

I do not mean to say that he was a suit-
able man to be a bishop. I think he was
not. But it was not because of any thing
really unbecoming about the general man that
he was excluded. The people who excluded
him did not hesitate to appoint men obnoxious
to more serious charges than Sydney
Smith. But, then, whatever these men
were or were not, they were all dull. They
wrote much, some of them; but nobody ever
read what they wrote. But Sydney Smith
was interesting. You could read his writings
with pleasure. He was unquestionably
a reverse of dull, and therefore cer-
tainly the reverse of dignified. Through-
out his latter life the same suspicion
was, with millions of suffering folk, thrown
upon a shadow on Lord Brougham. He was too
lively. What he wrote was too interesting.
Solid old gentlemen feared for his good sense.
They thought they never could be sure what
he would do next. Even Lord St. Leonards
first standing with many when he published
his *Handy Book on Property Law*. A lord-
chancellor writing a book sold at railway-
stations, and read (with interest too) in rail-
way-carriages! But it was quite becoming
in the great man to produce that elaborate
and authoritative work on *Feudals and Per-
petuities*, of which I have often beheld the
outside, but never the inside. And where-
fore did the book bespeak a chancellor?
Wherefore but because the ordinary reader
it was heavy as lead? Have not you, my
reader, often heard like criticism of Lord
Campbell's interesting volumes of the biog-
raphy of his predecessors? "Very interest-
ing; very well written; much curious infor-
mation; but not quite the thing for the first
man on the judicial bench of Britain to
write." Now upon what is this criticism
founded, but upon the grand principle that
livelihood and interest do not become the
compositions of a man in important office; in
brief, that that is not dignified which is not
dull.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

The Columbia Spy.

COLUMBIA, PA.
SATURDAY, JAN. 26 1861.

SEE NEW ADVERTISEMENTS OF A. M.
RAMBO, Odd Fellows' Hall, IN TODAY'S
PAPER.
See *Frederick & Post's* advertisement in
today's paper. *Theirs is the largest Wholesale
and Retail Tobacco, Sugar and Soap Manufactory
in the State.*

Back Numbers Wanted.
We want copies of the *Spy* of Nov. 5th
and Dec. 3rd, 1859, to complete a file of that
year. Any one having these old numbers
will confer a favor by leaving them at this
office.

Senator Hiestand will please accept
our thanks for a copy of the Report of the
State Treasurer.

NOTE.—There will be preaching in the
Odd Fellows' Hall, by the Baptist Minister,
on Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock A. M.;
also, at 6 P. M. The Rev. A. J. Kirkpatrick
and Rev. G. W. Scott are expected to be
present. The public are charitably in-
vited to attend.

GEN. TOM THOMAS.—Our readers will not
neglect the opportunity of seeing the
General, this and Monday afternoons and
evenings. The two days will be all the
distinguished visitor can spend in Columbia,
and his leaves should be crowded. He is
one of the greatest of living warriors, and
about the only one that does not inspire as
much disgust as astonishment. The gen-
eral's exhibitions are always interesting.

THE WATKINS.—In continuing our meteor-
ological observations we have to state that
since our last issue, until Thursday morning
the weather has been delightfully agreeable.
The greatest degree of cold during the past
week was 17° above zero, or 15° below the
freezing point, where the mercury stood
hovering for only a part of two days. Sat-
urday was like a day in Spring, the ther-
mometer about midday, showing 55° in the
shade. On Thursday we had a regular
storm of rain and sleet which, freezing as
it fell, rendered walking on our pavements
somewhat precarious; but, from past expe-
rience, we are hopeful for the future, and
are perfectly willing to taste the snow occa-
sionally, so that we may fully appreciate the
sweet. During the past week the thermo-
meter stood thus:—Saturday 19th, 28°
above zero, Sunday, 20°, Monday, 27°, Tuesday,
17°, Wednesday, 17°, Thursday, 27°, and
Friday, 32°.

