a warrant for her brother, Sheriff Miller, in company with his brother, Samuel G. Miller, of Marietta, reached this city on Tuesday evening, and stopped over night at the Corn Exchange Hotel. Yesterday they proceeded to Christiansburg, and from thence to a tavern, where the sheriff, Weaver, was. As soon as he saw the sheriff, Weaver expressed surprise at seeing him in that section, and asked what brought him down there. The sheriff replied that he had got himself in a scrape by running off with the girl. Weaver replied that she followed him, and he married her. To make a long story short, Sheriff Miller told him he had a warrant for his arrest on a charge of murdering his wife, at which the accused showed great indignation. The arrest was, however, made so quietly, that no one at the vendue knew the cause of Weaver's leaving in company with the strangers. He was brought to this city in the evening train, lodged in prison for a few hours, and taken up in the night time, without attracting the notice of any one.

On Tuesday the remains of Mrs. Weaver were exhumed, and the stomach sent to Philadelphia to be analyzed. We understand that it will be shown that Weaver poisoned his wife a short time previous to his wife's death, for the ostensible purpose of poisoning her, but that it was not used for that object. It also appears that the eldest daughter had expressed to a friend her suspicions that her mother had been foully dealt with.

Weaver, a machinist by occupation, was originally from Maryland, and settled in Chester county, near the Gap, where one Thomas or Thompson married his sister. It is alleged that he was connected in some way with the famous gang of Gap outlaws. Weaver himself had been married to the deceased about nineteen years ago, and resided most of that time in Perry county.

We take pleasure in closing a detail of the facts of what appears to be a revolting crime, in bearing testimony to the fact that Sheriff Miller managed this case, from his first efforts to trace out the facts to his successful and quiet arrest of the accused. He did not even apply a handcuff to his prisoner until last night, when taking him from the prison to the train, and he had not doubt before this landed him safely in the Perry county prison.

## FURIOUS WIND STORM.

A Notable Gale—Saw at Albany—Great Damage at Blincoe—Telegraph Lines Prostrated.

New York, February 8, 1861.

One of the most furious gales that have visited this region for many months past commenced in this city yesterday. Simultaneously with the commencement of the gale, the mercury suddenly fell several degrees, and the weather continued to grow colder as the gale increased. We have heard of no serious damage being done by the wind, it is scarcely possible that the shipping in the harbor and on the coast should have escaped unharmed.

ROCHESTER, Thursday, Feb. 7.—It commenced snowing here yesterday afternoon, and continued through the night and all day with a high wind. The trains and other travel were all behind time. Thermometer at zero.

OWSON, Thursday, Feb. 7.—A terrific gale from the northeast, accompanied by a drifting snow storm and intense cold, prevails all along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. The thermometer is lower than that of a winter—degrees below zero. At Watertown it is 10 below, and at Ogdensburg 16.

ALBANY, Thursday, Feb. 7.—10 P. M.—A blinding snow storm prevails here, and the wind is blowing a hurricane.

BUFFALO, Thursday, Feb. 7.—A severe snow storm, accompanied with a high wind from the northeast, has prevailed here all day. The thermometer was below zero six o'clock to-night.

BALTIMORE, Thursday, Feb. 7.—A terrific northwest gale has prevailed here since one o'clock, doing considerable damage. Some thirty houses have been unroofed, walls and chimneys demolished and trees uprooted. The tide lowered three feet in the harbor under the influence of the wind. The telegraph lines in this neighborhood are considerably damaged.

## From Washington.

The Alabama Commission—The Peace Congress Compromised.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Col. Judge has had an interview with the President, who received him as a distinguished citizen of Alabama; but not, of course, recognizing him in an official capacity, nor would the President agree to enter into any discussion whatever relative to the object of his mission, namely, to negotiate for the transfer of the arsenals and other public property belonging to the United States, within the limits of Alabama.

The Committee appointed by the Peace Congress will probably make their report on Tuesday. Various plans are before them. From what has privately transpired, the Border States' resolutions met with much favor, and it is the general impression that Congress will adopt some such measure of compromise, including the division of the Territories by the line of 36° 30'; north of it slavery to be prohibited, and south of the line neither Congressional nor Territorial interference with the subject, which is to be left for the determination of the people when they form their State governments. The acquisition of future territory is not so easily consummated as heretofore.

Some of the members of the Montgomery Convention have just advised their secession friends that Commissioners or Ministers have been appointed to represent the interests of the Southern Confederacy in Europe.

The late sister States—who are now with us in interest, feeling, and institution, a cordial invitation to unite with us in a common destiny, desirous at the same time, of maintaining the rest of our late confederates, as well as the world, in the most peaceful and friendly relations, both political and commercial. Our responsibilities, gentlemen, are great, and I doubt not we shall prove equal to the occasion. Let us assume all the responsibility which may be necessary for the successful completion of the great work committed to our trust, placing in the hands of our countrymen and the world our acts and their results, as the justification of the course which we may pursue and adopt. With a consciousness of the justice of our cause and with a confidence in the guidance and blessings of a kind Providence, we will do our duty for the South a new era of peace, security, and prosperity. [Applause.]

The convention was then duly organized. The Congress last night, in secret session, unanimously agreed on the Constitution and the creation of a Provisional Government. A strong and vigorous government will go into immediate operation, with full powers and ample funds. No proposition for compromise or reconciliation will be entertained. The Congress will remain in session to make all the necessary laws.

