Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865

"The printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the pro-ceedings of the legislature, or any branch of government; and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free commu-nication of thought and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of mer; and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any sub-ject; being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of offi-cers, or men in public capacities, or where the matter published is proper for public informa-tion, the truth thereof may be given in evi-dence."-Onstitution of Pennaylvania.

Why the Peace Conference Was a Failure.

Before the correspondence which pass ed between Mr. Lincoln and the rebel authorities was made public, accompanied by his version of what occurred at the conference at Hampton Roads, we were not willing to express what was our belief-that the negotiations on the part of Mr. Lincoln were insincere; that Peace and Union were put within his grasp, and that from sinister and unworthy motives he deliberately repelled We now assert boldly and withthem. out fear of contradiction, and we appeal to the correspondence which we publish in full for the truth of what we utter, that in this whole matter Mr. Lincoln acted a most treacherous part, deceiving and trifling, not with the rebel commis sioners alone, but with the people who ardently desired a speedy and honorable Peace.

In his letter to Mr. Blair he declared that he would receive any agents who came, "with the view of securing Peace to our common country." What other interpretation could be put upon that assertion than that it meant that Mr. Lincoln was ready to make Peace on the simple condition of a reunion of the States. Had not the rebel authorities a right so to regard it? Could they have taken it with any other meaning, unless they had anticipated the treacherous double dealing of Mr. Lincoln from the very outset?

The truth is, Mr. Lincoln expected that the offer made through Mr. Blair would be refused by Jefferson Davis. He never calculated on seeing a delegation of such men as came, applying for passes through our lines. The antecedents of these men was of such a character as was well calculated to alarm th radicals, who insist upon it that the war shall not end yet. Both Vice President Stephens and Judge Campbell had stood out long and manfully against secession. There was alarm in the camp to the radicals. If Peace should be made now, the Abolition amendment of the Constitution would not be ratified, and the war would end without the complete extinguishment of slavery. But what was to be done? First, Mr Lincoln kept the rebel commissioners before our lines, in hopes they would leave in disgust at such treatment. In the meantime, Gen. Grant had a talk with them, and was convinced that they came with an honest desire to adjust the existing difficulties. He had, therefore, admitted them within the lines before the arrival of Major -Eckert, the special agent sent by Mr. Lincoln to interpose obstacles to their coming. Had it not been for Gen. Grant himself, who, being a plain blunt man, evidently did not understand the cunning tricks of the President, it is proba ble Major Eckert would have succeeded in getting the commissioners sent back to Richmond without subjecting

Mr. Lincoln to the annoyance of being compelled to hold a conference, which he had resolved beforehand should b without any result. Gen. Grant telegraphed to the President, speaking of the commissioners, "I AM CONVINCED THAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE GOOD. AND THEIR DESIRE SINCERE TO RE-STORE PEACE AND UNION." With such a document as that on file against him where it might at any time be brought to public view, Mr. Lincoln did not dare to send the commissioners back without a hearing. But it would no do to let them come to Washington That must be avoided. They might completely upset the plans of himself and his radical friends. Some arrangement might be sprung upon the country by which a Peace might be concluded vastly to the benefit of the white race of both sections, but without any special reference to the negro. Accordingly Mr. Seward, a fit messenger for such a errand, was started in hot haste for Fortress Monroe to stop the rebel envoys there. His instructions were not to aid in bringing about Peace and reunion, but to announce that there would be no receding by the Executive of the United States on the slavery question.' and thus to dispel any hope of Peace by repelling the rebel commissioners at once. Seward had scarcely got out of Washington until Mr. Lincoln, with 'a single servant, followed. A conference was had, in which Mr. Lincoln laid down his emancipation proclamation, his Niagara manifesto, and his negro policy in general, as his ultimatum. He refused to listen to any other terms of Peace. The rebel commissioners, after hearing this and a few of his stories, more cleanly it is to be hoped, than many which he tells, took their departure, and Mr. Lincoln and his foxy Secretary returned to Washington to give the account of their doings, which we publish elsewhere, and of which this is a correct summary. Was this a fair, honest, manly effort to obtain Peace and bring about a restoration of the Union? Was it such an effort as the people had a right to expect; such as the army had a right to expect; such as the whole civilized world had a right to expect of Mr. Lincoln? Is it not plainly evident that he made no fair effort to obtain Peace ; that he acted in such a manner as to repel any advances in that direction which the rebel commissioners might have come prepared to make? He deliberately chose war in prefernce to Peace, and preferred the prosecution of reign? the wild schemes of the more fanatical men of his own party to the best interests of the people of both sections, and the chief good of our common country. He has stripped from the war the last yestige of deceptive covering which has heretofore, to some extent, concealed its real character. It is now openly and officially declared to be, not a war for of comparatively trifling magnitude, the restoration of the Union; not a war for the establishment of the supremacy of the Constitution : not a war to vindicate the honor and maintain the power of the Federal Government; not a war for election officers. It is the duty of for the good of the white race in any respect, but a war for the benefit of the negro-a war for the furtherance of the impracticable and impossible schemes of the most ultra of the Abolitionists. It is a war carried on for the purpose of leveling the white man downward and the negro'upward, and is to be prosecuted until they are put upon a dead level of social and political equality. The fiat has gone forth. There is to be no Peace until this is accomplished. Is it our duty to sustain such a war as this? What say the people? Alas! the day when they had anything to say in the affairs of this Government seems to have passed away. A yulgar despot now plays with their lives as if they were utterly valueless. Even now the machinery is almost ready which is to drag three hundred thousand more of them: to the slaughter-three hundred thousand more white men to be imo-Inted on the bloody altar of the insatiate demon of Abolitionism, because Abraham Lincoln deliberately, and with the will and power of a despot, declares: that it shall be so. And yet we call ourselves freemen,