COLUMBIA AND MARYLAND LINE RAILROAD
—The annual election for President and
Directors of the Columbia and Maryland
Line Railroad was held at Cooper's Red
Lion Hotel in Lancaster, on the 14th inst.,
and the following gentlemen elected officers
for the ensuing year: President—Jeremiah
H. Hines, Directors—Gen. Bartram A.
Shaeffer, J. B. Shuman, John A. Shear, C.
S. Kaufman, John C. Walton, James M.
Sparrow, John Long, Jeremiah Brown, Jo-
seph Ballance, Wyatt W. Miller and Thom-
as H. Neel, of Lancaster county, and Col.
J. J. Heckart, of Port Deposit, Md.

AT A meeting of the Board, immediately
after the election, Joseph Ballance was re-
elected Treasurer, and Jeremiah Brown,
Secretary.

THIRD HOPE LODGE EVENING.—The Lec-
ture of this week, by Mr. Esrick, occur-
ing on Friday evening we are unable to
report it in this week's *Spy*. We hope
interest will be shown in these
lectures by our citizens generally. As a
relief from the monotony of our winter,
for no better reason, they should command
general attendance. But when we consider
the standing of the lecturers and the char-
acter of their respective addresses—our best
talent and eloquent, interesting and
instructive discourses it becomes a duty
to encourage the "Evenings." We know that
men of speakers have been secured for the
winter course, and we earnestly urge a more
spirited turn out on the part of our people
hereafter.

THE "PROCKENOE CONCERT."—The enter-
tainment for the benefit of the poor, adver-
tised under the above head came off on last
Friday evening, to the mingled satisfaction
and disgust of the participants. Of course,
in spite of the deceptive title, everybody
knew the affair was nothing more nor less
than a *ball*, and we hereby declare that we
strenuously advocated the advertising of the
entertainment under that unambiguous
name, being in no wise ashamed of partici-
pating in the "mazy" when so disposed,
but many purchased tickets with the under-
standing that pretensions to the commencement
of the horrid, wicked salutation a modicum
of unworshipful music should be served out
by Kiefer's delightful orchestra, for the enter-
tainment of the anti- (and ante) dancers.—
This was the programme settled by the
managers. Bidding was not to commence
before ten o'clock. We had our old clothes
furnished up in honor of the occasion and
repaired to the Hall about nine of the clock,
anticipating some pleasant, innocent music.
Who can describe our outraged feelings on
finding the floor in possession of revellers,
and one of the sinful hugging dances in full
swing. The promenaders had departed blas-
pheming, and the Terpsichoreans had an
unlimited swing. They were swinging with-
out stint. How it has pained is more than
we can tell. Whether there was a revolt of
the dancers, or whether the susceptible organ
of the Master of Ceremonies was not proof
against the combined entreaties of the im-
patient fair, or whether that elastic youth
could not wait himself, is not now to be dis-
covered. It is sufficient to know the outrage
was perpetrated. We have sympathy with
our fellow sufferers, and for their satisfaction
can only record all the satisfaction we re-
ceived on remonstrating with the authorities:
"Shut up, take your partner for the next
cotillon." We felt snubbed, but took our
partner nevertheless. Somehow or other
our indignation oozed out during the ensuing
severe course of exercise we were put
through, and we forgive the culpable par-
ties, wherever they may be. We advise all
others to dispart from the same. Their
money went for a good cause, that's some-
thing.

The pecuniary success of the "Concert"
(oh!) was good, considering the times.—
Seventy-five dollars will do something to-
wards the relief of our poor.

ICE.—Our river has yielded her usual
winter crop of clear, pure ice, to all who
chase to harvest. The Columbia Ice Com-
pany is the heaviest reaper and garnerer.—
The large houses of the Company have been
filled to overflowing with the most solid and
beautiful ice, and our town will therefore
be certain of a full and cheap supply of
this luxurious necessary or necessary luxury
whenever you choose. The stock laid in is
large enough to supply Columbia and Lan-
caster. The heavy stock of last year was
readily disposed of, here and abroad, and
we have no doubt of the sale next season
every pound now under cover. Our ice busi-
ness is a decided success.

