



CLEARFIELD, PA., JANUARY 23, 1861

Messrs. Hall of the State Senate and Lawrence of the House, will please accept our thanks for continued favors, in furnishing us with important documents.

### Peace or War!

One of the largest meetings ever held in Philadelphia, met at National Hall in that city on last Wednesday night. It was substantially a Democratic meeting, called to take action upon the present perilous condition of the country, yet among the thousands in attendance were many who voted against the Democracy at the late election. The tone and sentiment of the meeting were unequivocally in opposition to the use of coercive means to prevent a dissolution of the Union, and against the use of the sword. The conduct of South Carolina was severely denounced; but the attempt to force her, or any other seceding State, back into the Union, would only be making bad worse. It is sad enough that we should break up the Confederacy, and thus lose our nationality; but to add to this disgrace the havoc and horrors of civil war, would be tenfold worse.

The people of Pennsylvania, without respect to party, who are opposed to the Republican remedy of coercion and civil war, were urged to immediate and prompt action to make known their sentiment by holding meetings, remonstrating Congress and the State Legislature, and by all other means in their power. If this Union of States is to be severed, for God's sake let it be in peace. There may then be hopes of a re-union, and a restoration of the fraternal affection that characterized the people of all sections in those better days of the Republic. But if the fire and sword policy of the Republicans is adopted, the bitterest and blackest enmity that ever dragged the human heart down to the level of the brute, will soon take the place of brotherly feeling.

There is not a moment to be lost. If the people would assume to action at once, this great evil may yet be averted. As for preventing a dissolution of the Union, that is impossible. IT IS DONE. Six States have already withdrawn. Shall force be used to bring them back as subjugated provinces, and thus drive out the remaining nine Southern States, and plunge the whole nation into a civil and fratricidal war?

This is the question for the people to consider. Let them delay no longer, but go to work at once, and send up a voice from every hill and valley, and if needs be, from every hamlet in the land. MILLIONS OF MEN AND MONEY AGAINST ANY FOREIGN FOE, BUT NOT ONE DROP OF BLOOD TO BE SHED BY BROTHERS.

### A Confession.

"Truth is mighty, and will prevail." This old adage has never been more fully verified than in the case of our neighbor of the Journal, in his last issue. He has labored with an energy worthy of a better cause, for two months, to prove that "the secession hub-bub in Clearfield borough," (as he styled it) extended nowhere else. But in his last issue he makes the following confession:

"There is no use in any one trying to close his eyes to the real condition of the country."

After unbecomingly himself thus publicly, at the eleventh hour, we must infer that the editor in question feels a little better. However, something seems to trouble him; whether it is conscience or something else, he turns witness for himself. Hear him:

"We believe our heart throbs as strongly for the Union as that of any man in it."

Would it not have been better and more plausible for the editor, after having been accused of his loyalty by some one, to have referred his accuser to the columns of his paper, instead of calling himself to the witness stand? We think so.

As the lawyer's ox has now been gored, we may expect something desperate in the settlement of this "hub-bub," especially if he calls in his backers.

The editor seems to have a fellow-feeling for Governor Hicks, of Maryland. It is true he has a right to select his own backers, but it seems strange that a Black Republican should select one of the leaders of the Baltimore "Plug-Uglies." Now, if he sends for Winter Davis and ex-Mayor Swan, he will have the captain and both lieutenants of the Baltimore "Rip-Raps," and "Plug-Uglies" to help him in his time of need.

We have nothing of importance from Harrisburg this week, either of a general or local character. One of our members, Isaac GREELEY Gordon, Esq., is willing to swear that the Chicago Platform is as true as the Bible. For the sake of argument, we will agree with him; but on the other hand, it has well nigh destroyed our country, and that it is as poisonous to the Republic of our country as strychnine is to the Canine tribe.

### Who is Responsible?

Notwithstanding Governor Curtin's inaugural address is, in the main, conciliatory in its tone—quite as much so as was expected by his political opponents, and much more so than is palatable to his political friends, yet we have no hope that his counsels will have any good effect upon the ultraism of our Legislature. It so happens that the Republicans are in a large majority in both branches, and whilst there may be some of them inclined to a policy of forbearance and moderation, taken as a whole, we doubt whether there is a single legislature in any non-slaveholding State in the Union, so ultra and hostile to the South, or that would do less to avert a dissolution of the Confederacy—and it is with mortal sorrow we confess that among these betrayers of their constituents, Mr. Gordon, of this district, is the most ultra. "The opportunity is now offered, and we will drive Slavery from the Continent"—is his language. Was it to utter such sentiments that Mr. G. was sent to Harrisburg? We leave it to those who voted for him to answer this question.