Londoury

Such is the heading which is conspic lously displayed, in staring capitals, at the head of long columns of reading matter in every newspaper in the land Lengthy and condensed as these columns are, every word of them is eagerly devoured by the many millions of much disappointed and much interested people. That the late peace movement was a most lamentable failure no one can deny. Why it was so is a question in which every man, woman and child in the country is directly and deeply interested.

The Peace Failure.

For many years the people of the United States have proudly boasted that they were the real sovereigns, and their rulers but the servants of them, the neople. In this respect they have been acmed to regard themselves as peculiarly blessed, and have condescended most graciously to pity, and most benignly to sympathize with all who lived under forms of government seemingly less free. All this may have been a mere delusion. Sure it is, that now no such happy boast can any longer b made by the masses of either one of the warring sections of our once happy country. The people of the North have become mere pliant tools in the hands of a set of fanatics, the people of the South tools in hands of a set of ambi-

the poet point the finger of his bitter scorn at the huge armies which stand mustered in opposing array for the purpose of slaughtering each other, and say

"— In these behold the tools, The broken tools that tyrants cast away. By myriads, when they dare to pave their war With human hearts—to what? a dream alone." Such they are, and nothing more. Mere tools for the destruction of each other in the maddest and most useless strife the world ever saw, The tools of tyrants too-tyrants none the less despotic because they were put into the position they occupy by forms in which the people seemed to participate.

of both sections desired peace ; no doubt that a vast majority in the whole country, North as well as South, ardently and earnestly prayed to God that peace, a blessed, lasting peace might come out of what is now paraded in such words as 'The Peace failure." Why was it a failure? Why? Because the tyrants on each side had resolved it should be nothing but a failure.

When Mr. Lincoln made indecent haste to follow his cunning and unprincipled Secretary to the conference at Hampton Roads, he left abundant assurances with his radical friends behind him at Washington (the men who are growing rich on the spoils of war, and fattening like vampires on the blood of the people) that the terms of peace which he would offer should be such, and such only as it was not possible for the rebel embassadors to accept. They met him without authority, perhaps without inclination to offer any terms which he would accept. Mr. Lincoln presented himself in the haughty attitude of a conqueror, demanding the abject submission of a vanquished foe. The rebel commissioners faced him as the representatives of bold, bad men, who had staked their all upon a long-cherished

Mr. Lincoln did not represent the Virtues (?) of Thaddeus Stevens. In the House of Representatives at views, the wishes, or the interests of any great body of the people, Harrisburg, the other day, Major Rueither North or South. He appeared at DOLPH W. SHENK, late of the 135th Regi Fortress Monroe as the embodiment of ment P. V., now a member of the Lanthe wildest and most unbridled fanaticaster Bar, and the "young man elocism of the North. He had no other quent" from the Old Guard in the lower character, and repre-ented nothing else. oranch of the Legislature, made a few He was the personification of the spirit 'highfalutin'' remarks on the subject of that faction which would destroy the of the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery. He spoke of the Constitution made by our fathers, overturn the free form of government beeminent services and virtues (?) of Thadqueathed to us by them, do violence to deus Stevens, and portrayed him as a the natural instincts of the nobler race, very God. We make room for one or und erase all the laws on our statut two extracts from the Major's thrillin books which prevent the negro from claiming as his right perfect and entire "History has few brighter parallels—few brighter examples thin Thaddens Stevens, When those little men. [we are glad to know that the Major is not one of them,] the villi-fiers of his great reputation, shall have gone to their graves 'unhonored and unsung,' the name of Thaddens Stevens will stand out in latters of living light and will main equality with the white race. He appeared on board the vessels at Hampton Roads, disguised it is true under the name and title of the President of the United States, but, in reality, he was the representative, not of the people, out in letters of living light, and will point but of the most ultra wing of the radia moral upon every page of Ameri cal Abolitionists, and of that only. Then the Major is going to present Mr. Lincoln was met by representa-Thaddeus as an example to our chilives of that party of men in the dren, and hold up his virtues (!) to stim-South which have staked their all ulate us and them to deeds of virtue upon the existence of an independent and greatness. Hear him: Confederacy of States. How much the and greatness. rear nim: "His labors have accomplished this great work, and it will be but just to his great name that we make him an example to our children—to hold up his virtues to stimulate ourselves, and to stimulate com-ing generations to deeds of virtue and great-ness." unbition of these bad men may have been shaken by recent reverses, whether they would have accepted any terms of reunion, we may never know. Sure it is, nothing transpired to indicate that the rebel commissioners any more truth-The Major reaches the sublimity of fully represented the people of the South loquence in his peroration. He calls than Mr. Lincoln did those of the North. the roll of honor: "Mr. Speaker, when the roll of honor-the roll of the names of the great men to whose labor we are indebted—shall be call-ed, if the prayer of the unchained slave is They were the representatives of one destructive political heresy, he of another. The two are extremes, wide assunder as the poles, which can never f any avail, the name of Thaddeu's Stever will lead them all." be brought together. Between them, The Major took his seat amid profound and in no close sympathy with either, silence, and several members, who had stands the great body of the American pealed onions in close proximity to their people with open veins, bleeding their nasal organs, are said to have wept coife away. How could any peace come pious tears. of such a conference! The columns of this paper will testify that we never ex-White Befugees. pected it, and never bade the people The following announcement appeartope for it. The saddest reflection coned in the Philadelphia Press of Saturnected with the whole matter is to be day, in the shape of a telegram : found in the fact that neither the in-WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.-A meeting is t terests, the wishes, or the feelings of the be held here to-morrow (Sunday) even to devise relief for the eighty thous masses of either section were representwhite refugees, who have been driven within our lines in the past twelve months. The most of them are females and children, and who have been driven from their homes by guerilla warfare, consciption, &c. Post-master General Dennison will preside. ed at the late peace conference. Had the people been faithfully represented, had their wishes been consulted and their interests regarded, not another gun would ever have been fired That is the very first announcement in this most horrid war. The Unionof a meeting for the relief of such white would have been speedily restored, sufferers from the war which we have never to be broken again; and even seen in any loyal paper since the war the negro would have had reason to began. We have had column after thank God for an event which would column filled with most earnest and have saved him from coming miseries, heart-moving appeals in behalf of the compared to which the harshest plannegroes. They have been fed and tation life was happiness indeed. Is it clothed at the expense of the Governnot the verriest mockery for the people ment; contraband camps have been es-