INCENDIARISM IN MOUNTVILLE.—WINTER'S
STORE AGAIN FIRED.—Our readers will re-
collect that on the 9th inst, the store of E.
H. Wimer, at Mountville, was burglariously
entered, and between two and three hun-
dred dollars' worth of goods carried off, and
a large quantity of goods were destroyed or
damaged. This morning, about 4 o'clock,
the store was again fired, and the entire
stock of groceries was destroyed, while the
dry goods were more or less damaged by
the fire and smoke. The timely discovery
of the fire, and the promptness of the citi-
zens, saved the building and contents from
complete destruction.

This is the third time that this place has
been fired. In March, 1858, the store was
set on fire and its entire contents destroyed,
the loss amounting to over \$5,600. We
hope the miscreants, who have thus far
been so signally successful in their efforts,
will be apprehended and receive the just
deserts.—*Express, 18th inst.*

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—Harper for Febru-
ary opens with the concluding chapters of
Ross Browne's very amusing sketch of
"Washoe," profusely illustrated. "To Red
River and Beyond" is another illustrated
article, and yet another is devoted to the
peculiarities of "Spiders." The tales of
the number are not quite so good as usual,
but the opening chapters of Thackeray's
new serial, "Philip," more than compensate.
The promise of the new story is first rate.
Captious critics snarl at Mr. Thackeray's
re-introduction of his old characters. To us
this is one of the most attractive peculiari-
ties of the greatest of all the great English
writers of fiction. Our old friends are not
made to play principal parts in his new
creation, but are pleasantly referred to,
or incidentally introduced, as here we find
"Pendennis," and "the Major," and a few
more.

FRANK LESLIE'S MONTHLY.—The Febru-
ary number of this lively magazine is as
brilliant as usual. We get in it some of the
very best short tales published. The pres-
ent number gives the conclusion of a deli-
cious piece of satire, "Diorcece a Vinculo,"
illustrated to the life by John Leach. This
runs through three numbers, and has enough
fun in it to repay a year's subscription.—
The fashion department, supplementary, is
complete and handsomely gotten up, and re-
commends itself strongly to the ladies.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The February
number of the "Atlantic" is one of its thor-
oughly readable numbers. It is good from
the opening article to the closing review, com-
prising as it does contributions from such
writers as John G. Whittier, Jas. Russell
Lloyd, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Harriet
Martineau, Miss Prescott, E. P. Whipple,
Paul Aker, and others. The corps of Atlan-
tic writers is equal to that of any other
magazine published, and of course its
contents are of the very highest literary
character.

The mother of Achilles showed her
maternal regard for him by taking him out
at a very early age and applying the Styx
to him.

DEACON'S VARIETIES.—This is a neat
monthly issued in Philadelphia, varied in
content, as its name indicates, and full of
entertainment. It is furnished at the ridi-
culously low rate of fifty cents a year.—
Each subscriber also receives a dozen of
"Deacon's Golden Pens." We have tried a
sample of these pens (good metallic pens
coated with gold to prevent corrosion) for-
warded us, and pronounce them a capital
article. Either the paper or the pens are
amply worth the subscription.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.—COLUMBIA,
Jan. 18, 1861.—Council met: Mr. Welsh
was called to the chair, after which the new
members were sworn in.
On motion, Council went into the nomi-
nation and election for officers for the ensu-
ing year, with the following result:
President—Thomas Welsh.
Clerk—Wm. F. Lloyd.
Superintendent—D. S. Chalfant.
Market Clerk—Samuel Waites.
Lamp Lighter—C. A. Hook.
Street Regulator—Wesley Upp.

A petition was read from Messrs. Shrei-
ner and North, asking permission to build
a frame stable on their vacant lot on Com-
merce street, nearly opposite the stable of
Mrs. Millison.
Mr. Hershey moved that it be referred to
a Special Committee of five, to report at a
special meeting to be held on tomorrow
evening, the 19th inst., which was agreed to,
and the President appointed Messrs. Ap-
poll, Bruner, Eberlein, McChesney, and
Shuman said committee.