To-day a committee was appointed to report on the flag, seal of arms, and motto for the Confederacy.

The President was directed to appoint a committee on Foreign affairs, on Finance, on Military and Naval Affairs, on Postal Affairs, on Commerce and on Patents.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of the Executive officers of the new Government, with the following result: For President of the Confederate States of North America, Hon. Jefferson Davis received the unanimous vote of the Convention. For Vice President, Hon. Alexander H. Stephens was elected.

A resolution was adopted appointing a committee of three of the Alabama deputies to inquire and report on what terms suitable, buildings in Montgomery can be secured for the use of the several executive departments of the Confederacy under the Provisional Government.

An ordinance was passed continuing in force, until repealed or altered by Congress, all laws of the United States now in force or use, till the first of November, subject to the Constitution of the Provisional Government. It is declared that under this law a tariff is to be laid on all goods brought from the United States.

A resolution was adopted, instructing the Committee on Finance to report on the expediency of raising revenue to support the Government.

An ordinance was passed continuing in force, until repealed or altered by Congress, all laws of the United States now in force or use, till the first of November, subject to the Constitution of the Provisional Government. It is declared that under this law a tariff is to be laid on all goods brought from the United States.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of a committee to report on the expediency for the permanent government of the Confederacy.

The Congress was about two hours in secret session, and the rest of day in open session.

The Constitution of the Provisional Government has been printed, and is now made public.

The preamble says: "We, the deputies of the Sovereign and Independent States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, invoking the favor of Almighty God, do hereby, in behalf of these States, ordain and establish this Constitution for the Provisional Government of the same, to continue for one year from the inauguration of the President, or until a permanent Constitution or Confederation between said States shall be put in operation—whichsoever shall first occur."

The seventh section of the first article reads: "The importation of African negroes from any foreign country, other than the slaveholding States, is hereby forbidden, and Congress is required to pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the same."

The second section reads: "The Congress shall, also, have power to prohibit the importation of slaves from any State not a member of this Confederacy."

Article fourth, third clause of the second section, reads: "A slave in one State escaping to another shall be delivered up, on the claim of the party to whom the said slave may belong, by the Executive authority of the State in which such slave may be found; and in case of any abduction or forcible rescue of the slave, and of any attempt to abduct the slave, and of the party by the State in which such abduction or rescue shall take place."

Article sixth, second clause, reads: "The Government hereby instituted shall take immediate steps for the payment of the debts of the late Confederate States, in relation to the public property and the public debt; at the time of their withdrawal from their wile and earnest desire to adjust everything to the common property, the common liability and the common obligations of that Union upon the principles of right, justice, equality and good faith."

The other portions of this Provisional Constitution are almost identical with the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Stephens made an eloquent speech in return for a serenade. Speeches were also made by Messrs. Chesnut and Kist, of South Carolina; Conrad, of Louisiana; and Fred C. Johnson, of Alabama. A grand ball was given at the Capitol Hill this morning.

EX-GOVERNOR ROBERT P. LETCHER, of Kentucky, died at his residence, in Frankfort, on the 24th ult. He was elected to Congress from Kentucky in 1823, and served during successive terms till 1838. In 1843 he was elected Governor of his State, and in 1849 was appointed Minister to Mexico, by President Fillmore. In politics Gov. Letcher was a Clay Whig.

## The Seceders' Congress.

A Provisional Government Established—Hon. Jeff. Davis Elected President—Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, Vice President.

Montgomery, Feb. 9.—The Congress of seceding States has been in session four days. Howell Cobb of Georgia, was appointed its President.

Mr. Cobb, on taking the chair, addressed the convention as follows:

Accept gentlemen of the Convention, my sincere thanks for the honor which you have conferred on me. I shall endeavor, by a faithful and impartial discharge of the duties of the chair, merit, in some degree at least, the confidence which you have reposed in me. The occasion which assembles us together is one of no ordinary character. We meet as the representatives of sovereign independent States, who, by their solemn judgment, have dissolved all political associations which connected them with the government of the United States. Of the causes which led to this decision it is unnecessary now to speak. It is enough to announce that by the judgment of our constituents, they have been made people and nations, with a fixed, irrevocable fact—the separation is perfect, complete and perpetual. [Applause.]

The great duty is now imposed upon us to provide for these States a Government for their future security and protection. We can and should extend to our sister States—our late sister States—who are now with us in interest, feeling, and institution, a cordial invitation to unite with us in a common destiny, desirous at the same time, of maintaining the rest of our late confederates, as well as the world, in the most peaceful and friendly relations, both political and commercial. Our responsibilities, gentlemen, are great, and I doubt not we shall prove equal to the occasion. Let us assume all the responsibility which may be necessary for the successful completion of the great work committed to our trust, placing in the hands of our countrymen and the world our acts and their results, as the justification of the course which we may pursue and adopt. With a consciousness of the justice of our cause and with a confidence in the guidance and blessings of a kind Providence, we will do our duty for the South a new era of peace, security, and prosperity. [Applause.]

The convention was then duly organized. The Congress last night, in secret session, unanimously agreed on the Constitution and the creation of a Provisional Government. A strong and vigorous government will go into immediate operation, with full powers and ample funds. No proposition for compromise or reconciliation will be entertained. The Congress will remain in session to make all the necessary laws.

To-day a committee was appointed to report on the flag, seal of arms, and motto for the Confederacy.

The President was directed to appoint a committee on Foreign affairs, on Finance, on Military and Naval Affairs, on Postal