The Good Time Coming. There is a good time coming for the white people of the Linited States, which they may hasten by behaving them selves well and rendering an unconditional support to the Republican leaders If the same set of men whomow frame both our National and State laws are maintained in power by the people three or four years longer, the question will not be whether the negro shall be permitted to ride in the same car with the white man, but whether white men

shall be permitted to ride at all except as coachmen or footmen for wealthy colored gentlemen." Under the lead of SUMNER at Washington, and LOWRY at Harrisburg, a revolution is in progress which promises to end in making masters of the negroes and servants of the white men. If the rank and file of the Republican party are ambitious of driving coach, sawing wood or blacking boots for LINCOLN'S ^t free Americans of African descent," (vulgarly called niggers,) they can have their ambition gratified by continuing to support SUMNER, STEVENS, LOWRY, and others of the same kidney, all of whose efforts are directed to the exaltation of the black race. Last week Mr. SUMNER led a negro

nto the Supreme Court of the United States, and on his motion Mr. CHASE tious and designing men. Well might the new Chief Justice, ordered Mr. Blackstone Snowball to be sworn in as an Attorney of that Court. If NELSON or CLIFFORD should die or resign, the

chances are at least ten to one that LIN-COLN would elevate Mr. Snowball to the vacancy on the Bench.

A State Convention of Negroes was ield at Harrisburg the other day. The nembers of the Legislature were very properly invited to attend. The negroes ertainly had a right to expect a very ull attendance of the Republican mem pers. How many went we are unable o say, but we understand that Senator LOWRY did himself the honor to be

There is no doubt but that the masse present. This Convention met for the ourpose of taking steps to secure "equal rights" to the colored population of Pennsylvania. "Education," ight of suffrage," and kindred topics. were the themes discussed. The pres ent Legislature will perhaps not underake to amend our Constitution so as to llow negroes to vote. They regard heir adoption of the abolition amend-

States as glory enough for one session But give the Republican party the same majority in the next two sessions that has in the present session of the Legslature, and an amendment to the Constitution will be adopted, which will clothe the negro with the right to vote and hold office. This will make him a ower in the State, and he will be ourted by leading Republicans, who will ride into high official position on his back. But in proportion as he is courted he will grow insolent, ambitious and exacting, and his demands, however extravagant they may be, will be acceded to by the Republicans. . Thus the negro will find his way into the School Board, the Town and City Councils, the Legislature, Congress, and possi-

bly the Presidential Chair itself! ----+--+ object of ambition. Major Shenk Grows Eloquent Over the

The Peace Mission----Message from President Davis to Congress----Offici Report of the Confederate Comm! ----Official people, The Richmond Dispatch of the 7th

says the following important documents were laid before Congress yesterday orning:

to the Senute and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America. "Having recently received written tification which satisfied me that the

notification which satisfied me that the President of the United States was disosed to confer, informally, with unoffi-ial agents that might be sent by me, vith a view to the restoration of I requested the Hon. Alexander H. Ste-phens, the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter and the Hon. John A. Campbell to proceed brough our lines and to hold confer nce with Mr. Lincoln, or such persons s he might depute to represent him. " I herewith submit, for the informa

tion of Congress, the report of the emi-nent citizens above named, showing that the enemy refused to enter into ne gotiations with the Confederate States, or any one of them separately, or to give to our people any other terms or guarantees than those which the conqueror may grant, or to permit us to have peace on any other basis than our nditional submission to their rule oupled with the acceptance of their le islation, including an amendmet to the Constitution for the emancipation of all the negro slaves, with the right on the part of the Federal Congress to legislate the subject of the relations between the white and black population of each state. Such is, as I understand, the effect of the amendment to the Consti tution which has been adopted by the Congress of the United States.