As to Mr. Lawrence, our other member, although we expect strict fidelity to his party, yet we are not without hope that he, unlike his colleague, prefers his country to his party, and will act accordingly. This hope is encouraged, by seeing that he has already differed with that colleague and his confederates on questions of minor importance, though touching this vital question.

Pennsylvania has always been styled the "Keystone State," not so much on account of her geographical position, as the conservative sentiments of her people upon all questions of controversy between the North and the South. Now, for the first time in her history, the Legislative and Executive branches of this glorious old balance wheel of the Confederacy is in the hands of that party that not only sympathize with one section, but are openly and avowedly hostile to the other. This being the fact, the influence of our State, therefore, is perfectly powerless for good. Not only so, but the great weight of her influence is thus thrown into the scale of the aggressive and anti-secession party of the North.

How different would be her situation if our Legislature and Executive were Democratic! If this were so, it would be utterly impossible to divide this Union, and peace and harmony would be restored in a week. But those who sow the wind must reap the whirlwind.

### For War!

It is indeed amusing to hear the Abolitionists, through their journals and speakers, writing and talking about war, attempting by their present course of conduct to bring about a bloody revolution. Of this we have heard numbers express fears. To such we say, read the history of our country upon the subject of war, so far as the opposition party is concerned.

Who opposed the American army in the war of 1812? The British and—as we have not consulted the committee of the late Union meeting in our town we suppose we dare not "mention any name," so we shall merely hint at historical facts and let the reader judge for himself.

Who opposed the American army in the Mexican war? The Mexicans and—Who refused to vote men and supplies? Who welcomed Gen. Taylor and his army with "bloody hands to a hospitable grave?" Who were the United States Senators and members of Congress that assisted and encouraged the Mexicans, by their votes and speeches? Read the Journals of Congress of 1846-7, and you will find their names.

This being the character of the leaders of the opposition heretofore, what fear need any one have of war now? But we say this: if it is in the power of the leading demagogues of the present Abolition party to precipitate our country into a bloody revolution, they will do it; but this is by no means the feeling of over one third of their party. Hence, to hear the leaders of a party bawling out for war who have always opposed it, is indeed ridiculous.

In the "pursuit of knowledge under difficulties"—the Committee on Resolutions of the late Union meeting in our town.

It was "help, Cassius, or I sink." It is equally true, Cesar had his Brutus Charles I. had his Cromwell, the late meeting had a Committee, or the Committee had a meeting, we do not know which; but this we do know, that both had a Bolivar—hence, the leaders of the Black Republican party in our county, are further enabled to misrepresent and stultify their party in this county.

They are well aware that the "Irrepressible Conflict" has overtaken them first, and they already groan under the load of public opinion they are bound to bear. To make their souls feel good again, let them make an honest confession of their political sins.

The great speech of Senator Seward, proves to be nothing more than extracts from the writings of Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, published in a book called the "Federalist," any of our readers desirous to read the speech, had better buy this book wherein they can read the original without the interpolations of Black Republicanism as amended by Mr. Seward.

### 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 has taken the true ground that the representative shall obey the will of the people, and that the opinion and judgement of the people shall be invoked in the present emergency, to decide upon the paramount rules of action which shall hereafter govern them.

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.

Mr. Bigler's 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 county 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 people of the United States South as well as North, would prefer to see the present difficulty settled amicably, and settled quickly, and Mr. Bigler's bill affords a fair, a favorable and 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 such 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.—Pittsburg Post.

Secession seems to be the order of the day at present. The citizens of Karlsruhe township have petitioned the Grand Jury several times for a bridge across Mosquito Creek, in that township. The Grand Jury last week again refused to act for them, and for this we learn citizens of that township are preparing to secede from our county, having entered into an alliance with Cameron county. A large majority of them have already signed Petitions to this effect, and will thus be out of the county, before South Carolina gets out of the Union.

In the event of the secession of Karlsruhe, the county seat of Cameron county is to be removed from Shippen to the second Fork of the Sinnemahoning; thus bringing the county seat within fifteen miles of Karlsruhe. We hope our good friends down there, will commit no overt act, in the event of which the coercionists of the county would have to be employed against them, and of course would annihilate them.

The following is the vote in the N. Y. Legislature as passed by that body on the 11th instant, sustaining the policy of President Buchanan.