On motion of Mr. Hershey, the rules
passed for the government of Council last
year were adopted for this year.
Mr. Hershey moved that the salary of the
Clerk be \$50 for the ensuing year.
Mr. Bruner moved to amend by striking
out \$50 and inserting \$40, upon which the
yeas and nays were demanded, and agreed
to, as follows:
Yeas, Messrs. Bruner, Hippey, McChes-
ney, Apoll and Shuman, 5.
Nays, Messrs. Breneman, Hershey, and
Eberlein, 3.

On motion, the salaries of the other offi-
cers were fixed the same as last year, as
follows: Clerk of Market, \$25; High Con-
stable, \$25; Lamp Lighter, \$50; Super-
visor, \$1.25 for all days employed; Lubricator
10 cents per hour, and High Constable, for
locking up and feeding prisoners, 20 cents
each.

Mr. Bruner moved that Wm. Cowden be
exonerated from the payment of the claim
against him for damages sustained by the
breaking of a lamp post. Disagreed to by
the following vote:
Yeas—None.
Nays—Messrs. Bruner, Breneman, Her-
shey, Hippey, Eberlein, Shuman and Welsh.
On motion of Mr. Breneman, the claim
was handed to the Chief Burgess for col-
lection.

On motion, a Committee of three consist-
ing of Messrs. Shuman, Bruner and Mc-
Chesney, was appointed to view the Lock
Up and see what changes are necessary to
be made.

The following bills were ordered to be
paid:
Samuel Waites, \$9.60; Jno. A. Hook &
Co., \$5.08; H. J. Haldeman, \$7.50; D. S.
Chalfant, \$1.62; Samuel Waites, \$6.50.
On motion, Council adjourned.

W. F. LLOYD, Clerk.

COLUMBIA, JAN. 19, 1861.—Council met—
Members all present.
The Committee to whom was referred the
petition of Messrs. Shreiner and North, in
relation to the erection of a frame stable on
Commerce street, made the following re-
ports:

The undersigned Committee, appointed
to view the property of Messrs. Shreiner
and North, on which they desire to erect a
frame stable, report that we have exam-
ined the same and find that we cannot
grant the privilege, as it interferes with an
Ordinance prohibiting the erection of stab-
les within 40 feet of any public street.

M. S. SHUMAN,
B. F. APOLL,
S. F. EBERLEIN.

We, the undersigned Committee appoint-
ed to view the property of Messrs. Shreiner
and North, on which they desire to erect a
frame stable, do report that we have exam-
ined the same and find that we cannot
grant the privilege, as it interferes with an
Ordinance prohibiting the erection of stab-
les within 40 feet of any public street.

A. BRUNER,
W. M. MCCHESNEY.

Mr. Hershey moved that the resolution
accompanying the majority report be ac-
cepted; upon which the yeas and nays were
called, and agreed to as follows:
Yeas—Messrs. Breneman, Hershey, Eb-
erlein, Shuman, Apoll and Welsh.
Nays—Messrs. Bruner, Hippey and Mc-
Chesney.

Mr. McChesney moved that the Ordinance
prohibiting the erection of stables within 40
feet of any public street be repealed. Dis-
agreed to.

Yeas—Messrs. Bruner, Hippey, McChes-
ney and Welsh.
Nays—Messrs. Breneman, Hershey, Eb-
erlein, Shuman and Apoll.
Mr. Bruner moved that the lower room
of the Town Hall be granted to Rev. Mr.
Scott for religious purposes. Not agreed to.
Yeas—Messrs. Hippey and Welsh.
Nays—Messrs. Bruner, Breneman, Her-
shey, McChesney, Apoll, Shuman and
Eberlein.

Mr. Apoll moved that a special commit-
tee of three be appointed to settle with H.
M. Will for the grading of Fourth street.
Agreed to, and the President appointed
Messrs. Apoll, Breneman and Eberlein,
the Committee. On motion, the Committee
was instructed to act in conjunction with
the Chief Burgess.
On motion, Council adjourned.