"JEFFERSON DAVIS. "JEFFERSON DAVIS. "Lecentire Office, Richmona Feb. 6, 1865, RICHMOND, V.X., February 5, 1865, To the President of the Conjecterate States: SIR: Under your letter of appoint-ment of the 25th ultimo, we proceeded to good ap this formul on fore new With

to seek an "informal conference" with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, upon the subject men-tioned in the letter. The conference was granted, and took place on the 30th instant, on board a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and the Hon, Mr. Seward secretary of State of the United States t continued for several hours, and was oth full and explicit

We learned from them that the mes-sage of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States, in December last, explains clearly and distinctly his sentiments as to the terms, conditions " the and method of proceeding, by which we were not informed that they would be modified or altered to obtain that

"We understood from him that no terms or proposals of any treaty or agreement looking to an ultimate settlenent to the Constitution of the United ent would be entertained or made by him with the authorities of the Confed erate States, because that would be recognition of their existence as a scpa-rate Power, which under no circum-stances would be done; and, for like entertained by him from the States separately; that no extended truce or armistice (as at present advised) would be granted or allowed, without a satisctory assurance, in advance, of a comolete restoration of the authority constitution and the laws of the United intes over all places within the States of the Confederacy.

"That whatever consequences may follow from the re-establishment of that authority must be accepted. But that individuals, subject to pains and penal-ties under the laws of the United States, might rely upon a very liberal use of the power confided to him to remit se pains and penalties if peace be retored

"During the conference the propoamendments to the Constitution of the United States, adopted by Congress on the 31st ultimo, were brought to our

'These amendments provide that neither slavery nor involuntary servi ude, except for crime, should exist with-in the United States or any place within their jurisdiction, and that Congress should have power to enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation. " Of all the correspondence that pre eded the conference herein mentioned nd leading to the same, you have here ofore been informed.

" Very respectfully, "Your obedient servants, "ALEXANDER H. STEPHN R. M. T. HUNTER

bread, to a cause which if lost carries down with it what is worth more than life or posless than twelve months to petition us for re than life or pos sions. A new spirit and a more At the cor

the conclusion of President Davis's ch, Gov. Smith arose and read the following resolutions seriatim, unanimously adopted as the Already the fire has broken out in th he meetin s, The Commonwealth of Vir-

n our own term

which wer

specifie

"Affreedy the fire has broken out in the barry, and is spreading with noble contag-ion from company to company, and corps to corps. From this date we shall mark a revival among the people. The glorious ardor and sublime self-consecration of 1861 and 1862 will show themselves again. "All that a man hath," says the sacred book, "will be give for his life," and all that a people have will they give a cause dearer. thia, in concert with other American tates, did, in the year 1776, solemnly set forth the rth that when any form of governm ecomes destructive of the happiness angerous to the liberties of the people becomes destructive of the happiness of dangerous to the liberties of the people, it is the right and the duty of the people to alter or abolish it; in pursuance whereof they did declare themselves independent States; and whereas, her seperate indepen-dence and that of the coacting States was afterwards acknowledged by the world; and whereas, Virginia did subsequently form with other States, a common govern-ment, or agency. for the management of people have will they give to a cause dearen to all manly natures than life. We have men and means enough to carry on this war from generation to generation. They will come forth now, and there is every prospect that the campaign this year will bring us victories more illustrious and more fruitful than any past campaign, however elorious ment, or agency, for the manage heir foreign affairs and other s nowever glorious. The Richmond Enquirer of the 7th ins speaks editorally as follows: general purposes, which said con general purposes, which said common gov-ernment or agency received no other or further recognition by foreign Powers than as the representative of the several State sovereignties already recognized; and whereas, Virginia, in entering into this asso-ciation or federation, did expressly reserve for herself, and therefore for her co-States, the right which attached to the act itself When the first mission of Mr. Blair to this city was announced, and his certain arrival known, we could not understand it arrival known, we could not understand its meaning nor explain its significance. To suppose that the enemy was about to lower his demands appeared preposterous; having refused to negotiate in 1862, when disastrous defeat had driven him from before Rich-word we could return the before Richthe right which attached to the act itsel the right which attached to the act itself of resuming the powers granted whensoever the same might be perverted to their injury or oppression: and *whereas*, the Common-wealth of Virginia did, in sovereign conven-tion, in April, 1861, decide and determine that the circumstances had arrived which made it imperative duty, as it was her in-disputable right, to withdraw from the association known as the United States of mond, we could not suppose that Mr. Lin-coln would treat for peace when his armies were victorious, at least in his opinion