The vote in the House was yeas 117 nays 2 in the Senate, yeas 23 nays 1.

### Inauguration of Gov. Curtin.

Andrew D. Curtin, the new Governor of the Commonwealth, was inaugurated at Harrisburg, on the 5th inst. The procession of military and citizens was formed at half past ten o'clock, under the auspices of Gen. Wm. H. Keim, the Chief Marshal, and marched to the Capitol. There were several fine companies of military present, and the procession presented a fine appearance. Arrived at the Capitol, the two Houses met in joint Convention, and the Governor-elect, with Gov. Packer, having taken their place beside the Speaker of the two Houses, after prayer by Rev. Mr. Cattell, of the Presbyterian Church, the oath of office was administered by Hon. Robert M. Palmer, Speaker of the Senate. The Governor then arose, and, in the presence of a large and attentive assembly, proceeded to read his inaugural address.

He first referred to the duties and responsibilities surrounding him, and expressed a determination to meet them to the best of his ability. After speaking of the general educational interests of the people he approves of the recommendation of Gov. Packer for an appropriation to the Farmer's High School, the succeeding paragraphs refer to the sale of the public improvements, reduction of the State debt, the pardoning power, charters, the veto power, &c. Then, coming to the great issues before the country, he says:

The position of mutual estrangement in which the different sections of our country have been placed by the precipitate and violent denunciations of heated partisans, the apprehension of still more serious complications of our political affairs, and the fearful uncertainty of the future, have had the effect of weakening commercial credit and partially interrupting trade; and as a natural consequence our exchanges and currencies have been disarranged. Yet the elements of general prosperity are everywhere diffused amongst us, and nothing is wanting but a return of confidence to enable us to reap the rich rewards of our diversified industry and enterprise. Should the restoration of confidence in business and commercial circles be long delayed, the Legislature, in its wisdom, will, I doubt not, meet the necessities of the crisis in a generous and patriotic spirit.

Thus far our system of Government has fully answered the expectations of its founders, and has demonstrated the capacity of the people for self government. The country has advanced in wealth, knowledge and power, and secured to all classes the blessings, peace, prosperity and happiness. The workings of our simple and unadorned political organizations have given direction and energy to individual and associated enterprise, maintained public order, and promoted the welfare of all parts of our vast and expanding country. No one who knows the history of Pennsylvania and understands the opinions and feelings of her people can justly charge us with hostility to our brethren of other States. We regard them as friends and fellow countrymen, in whose welfare we feel a kind interest; and we recognize in their broadest extent all our constitutional obligations to them. These we are ready to observe generously and fraternally in their letter and spirit with unvarying fidelity.

The election of a President of the United States, according to the forms of the Constitution, has recently been made a pretext for disturbing the peace of the country by a deliberate attempt to wrest from the Federal Government which the people conferred on it when they adopted the Constitution. By this movement the question whether the government of the United States embodies the prerogative, right and power of sovereignty, or merely represents a multitude of independent communities confederated in a league which any one of them may dissolve at will, is now placed directly before the American people. Unhappily this question is not presented in the simple form of political discussion, but complicated with the passion and jealousies of actual conflict.

There is nothing in the life of Mr. Lincoln, nor any act of his before or since his election, to justify the apprehension that his Administration will be so unfriendly to the local institutions of any of the States. No sentiments but those of kindness and conciliation have been expressed or entertained by the constitutional majority which elected him; and nothing has occurred to provoke the excitement which seems to have blinded the judgement of a part of the people, and is precipitated them into revolution.

The supremacy of the National Government has been so fully admitted and so long cherished by the people of Pennsylvania, so completely has the idea of its nationality and sovereignty moulded their political convictions and directed their political action, that they are surprised at the pertinacity with which a portion of the people elsewhere maintain the opposite view. The traditions of the past, the recorded teachings of the Fathers of the Republic, the security of their freedom and prosperity and their hopes for the future, are all in harmony with an unflinching allegiance to the National Union, the maintenance of the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws. They have cheerfully adhered to the compromise of our great national compact, and entertained a proper respect for the peculiar institutions and rights of property of the people of other States. Every true Pennsylvanian admits that his first civil and political duty is to the general government, and he frankly acknowledges his obligation to protect the constitutional rights of all who live under its authority and enjoy its blessings.

Since my election to the Chief Magistracy of the State, I have taken occasion to say publicly, that if we have any laws upon our statute books which infringe upon the rights of the people of any of the States, or contravene any law of the Federal Government, or obstruct its execution, they ought to be repealed.