READY FOR ANY SACRIFICE.—It is said
that a certain Southern gentleman having
been asked if he should want a supply of ice
during the coming Summer season, replied in-
dignantly in the negative, declaring that the
men of the South would drink boiling hot
water upon the Fourth of July, before they
would receive or use any of the Free Suffice
of the States of the North.

CONGRESSIONAL.
THURSDAY, JAN. 17TH.—In the Senate,
Hon. L. M. Morrill took his seat as Senator
from Maine in the place of Mr. Hamlin.—
Mr. Cameron endeavored to get the floor to
move a reconsideration of the vote on Mr.
Crittenden's resolutions, but Mr. Hunter
pressed the consideration of the Deficiency
bill. That was amended, passed, and the
Pacific Railroad bill taken up. Without ac-
tion, the Senate went into executive session.
The House, with the Army bill nominally
before it, continued the general debate on
the National crisis. Speeches were made
on both sides, some for conciliation, others
for war.

FRIDAY, 18TH.—In the Senate, Mr. Cam-
eron's motion for the reconsideration of the
vote by which the resolutions of Mr. Clark
were substituted for the Crittenden Compro-
mise was taken up. The motion to recon-
sider prevailed—yeas 27, nays 25. On the
call of the roll Messrs. Cameron and Dixon,
Republicans, voted for the reconsideration,
but afterwards changed their votes. Mr.
Wigfall, of Texas, voted with the Republi-
cans against the reconsideration. Mr. Crit-
tenden's resolutions were then postponed
until Monday next. The bill for the ad-
mission of Kansas was next taken up. Mr.
Green proposed an amendment, which
would have sent the bill back to the House,
but the Senate rejected it—yeas 23, nays 21.
After an executive session, lasting about
three hours, the Senate adjourned until
Monday.

The debate on federal affairs was con-
tinued in the House on Friday. The impor-
tant feature of the debate was a speech from
Mr. Sherman, the Republican leader in the
House. He expressed a willingness to set-
tle the Territorial question by the admission
of New Mexico as a Slave State, but could
not consent to the Crittenden amendment
because slavery was to be protected in all
territory hereafter acquired south of 36° 30'.
He was willing to vote for an amendment
of the Constitution prohibiting interference
with slavery in the States where it exists,
and also for Mr. Seward's proposition to
guard against the invasion of States. The
Army bill was amended so as to increase the
appropriation for Government armories from
\$200,000 to \$400,000, and passed.

SATURDAY, 19TH.—In the Senate, Mr.
Mason introduced resolutions suspending all
the laws of the United States that interfere
with secession in South Carolina or other
seceding States. The bill for the admission
of Kansas was taken up and various amend-
ments rejected, but before reaching a final
vote the Senate adjourned.

The House was engaged with the private
calendar.

MONDAY, 21ST.—In the Senate, Senators
Yulee and Mallory, of Florida, Clay of Ala-
bama, and Davis, of Mississippi, announced
the secession of their respective States and
withdrew from the Senate. The bill for the
admission of Kansas was then taken up,
and after the adoption of an unimportant
amendment was passed by a vote of yeas
36, nays 15. Senators Crittenden and
Johnson of Tennessee, voted for the bill.—
Senator Kennedy, of Maryland, voted
against it. Senator Pierce did not vote at
all. The resolutions of Mr. Crittenden were
then taken up and earnestly advocated by
Senator Bigler, Senator Cameron, Republi-
can, said he was ready to do anything to
prevent a separation of the Union, and
would sustain Mr. Bigler's amendment of
the Crittenden resolutions. Senators Iver-
son and Mason endeavored to blunt the ef-
fect of this patriotic declaration from the
Pennsylvania Senator, but succeeded only
in drawing from him still stronger avowals
of a conservative character. No vote was
taken on the resolutions, and they come up
again to-day as unfinished business. Sen-
ator Hunter resigned the Chairmanship of
the Committee on Finance.