Mr. Blair came and returned, and again visited Richmond and returned, and th third time sent a written con third time sent a written communication soliciting an interview, and begging Presi-dent Davis to appoint commissioners. It seemed impossible that an old man in the grand clinacterie offlife was deliberately en-gaged in the work of deception and practicing upon so grand and important a subject the low arts and contemptible tricks of a politi-cal partisan. The war which for four years has ravged the country hold driven form ociation known as the United States o America, and resume her separate sov-ereignty; and whereas, this, her legitimate act, has been followed by an atrocious war upon her and upon the States with which she subsequently formed a new confederacy by the States from which she and they cal partisan. The war which for four years has ravaged the country had driven from the midst of these people the subterfuges and deceptions of politicians, and filled them with more serious and honorable mo-tives. Anxiously desirous of peace, Mr. Blair was accepted as an honorable agent seeking truthfully to bring about a lasting peace. Deceived by his appearance, his pledges and his professions, the overtures he made for Mr. Lincoln were responded to, and the three Commissioners departed on withdrew, for the purpose of subjecting her and them to the absolute and tyrannical do-mination of the United States; and *threeas*, after four years of hostilities, coinducted on the part of enemies with a barbarity equaled only by the wickedness of their designs their authorities did invite a conference with a view to the establishment of peace, which invitation was responded to by the Cona view to the establishment of peace, which invitation was responded to by the Con-federate authorities; and *whereas*, it appears, from the report of the Confederate commis-sioners to said conference, that it was de-clared, on the part of our enemies, that nothing should terminate the existing war but our unconditional submission to their and the three Commis sioners departed what was believed by these people to be the most blessed mission upon which men ever started—the mission of peace, prosperity and happiness. But the whole thing turns out cables and the start of the start of the start of the start out cables and the start of the st started—the mission of peace, prosperity and happiness. But the whole thing turns out to be a trick, deceptive not only of these people, but also of the United States Con-gress. Mr. Seward originated the mission of Mr. Blair to deceive the people of these States into sending Commissioners, and then used the fact of our sending Commis-sioners to deceive the United States Con-gress into the adoption of an amendment out our unconditional submission to their voke and acknowledgment of their absolute authority; that their laws for the confise

authority; that their laws for the confisca-tion of our property and execution of our cilizens should be enforced by judges and other officers whon they would appoint for that purpose; that the only palliation of our wretchedness should be the voluntary mercy of those who, for years, have murder-ed our people and ravaged our homes; that our social system shall be immediately up-turned, and hereafter regulated at their will: that the uniform which our solitions gress into the adoption of an amendment abolishing slavery in all the States. It was a double trick of fraud and deception, to accomplish an object in which he had failed before. will; that the uniform which our soldier inve made so honorable must be stringe which due the difference which our soldiers have made so honorable must be stripped from their persons, and the flag, under which they have so often marched to victory must be trailed in the dust and thrown away forever; therefore be it *Revoluted*. That was the stripped have

before. Mr. Blair was either the knave or dupe of Seward, and played the shameful part either in ignorance of the designs of Seward, or he is a participator in the crime of hav-ing deceived his own Congress. Everything may be fair in war, but there are some things that overreach the designs and pur-poses of their authors. Mr. Seward might have secured this amendment without de-ception and fraud for no matter how obsembled, do spurn with indignation due to so gross an insult, the terms on which the President of the t-inited States has proffered peace to the people of the Contederate States. *Resolved*. That the circumstances under which that profier has been made add to the outrage, and stamp it as a designed and pre-mediated indignity to our people. *Resolved*. That our profoundest gratitude is due to the soldiers who, for four years, have, maintained our liberties against the utmost efforts of our enemies; and that while we look to them to illustrate in the future the fame of the past, we will sustain ception and fraud, for no matter how tained, its adoption ception and fraud, for no matter how ob-tained, its adoption was immaterial and unimportant to the people of these States. But Mr. Seward has done us a service. Be-fore he undertook to use the high and holy purpose of peace-making to sorve the low and mean ends of party, the people of these States were somewhat divided. A portion of them believed that the enemy would yet give them fair and hoporphila targets of noise. give them fair and honorable terms of pe uture the fame of the past, we will sustain provided they agreed to reconstr Union; and under this belief ther their efforts by every means and res growing party which insisted on negotia-tion. An honorable and manly course on the part of Mr. Seward might have made that party dominant in those States, and ended in reconstruction. But his tricks and deception, his trifling with the sacred cause of peace, has undersived the reconstruction. of peace, has undeceived the reconstruction-sts, and taught them to believe with the

at our command, *Resolved*, That in this presence, and in the face of the world, reverently invoking thereto the aid of Almighty God, we renew our resolve to maintain our liberties and in-dependence; a 4 to this we mutually pledge our lives, our features, and our sacred honor. After the a stion of the foregoing pre-amble and resolutions, hold calls were made for Vice President A. H. Stophene Home. rest of their fellow citizens, that faith, truth r Vice President A. H. Stephens, Hon and honor are unknown to the author A. Henry of Tennes of the enemy. He has united the people o these States in the same spirit which ani mated them in 1861; and, having destroyed the last humo of a formation. ginia, Oldham of Texas, and Rev. Dr. Dun-can of Richmond. The two latter responded in appropriate speeches, of about twenty minutes each; after which the meet-ing adjourned with three cheers for each of aving destroyed the last hope of of peace, reconcile war and to fighting it out. The speakers. SPEECH OF GEN. HENRY A. WISE. The Hall of the House of Delegates was cranined on Saturday night by an enthu-Fighting is now the sole business of the

