

WEEKLY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES... WM. M. BRESLIN, Editor and Proprietor.

LEBANON, PA. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1860.

SECESSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The first step in the fearful order through which our Federal Government is doomed to pass, has been taken.

The State Convention of South Carolina, in session at Charleston, on Thursday, unanimously passed an Ordinance of secession from the Union, in the following form:

An Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the Compact entitled, 'The Constitution of the United States of America.'

The Ordinance was taken up and passed by a unanimous vote of 169 yeas, at a quarter past one o'clock.

As soon as its passage was known without the doors of the Convention, the news rapidly spread on the street, a crowd collected, and there was immense cheering.

A Committee was appointed to draft a summary of the causes of secession, and Mr. Rhett's resolution for a Committee of Thirteen to provide for the assembling of a Convention of the seceding States and to form a constitution, was adopted.

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MATTERS IN CONGRESS.

The session of Congress on Monday was an interesting one, and the proceedings, especially those of the House, seem to promise something for the eventual settlement of the pending difficulties in an amicable manner.

The resolution introduced by Mr. Clarke, of New-Hampshire, asking the President for information relative to the condition of the fortifications in Charleston harbor, and copies of all correspondence upon the subject, was taken up; and his consideration being objected to by Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, it was laid over under the rules.

Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, introduced a joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Claims, to report on the resolution passed last week, in relation to the case of John DeGroot.

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THE STATE OF THE UNION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1860. Senator Wade spoke for two hours, and delivered, as was anticipated, a regular war speech, declaring the determination of the Republican Party to execute the Federal laws, regardless of secession, and that the capital would be held by the Northern States, if need be by the force of arms at all hazards.

Moore, of Kentucky, who came here a strong Union man and ready for any sacrifice to secure harmony, now says the whole South must act together. Woodson, of Missouri, and many others of the most conservative men from the Border States, say Wade's speech has produced a strong and decided feeling among them to remain no longer in the Union.

The Governor of South Carolina has sent a dispatch to the President, which is laid before Gen. Scott, stating that the forts would not be interfered with in any manner whatever.

The Pennsylvania members held a caucus on Monday night. Senator Bigler presided. McKnight was Secretary. Mr. Campbell submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in our judgment it is the opinion of the people of Pennsylvania that the constitutional rights of all sections of the country should be respected and secured; that all the laws should be promptly and faithfully executed, and that the Union of the States, the Constitution and the laws should be maintained and enforced throughout the country.

Both Senators were present. Cameron, Grow, Hickman, Morris and Verree made speeches. The action was entirely harmonious.

It is not apprehended here that there will be bloodshed. Should the ready men of South Carolina demand a surrender of Fort Moultrie, Maj. Anderson's instructions are deemed to be such as will enable him to remain at an honorable position.

Conservative men find little cause for confidence in the speech of Mr. Crittenden, or in the manner in which it was received. There was no indication of a disposition on the part of the Republicans to accede to the terms which he proposed, though some of the Southern Senators expressed the opinion that they would be satisfactory to the more moderate Southern States.

It is said, in reliable circles, that a strong movement is going on in the Border States upon both sides of Mason and Dixon's line, for a great mid-Confederacy, to be called the 'Central United States,' or the 'Federal Republic of Washington, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Northwest upon one side, and Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri upon the other.

The force under these gentlemen consists of two companies of artillery. The companies, however, are not full, the two comprising, as we are informed, only about seventy men, including the band.

While the working men are doing wonders on the outside, the soldiers within are by no means idle. Field pieces have been placed in position upon the green within the fort, and none of the expedients of military engineering have been neglected to make the position as strong as possible.

FORTIFICATIONS IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

Description of Fort Moultrie—Strength of the Garrison—Preparations for Defence—Fort Sumter and Castle Pinckney.

The silent energy with which work is now being pushed forward upon the fortifications erected for the protection of the harbor of Charleston, is something at once new and extraordinary.

The article in another column on the defenses of Charleston harbor, from the Charleston Mercury, shows that they are not in such a defenceless state as is pretended by the Republicans, and that the President, although unwilling to send soldiers to irritate and overawe free citizens of the United States, is putting the works quietly in the best condition.

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ARTEMUS WARD ON HIS VISIT TO ABE LINCOLN.

I live on politics. Nary a one. I'm not in the business. If I was, I should holler verfrissfully in the streets at nite, and go home to Betsey Jane smelmin of coal and gin in the mornin'.

I should see to it that my nabars was thar. I should git carriages to take the kripples, the enfirm and the indignant thar. I should be on the guard agin' frauds and sich.

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THE BELT GIVEN UP.

The Belt Given Up.—From Bell's Life we learn that Sayers has given up the Champion's Belt, though not without reluctance, and that it has been handed over to the Stalcybridge Infant.

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NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!

At the Corner of Cumberland Street and Plank Road, RAUCH & LIGHT. Messrs RAUCH & LIGHT take pleasure in informing their friends and the public generally that they have just opened a large and carefully selected assortment of DRY GOODS.

DRY GOODS. GROCERIES. A large stock of cheap goods, such as Flour, Raisins, Apples, &c. Also, a large assortment of QUEENSWARE.

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