In the House of Representatives the Ala-
bama delegation presented a communication
announcing the secession of the State and
their own withdrawal. The letter is ad-
dressed to Mr. Cobb, one of the delegation.
The Report of the Committee of Thirty
three came up as the order of the day, and
Mr. Corwin, Chairman of the Committee,
addressed the House. He expressed a mod-
ified disapproval of coercion as a remedy for
secession, and declared a willingness to ad-
mit New Mexico as a Slave State, or if the
South wanted the old line of 36° 30' he
would grant that, and to adjust slavery now
and forever on a basis that could not be al-
tered except with the consent of all the
States. Mr. Millison, of Virginia, opposed
coercion, but deprecated the action of the
seceding States as unjustifiable.

TUESDAY, 22ND.—In the Senate an in-
cidental debate arose upon the effect of the
withdrawal of the Senators from the seced-
ing States. Mr. Benjamin sought to have
entered upon the journal a statement that
the Senators had withdrawn because their
States had resumed the powers which they
delegated to the General Government. The
resolutions were finally laid on the table—
yeas 32, nays 22. By general acquiescence,
however, it was agreed to regard the with-
drawal of the Senators as tantamount to
their resignations, and the Vice President
was authorized to fill the vacancies in the
Committee occasioned thereby. The Crit-
tenden resolutions were then taken up and
debate ensued, of a crimiative character,
in which several Senators participated.

In the House, Mr. Harris, of Maryland,
presented a petition signed by seventeen
thousand persons from all parts of Maryland,
in favor of the adoption of the Border State
Compromise. Mr. Calfax, from the Post
Office Committee, reported a bill authorizing
the President to suspend the mail service in
a substitute suspending until 1862 all laws
in those States which have or may adopt
Ordinances of Secession. Mr. Stevens
offered a substitute suspending the revenue
and postal laws in the seceding States, au-
thorizing the capture and confiscation of
any vessel not belonging to the United
States attempting to enter or leave ports in
said States, and empowering the President
to use the Army and Navy for the execution
of the laws. The debate on the report of
the Committee of Thirty three was resumed,
Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, advocating coercion,

and Mr. Clemens, of Virginia, denouncing
secession.

MONDAY, 23RD.—The Senate was engaged
with the Pacific Railroad bill. An effort to
take up Mr. Crittenden's resolutions was
unsuccessful.

The House, during the morning hour,
acted on the amendments to the Post Route
bill. The amendment reducing the rate of
compensation to railroad companies for
mail transportation was rejected. An
amendment authorizing the issue of one cent
stamped wrappers and envelopes was con-
sidered. The report of the Committee of
Thirty three being under consideration,
Mr. Clemens, of Virginia, made a personal
explanation in reference to insulting re-
marks addressed to him on the preceding
day by one of his colleagues. Mr. Etheridge,
of Tennessee, made an earnest and eloquent
speech for the preservation of the Union.—
His remarks excited great enthusiasm and
were warmly applauded. The Georgia
delegation presented a letter announcing
the secession of their State and withdrawing
from the House. Mr. Hill, one of the dele-
gation, presented a second letter, simply
resigning because he believed it the desire of
his State that he should do so.

THE NEWS.
The Military Committee of the South Car-
olina Legislature have reported in favor of
raising four additional artillery companies
and another regiment of infantry. It pro-
posed to connect Fort Moultrie and the other
fortifications in the harbor with Charleston
by submarine telegraph.

The ship Morning Star arrived in Hamp-
ton Roads on Friday, 18th, having on board
the officers, crew, and one hundred and fifty-
nine passengers rescued from the ship
Globus, burned at sea.

The United States Senate in executive
session on the 18th confirmed the nomina-
tion of Mr. Holt as Secretary of War by a
vote of thirty-eight against thirteen. This
is, of course, an endorsement of the Presi-
dent's policy.

Florida has appointed delegates to the
Convention which is to meet at Montgom-
ery, Alabama, to organize a Southern Con-
federacy.

The foreign Ministers at Washington have
requested the Government to inform them
whether clearances of vessels issued by South
Carolina will be recognized as sufficient,
and whether foreign vessels could properly
pay duties to South Carolina officials. It
is reported that the answer was in the nega-
tive.