Pigning is now the sole business of this people, to it every thought should be turn-ed, every energy devoted. The solenn ded-ication of every kind of property in the State to the cause is the first duty of the Legislature of Virginia. To call upon the people to give their gold and divergent instic audience listening to the address o Legislature of Virginia. To call upon the people to give their gold and silver, their jewelry and plate, and the solemn dedicathe distinguished orator and soldier who name heads this paragradh. Althou reached the capitol at an early hour, jewelry and plate, and the solemn dedica-tion of all to the good of the cause and the carrying on of the war, followed by the abolition of Slavery and the conscription of negroes into the army—to work and to fight is now the duty of the Legislature, and will be, we sincerely believe, the pleasure of the people. The authorities have exhausted all means of an honorable peace; this people can hope for nothing from the energy but disgrace and run. The impoverishment and enslavement of our people are the only terms offierd by the energy. impossible to gain access to any part of the building, so dense was the crowd. Large numbers were unable to gain admittance, and were obliged to retire. We understand the speech was worthy of the Veteran Ora-tor's ancient renown. As his remarks were written out, we presume they will be discovered. vritten out, we presume they will be given o the press. We are g

The Conference.

Slavery a Sine Qua Non for Reunion

instant, requesting information in relation

to a conference recently held in Hampton

day of the date I gave Francis P. Blair, Sr.,

Allow the bearer, F. P. Blair, senior, to assour lines, go South and return. A LINCOLN.

that at the time I was informed that Mr.

Blair sought the card as a means of getting

Jefferson Davis's Letter to Mr. Blair.

secure peace to the two countries. Yours, etc. [Signed] JEFFERSON DAVIS.

shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and deliver-

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1865,

ed to Mr. Blair a letter, as follows, to wit :

Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Blair.

person now resisting the national authority may informally send me with a view of se

curing peace to the people of our common country. Yours, etc., - A. LINCOLN.

RICHMOND, Va., January_12.

card, written on as follows, to wit:

ids, I have the honor to state that on the

irmistice Not to be Thought of-Gen

WASHINGTON, February 10. to the Honorable the House of Representatives :

ners, de.

Terms of Settlement Pr

of the Southern Com

December 28, 1864.

F. P. Blair, Esq. :

may informally send to me with the view of equiling peace to the people of our common oustry. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: at Lincoln's Report of the Meet ing in Hampton Roads-All the Doen-ments in the Case-How Jeff. Dayls

Afterwards, but before Major Eckert had Queer Way of Negotiating - The leparted, the following dispatch was reeived from General Grant : scribed in Ad. OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, vance by A. Lincoln-The Abolition of

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WAR DEFARTMENT, j (Cipher.) The following telegram was received at Washington January 31, from City Point, Va., 10.30 A. M., January 31: His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States; The following communication was receiv-ed here last evening : In response to your resolution of the 8th

d here last evening :

ed here last evening: PETERSDURG, Va., Jan. 30. Lieutenant-General U. S. Grant, Commanding Armites United States : SIR-We desire to pass your lines under safe conduct and to proceed to Washington to hold a conference with President Lincoln upon the subject of the existing war, and with a view of ascertaining upon what terms it may be terminated, in pursuance-of the c-ause indicated by him in his letter to Mr. Blair of January 18, 1865, of which we pre-ume you have a copy, and if not, we wish to see you in person, if convenient, and to c-nfer with you on the subject. Very respectfully, yours,

to Richmond, Va.; but he was given no au hority to speak or act for the government LEXANDER H. STEVENS, for was I informed of anything he would J. A. CAMPBELL, R. M. T. HUNTER. y or do on his own account, or otherwise Mr. Blair told methat he had been to Rich-

Law sent directions to receive these gen-tlemen, and expect to have them at my quarters this evening, awaiting your inmond and had seen Mr. Jefferson Davis; and he [Mr. Blair] at the same time left with me a manuscript letter, as follows: U.S. GRANT,

Lieut, Gen, Com'dg Armies United States This, it will be perceived, transferred General Ord's agency in the matter to Gen. Grant. | resolved, however, to send Major Eckert forward, with his message, and, accordingly, tolegraphed General Grant as ollows, to wit :

Mr. Linco'n's Dispatch to General Grant

LEVENTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, January, 31, Lieuteness General Grant, City Point, Vo. :

F. F. Blatr, Esq.: SiR-I have deenied it proper and pro-bably desirable to you to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me to be repeated by you to President Lin-coln, etc., etc. I have no disposition to find obstucles in forms, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace. I am ready to send a commission whenever I have reason to sup-pose it will be received, or to receive a comommission whenever a nave reason to su nose it will be received, or to receive a con nission, if the United States governme hall choose to send one. Notwithstandii A mess-ager is coming to you on the bus-iness contained in your dispatch. Detain the genthemen, in comforable quarters, un-til he arrives, and then act upon the mes-sage he brings as far as applicable, it having bean made on he uses through them. Order shift enoise to send one. Notwinstanding the rejection of our former offers, I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister, or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately, and renew the ef-fort to enter into a conference with a riew been made up to pass through Gen. Ord's hands, and when the gentlemen were sup-posed to be beyond our lines. A. LINCOLN.