This is a propitious moment to declare that while the people of Pennsylvania, not indifferent to other vital issues of the canvass, were demanding justice for themselves in the recent election, and had no design to interfere with or abridge the rights of the people of other States. The growth of our State had been retarded

by the abrogation of the principle of protection from the revenue laws of the national government. Bankruptcy had crushed the energies of many of our most enterprising citizens; but no voice of disloyalty or treason was heard, nor was any arm raised to offer violence to the sacred fabric of our national Union. Conscious of their rights and their power, our looked to the ballot-box alone as the legal remedy for existing evils.

In the present unhappy condition of the country, it will be our duty to unite with the people of the States which remain loyal to the Union, in any just and honorable measures of conciliation and fraternal kindness. Let us invite them to join us in the fulfillment of all our obligations under the Federal Constitution and laws. Then we can cordially unite with them in claiming like obedience from those States which have renounced their allegiance. If the loyal States are just and moderate, without any sacrifice of right or self-respect, the threatened danger may be averted.

Our is a National Government. It has within the sphere of its action all the attributes of sovereignty, and among these are the right and duty of self-preservation. It is based upon a compact to which all the people of the United States are parties. It is the result of mutual concessions, which were made for the purpose of securing reciprocal benefits. It acts directly on the people, and they owe it a personal allegiance. No part of the people, no State nor combination of States, can voluntarily secede from the Union, nor absolve themselves from their obligations to it. To permit a State to withdraw at pleasure from the Union; without the consent of the rest, is to confess that our government is a failure. Pennsylvania can never acquiesce in such a conspiracy, nor assent to a doctrine which involves the destruction of the Government. If the Government is to exist, all the requirements of the Constitution must be obeyed; and it must have power adequate to the enforcement of the supreme law of the land in every State. It is the first duty of the National authorities to stay the progress of anarchy and enforce the laws, and Pennsylvania, with a united people, will give them an honest, faithful and active support. The people mean to preserve the integrity of the National Union at every hazard.

The Constitution which was originally framed to promote the welfare of thirteen States and four millions of people, in less than three-quarters of a century has embraced thirty-three States and thirty millions of inhabitants. Our territory has been extended over new climates, and the Government has protected them all. Everything requisite to the perpetuity of the Union and its expanding power, would seem to have been foreseen and provided for by the wisdom and sagacity of the framers of the Constitution.

It is all we desire or hope for, all that our fellow-countrymen who complain, can reasonably demand. It provides that amendments may be proposed by Congress; and whenever the necessity to amend shall occur, the people of Pennsylvania will give to the amendments which Congress may propose, the careful and deliberate consideration which their importance may demand. Change is not always progress, and a people who have lived so long, and enjoyed so much prosperity, who have so many sacred memories of the past, and such rich legacies to transmit to the future, should deliberate long and seriously before they attempt to alter any of the fundamental principles of the great charter of our liberties.

The remainder of the message refers to the course of the Governor in the discharge of his duties.

### From Washington.

The latest news from Washington and the South a few days ago, seemed rather pacific, but last night's mail brought news of fresh outbreaks in the South.

Florida has by this time no doubt taken Fort Pickens at Pensacola by force, from the United States forces, if not surrendered peacefully. Thousands of volunteers in the Southern States have offered their services to the Governor of Florida, and we fear a collision has taken place at Pensacola.

South Carolina is becoming more pacific, no doubt from the fact that her Southern allies have now become as oratic as herself. Her Commissioner, Col. Hayne, will remain in Washington for sometime, and the attack upon Fort Sumter is postponed for the present, but, as Gov. Pickens asserts, will most assuredly be made if no compromise is effected soon.

It is now positively asserted by the Southern members, and that portion of the Committee of Thirty-Three have so reported, that either of the propositions of Senators Crittenden or Bigler, will be acceptable to them, and they assert most emphatically, that unless these or similar measures are adopted, dissolution is a fixed fact.

Georgia has passed the secession ordinance by a vote of 208 yeas, to 89 nays. After the vote was announced, a number of those who had voted in the negative changed their votes, stating that as Georgia had determined upon secession, they would share her fate for weal or for woe.

Virginia holds an election for a Convention on the 4th of February, and will most undoubtedly elect a majority of secessionists and will go too. The Legislature has sent commissioners to Washington to meet like commissioners from other States on the 4th of February next.