The Arkansas Legislature have finally
passed the bill submitting the Convention
question to the people. The vote will take
place on the 18th of February.

The Georgia State Convention on Satur-
day passed the Ordinance of Secession by a
vote of yeas 205, nays 80. On a previous
vote to postpone secession until the 3d of
March the majority for immediate secession
was but thirty. Hon. A. H. Stephens,
Hon. H. V. Johnson, and Judge Linton
Stephens, are among those who voted
against the ordinance. Immediately after
passing the ordinance the Convention re-
solved to continue the present postal and
revenue system until otherwise ordered.—
Practically, therefore, Georgia, like Missis-
sippi, has only gone out of the Union on
paper.

The Georgia Convention have adopted an
explanatory preamble to their Ordinance of
Secession, and thus amended it has been
signed by nearly all the members, including
Hon. A. H. Stephens, Ex-Governor Johnson
and others. The Georgia delegation are ex-
pected to withdraw from Congress to-day.

The Alabama Convention has appointed
delegates to the Southern Congress. Mr.
Kanev declined election as a delegate.—
The Convention has passed an ordinance ap-
propriating three million of dollars for the
defense of the State.

It looks at present as if the seat of ap-
prehended hostilities is to be transferred from
Charleston harbor to Pensacola bay. The
United States forces there, under command
of Commandant Armstrong, after giving up
the Navy Yard and Fort Barrancas, were
concentrated in Forts Pickens and McRae,
both very strong works, situated nearly op-
posite each other and commanding the Bay
and ship channel. The store ship Relief
is anchored between the forts, and the
United States steamer Wyandotte 1, also
there with officers and crew on board.—
Some twelve hundred State troops are there
and the Governor of Florida has telegraphed
to New Orleans for a further force to aid
in taking the forts. Two hundred men were
preparing to leave there. The position held
by the United States forces is described by
the Mobile papers as a very strong and de-
fensible one, and it seems hardly probable
that they can be dislodged by the revolu-
tionists.

Lieutenant Talbot, Major Anderson's
bearer of despatches, returned to Fort Sam-
ter on Friday, and on Saturday afternoon
message passed between Major Anderson
and Governor Pickens, under a flag of truce.
The news from Washington is regarded as
gloomy at Charleston. Major Anderson
however, is now allowed to get fresh pro-
visions from the city, which shows that the
counsel sent from Washington has not been
without its influences.

We learn by our exchanges that Fort
Taylor, at Key West, is now garrisoned by
a company of United States Artillery, in
command of Capt. J. M. Brannan. Capt.
E. B. Hunt, United States Corps of Engi-
neers, is still in command of the fort, and is
actively engaged in completing the work
designed to be done with the present approp-
riation. The fort is so far completed as to
be made available in case of foreign invasion.
The armament mounted is sufficient to en-
able the Federal officers to act on the defen-
sive if necessary.

A considerable amount of shot, shell, and
powder were sent from Richmond on Sat-
urday to Charleston.

The bids for \$5,000,000 of treasury notes
opened at Washington on Saturday show
that the credit of the government has materi-
ally improved in the last few weeks. For
the \$1,000,000 asked for a month since only

\$2,500,000 was offered, at rates ranging from
9 to 36 per cent. The bids on Saturday
amount to over \$12,000,000 very few of
which were above 12 per cent., and the
whole loan will be taken at from ten to
eleven per cent. interest.

The Tennessee State Convention is to be
elected on the 9th, and will meet on the
25th of February.

The Florida authorities having interfered
with the delivery of the mails to the United
States officers at Pensacola, the Postmaster-
General has promptly abolished the Post-
office at that point, and given notice that all
letters directed to Pensacola are to be re-
turned to the dead-letter office.

Wendell Phillips, the Abolitionist, deliv-
ered a speech at Boston on Sunday, in which
he denounced Senator Seward, declared
himself for disunion, and expressed the hope
that all the Slave States would leave the
Union. His chief argument was that dis-
union was desirable because it would abol-
ish slavery.