(Sent in cipher at 14 o'clock P. Letter from Secretary Stanton to General Grant.

Afterwards, with the view that it should When Major Eckert departed, he bore with him a letter of the Secretary of War to ieneral Grant, as follows, to wit :

÷....

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30,

WASHINGTON, Jan' 18, 1865. F. P. Blair, Esq.: Sin—Your having shown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst. you may say to him that I have constantly becen, am now, and shall continue ready to receive any agent, whom he or any other influential person now resisting the metional metion. Journant-General Grant, Commanding, &c. GENERAL: The President desires that you will please, procure for the bearer, Maj. Phomas T. Eckert, an interview with You will present the second se For these submode by such rotate and, and en-such military precautions as you may deem prudent, giving them protection and com-fortable quarters while there; and that you let none of this have any effect upon your Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make an entry, on the

ents or plans. By order of the President, EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of Way Mr. Lincoln'sInstructions to Mr. Seward. Supposing the proper point to be then eached, I dispatched the Secretary of State

with the following instructions, Major Eckert, however, going ahead of him :

 Hon, however, going anead of him : Executive MANSION,) Washingron, January 31, }

Hon, William II. Seward, Secretary of state: You will proceed to Fortress M mroe, Vir- ginia, there to meet and informally confer with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Camp- bell, on the busis of my letter to F. P. Blair, Less, sof January 18, a. gray of which you Esq. of January 18, a copy of which you have. You will make known to them that hree things are indispensable, to wit : First he restoration of national authority through the restoration of hattonalauthority through-out all the States; second, no receding by the Executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the late annual message to Con-gress and in the preceding documents; no cessation of hostilities short of an end of the war and the disbording of all due to the war and the disbanding of all the forces nostile to the government. You will inform them that all propositions of theirs not in-consistent with the above, will be considered Yours, &c., A. LINCOLN.

On the day of its date the following tele-

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINTON, February, 1st. 1865.

icutenant General Grant, City Point Va. Let nothing which is transpiring change. der, or delay your milit

pack of my retained copy of the letter last above recited, which is as follows: Indorsement of Mr. Lincoln's Letter. January 28. January 28, To-day Mr. Blair tells me that on the 21st instant he delivered to Mr. Davis the original of which the within is a copy, and left it with him; that at the time of deliver-ing Mr. Davis read it over twice in Mr. Blair's presence at the place of writh the

Blair's presence, at the close of which he Mr. Blair' remarked that the part about air common country related to the part of Mr. Davis's letter about the two countries, which Mr. Davis replied that h A LINCOLN. Application of the Southern Commis-sioners to Come North. Afterward the Secretary of War placed my hands the following telegram, inlorsed by him, as appears: OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH. WAR DEPARTMENT. The following telegram was received a Washington, January 29, 1865:

consistent with the above, will be considered and passed upon in a spirit of sincere lib-erality. You will hear all they may choose to suy, and report it to me. You will not assume to definitely consummate anything. Yours, *Ac.* ARMY OF THE JAMES-6.30 P. MP January 29, 1865.) Hon. E. M. Stanton, Sceretary of War: The following dispatch is just received from Major-General Parke, who refers it to me for my action. I refer it to you in lieu of General Grant's absence. E. O. C. ORD, Major-General Commanding. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC-4 P. M. Mr. Lincoln to General Grant.

ram was sent to Gen. Grant :

Local Elections.

of this country to still claim to be sove-

Many men seem to regard the local elections which occur annually in the oroughs and townships where they reside as of but little importance. This is an entirely wrong view to take of the matter. The offices to be filled, if are nevertheless highly important, of the Administration. But who, be-Much depends upon having the right kind of men for Justices of the Peace, for constables, for school directors, and every good citizen to take an interest and a part in the selection and the election of those who are to fill these comparatively humble positions.

To Democrats we would say, nomihate your very best men, and then make a vigorous effort to secure their election. We have known townships to be carried at a spring election by a little vigorous work, in which our opponents had a decided and reliable majority. They trusted too much to their strength. It is important that the year should be begun aright. A manly effort made in the spring gives strength and energy for the more important contests thousand houseless, homeless, white that come off in the fall. Let our friends throughout the county see how well they can do at the coming election for tswnship officers. A properly-directed effort, if vigorously and judiciously made, may enaple them to carry town ships they never carried before W hope no reader of the Intellige cer wil fail to take such an interest in this mat-

ter as its importance demands, The Legislature has passed a bill prohit ting the storing of petroleum in Philadel phia.