The Crittenden proposition which was defeated in the Senate, was on motion of Senator Cameron reconsidered and postponed until Monday last, the fate of which we have not learned. The Black Republicans, who have brought the nation to the verge of dissolution, seem to employ their whole time in assisting Mr. Lincoln to make his Cabinet and other party arrangements—their party first and their country last—we mean the leaders. There is now no distinction in the acts of the disunionists. Toombs and Wade, and Davis and Sumner vote together on every question affecting the welfare of the country.

This is a propitious moment to declare that while the people of Pennsylvania, not indifferent to other vital issues of the canvass, were demanding justice for themselves in the recent election, and had no design to interfere with or abridge the rights of the people of other States. The growth of our State had been retarded

### UNION MEETING

In pursuance of a call which was in the papers of the town of the 15th inst., the citizens without respect to party in the Court room in Clearfield, on Friday evening, the 15th instant, to express their opinions on the present condition of the country. The meeting was called to order by Wm. A. Wallace, Esq., upon whose motion the following officers were elected to preside over the meeting. President, James H. Gordon, Esq. Vice Presidents, Hon. W. L. Ellis Irwin, Thomas Ross, George J. G. Hartwick, G. W. Rheem, Patton and Lever Flegal, Esq.

On motion of W. M. Behan, the president appointed a committee of draft and report resolutions expressing the sense of the meeting, as follows: S. B. Row, J. F. Wray, J. B. W. M. Behan, and L. J. Crans, Esq. On motion of Mr. Behan, James G. W. Rheem and Benj. Wright, appointed a committee to wait upon Hon. G. R. Barrett, and request him to address the meeting.

In the absence of the committee John Tatten, our M. G. was called upon to address the audience. He proceeded in his usual position to illustrate that the Nation was on the eve of a rupture, and counselled union and forbearance towards the seceding States, and apparently now rebellious, and that he loved his country more than party; and as this was called "weak in the knees," he was willing to accept, if it might be so deemed. At the conclusion of his remarks the G. R. Barrett was introduced to the meeting, and proceeded to address his citizens in a patriotic manner, taking ground that it was unnatural and to coerce a friend and neighbor his fellow man.

This being a well established fact the City of every American citizen should and cherish those of our brethren with whom we seem to be at variance this time. The speaker closed his remarks with a strong appeal for the Union. At the conclusion of the Judge's address, W. A. Wallace, Esq., was called upon to address the meeting, who proceeded in an eloquent manner—willing to ignore all party tests, and a bold movement for the Union, upon all conservative men to rescue our country from impending danger.

His speech partook of the same as those who preceded him—"Be still."

How the speaker gave way to the committee on Resolutions, who appeared reported the following to the meeting which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, a crisis has arisen in the history of this country which threatens the disruption of our Government, and the untold calamities which would result in the train; And whereas, the citizens of Clearfield county, in County Meeting assembled, entertaining love for our Union and Constitution, ardently desiring that the same be transmitted inviolate to future generations, do therefore resolve:

1st. That we regard the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land; that we are in favor of preserving the Union as a whole, and of impartial enforcement of all the laws of the General Government.

2d. That we view with pride and pleasure the efforts that have been made, that are still being made, by the brave men in the Senate and House of Representatives, for an amicable adjustment of our present difficulties, and would urge upon them still to "press in well doing," and would assure the approval and hearty co-operation of the adoption of any fair and honorable measures that will restore peace, concord and harmony to the Union.

3d. That we call upon the Southern Representatives of Pennsylvania, in reference to party ties, to favor an arrangement of present difficulties, be fair and just as well to the North, South, and that will restore the brotherhood that until recently has existed all the people of this great State.

4th. That all laws on the statute of any State, in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, or in violation of that fraternal feeling which exist between confederated States, be repealed at the earliest moment, and that this duty should be performed each State regardless as to whether States do their duty or not.

After the adoption of the report of the committee, J. B. M'Enally, Esq., was called upon, who proceeded in an able and patriotic manner to the dreadful calamity that would befall our land and nation, in the event of dissolution of the Union, he would make a common sacrifice of party to common good, not only of our country but he believed of every civilization on earth, as all would be affected by a revolution in this country. This speaker also closed for and peace.

Upon the close of the speech of M'Enally, Israel Test, Esq., was called upon to address the meeting, who in usual "Fatherly" style proceeded to show the concessions and compromises that were made and adopted by the fathers of the Republic, in establishing our present Constitution.

The speaker remarked that the meeting reminded him of a meeting of the fathers, around the grave of their country, and hoped that such a meeting never be necessary again while the world's history remained unaltered.