The monotony at Charleston has been
varied by an incident. A boat supposed to
be from Fort Sumter approached one of the
South Carolina batteries, was fired on and
sunk, it is believed, was wounded. There,
however, appears to be no evidence that the
boat was from the Fort, and nothing where-
on to form a judgment as to its errand.

The Senate of South Carolina on Wednes-
day, passed a tax bill increasing the taxes
twenty per cent, over last year, to meet the
issue of Treasury notes and bills for war
purposes.

Captain Armstrong who was in command
of the Pensacola Navy Yard at the time of
its surrender to the Secessionists has arrived
at Washington and gives the particulars of
the circumstances under which he was forced
to abandon his post. Of a small force un-
der his command, the majority were Seces-
sionists, officers in the United States Navy
taking part in the demand for the surrender
of the Yard and one of them actually haul-
ing down the National flag. Lieutenant
Slosser, who has command of Fort Pickens,
has only about eighty men under him. He
is however in a position where he can be re-
inforced and has the assistance of the
United States steamer Wyandotte. Instead
of being cut off from communications with
the outside he has the power to prevent the
revolutionists from receiving supplies by sea.

The Louisiana State Convention met on
Wednesday determined to elect ten delegates to re-
present the State in the Southern Congress
to meet at Millidgeville on the 4th of Feb-
ruary. The African slave trade ordinance
was passed, substituting imprisonment in
the penitentiary for the death penalty, and
declaring the offence not to be piracy. An
ordinance was introduced to continue the
present postal and revenue laws, so that
Georgia does not resist the Federal laws.
Toombs and Secretary Cobb will be among
the delegates to the Southern Congress.

The North Carolina Legislature is still
debating the Convention bill with little
present prospect of agreement.

The Secretary of the Treasury estimates
that in addition to the accruing revenue the
Federal Government will need \$20,000,000
prior to the 1st of July next.

A large number of muskets, and other
munitions of war, were seized by the police
at New York yesterday, on board a steamer
about to sail for Savannah. The seizure
was probably made under Judge Smalley's
recent decision that it is treasonable to fur-
nish arms to a seceding State.

A plan of compromise has been started in
Washington which proposes the resignation
of the members of Congress, to take effect
on the 21st of February, and the election in
the meantime of a new Congress to meet
February 22nd, which will, as coming imme-
diately from the people, represent their
wishes in the present crisis. When the
members agree to resign it will be worth
while considering the plan.

The steamer North Briton, arrived at
Portland, brings Liverpool dates to the 12th
inst. The weather continued very severe
in England, occasioning much distress
among the laboring classes, and fears of
bread riots were entertained. In Liverpool
a panic had been caused by these ap-
prehensions. The American crisis contin-
ues to attract great attention in England.—
Lord Palmerston had expressed the hope
that if the Union was dissolved it might be
by an amicable arrangement and the world
spared the horrible spectacle of brother's
swording on brothers. The general intelli-
gence is not important.

A PERFECT MIRACLE.—Old Parson Blim,
noted for his pious simplicity, managed to
live in a parish in New Hampshire on a
salary, payable in produce, that would
barely keep body and soul together. He
had a nag that was as ill fed as his own,
on which he was accustomed to ride over
his extended parish. Stopping at Deacon
Wilson's one day, he alighted, and careles-
sly throwing the reins over a tie-post, through
the top of which there was a hole, he called
on his Deacon. The nag, in rubbing
against the post, slipped the bridle off its
head, and commenced to quietly feed by the
wayside. A son of the Deacon drew the
bridle through the post-hole above the
bride rein, and then catching the nag, led her
up, and put on the bridle all correct, and
waited for the parson, who was not long in
appearing, and who immediately commended
the hopeless task of "unloosing the
lead." After a vain attempt, he was heard
to say, solemnly:
"We read of the camel going through the
eye of a needle, and believe it, for 'tis in the
Bible; but how upon earth my old mare
ever got through that post hole is more than
I can understand. She's gone and done
it, but how beats all nature. It must be a
miracle."

Owing to its swamps and everlasting
chimes, Flanders is found by travelers