1997 - 1996 - 1996 -

panegyric. History is called into requisition. He says:

J. A. CAMPBFLL Voice of the Rebel Press on the Peace Mission and its Results.

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN RICHMOND. The Richmand Whig of the 6th says: Our "Peace Commissioners" have They were not allowed to enter the urned. rmea. They were not allowed to enter the enty's Capitok. No commissioners on the ert of the enemy were appointed to meet em. But Lincoln, after the manner of cicient potentates, himself gave them an dience in person, and listened to their er-nd. In his own hadenease and their er-In his own backwoods style, he wa ivil, and, as he never fails to be, jocose and anecdotical. He assured our commission hat he had no terms to offer, or listen that he had no terms to offer, or listen to, that did not rest upon our submission to Federal authority, and the return of our States to the Federal Union. Such, we have reason to believe, was the gist of the inter-view between Lincohn and Seward on the one side, and Messrs, Stephens, Hunter and Campbell on the other, at Fortress Monroe last week — Thus only the interlable and st week. Thus ends the interlude and

the tragedy goes on again. The readers of *The Whig* have not been . The readers of *The Whig* have not been encouraged to look for any other result. For our own part, we derive no little satis-facion from the fact that that the matter has been so promptly disposed of. Hoping next to nothing of good from the embassy, we feared seriously that the tricky Seward might bring some devif's device into play, to prolong negotiations, deejve our Contisprolong negotiations, deceive our Con to prolong negotiations, deceive our Comis-sioners, mislead our people, and divert our authorities from those indispensable prepa-rations for the coming campaign that will enable us once more to meet the shock of the enemy's onset. This great peril the sa-gacity of our Commissioners or the unusual frankness of Seward has saved us from,— We now see where we stund and whot is infrankness of Seward has saved us from.-We now see where we stand and what is be-fore us, and every man knows his duty. A liberal and open and honorable effort has been made to terminate the bloody strife in which we are engaged. The most anxious advocate for negotiations cannot object that the Commissioners selected did not filly rop-resent the sentiments of our people. Neither were they objectionable, on any personal or other ground, to the Washington authorities. The experiment has been fairly made, and has completely and signally failed. What as completely and signally failed. What hese gentlemen could not obtain, no on

sould obtain, whether they represented the confederate States in a body, or any one of Confederate States in a body, or any one of them singly. Submission is the only condition on which we can have peace. The man who is not satisfied with this effort at negotiation is a factionist, and will be held by all as an enemy of the cause. To talk now of any other arbitrament than that of the sword is to betray cowardice or trachery. other arbitrament than that of the sword is to betray cowardice or treachery. We must beat back this enemy thirsting for our blood, or be destroyed by him. There is no alter-native. We must make good our indepen-dence, defend our institutions, and maintain our rights, or give up the houses we have built, the lands we have tilled, the slaves we have owned, the institutions we have inherited, the religion civilization and traditions in which we have been reared, the laws, customs, and habits to which we tablished for them wherever our armies have gone; freedmen's schools have been fitted up, and "Yankee schooltraditions in which we have been reared, the laws, customs, and habits to which we have been used, the hopes we have cherish-ed, the name we have aspired to—all indeed that makes existence valuable—and go forth, with nothing left but a worthless life, as vacabade and unandicant. marms" paid out of the public treasury for teaching the pickaninnies; the grounds about the Presidential mansion have been given up to them as a pleasant and appropriate spot for pic-nic

that makes existence valuable—and go forth, with nothing left but a worthless life, as vagabonds and mendicants. Here, then, our people bid adien to all thoughts of peace, except a pence to be wrung from vain-giorionsness and insolence by the might of a universal and all-power-ful resolve to conquer or die. They are throughly conscious that they are innocent of blame in the matter; they know that from the foundation of the Union they were the victims of wanton, continued and con-stantly increasing insult and outrage; that they bore these things with a forbearance and patience that bordered on pusilaminity; that, when finally they broke loose from an association that had become intolerable they did so with no other view thanto secure the tranquility that land been denied them in the Union, and that they asked nothing but to be let alone. Their moderate wish was not granted them, The malignity that had so long covertly assailed them broke out into an open and gigantic effort to overwhelm and destroy them, and the war which has followed has been marked on the part of the enemy with a fieldishness of tarmore cod parties; and no expense has been considered too great, no indulgence too extravagant, for these pets and proteges fore the appearance of the above announcement, ever heard of any move being made to better the most miserable and destitute condition of the many thousands of even the loyal white women and children of the South, who have been turned out naked and homeless during the war. Why, it was only the other day that we read an account of four of these wretched creatures being frozen to death in a railroad car, in which a large number had been followed has been marked on the part of the enemy with a fiendishness of temper and crowded for removal from Tennessee followed has been marked on the part of the enemy with a fiendishness of temper and an atrocity of conduct never surpased by to the North. It was only a news item in a Western paper, and excited no comment. Had they been negroes a how

an atrocity of conduct never surpased by barbarians or savages. The people of the South have for four-years met the efforts and measured the strength of their foe. They feel an unquali-fied assurance that they can continue to meet him successfully. They know with absolute certainty that if their cause is lost it can only be through number surfaces. of distress would have gone up to heaven from all Abolitiondom. We are glad to see that the sufferings of eighty absolute certainty that if their cause is lost it can only be through murderons misman-agement or suicidal lack of spirit. And these they will now no longer fear. A new head is to direct all military operations—a head in whom people and army confide to the yerge of reverence. The civil de-partments, it is believed, will undergo re-forms equally beneficial. They will feel that their lives are not to be bootlessly thrown away, nor their valor and strength exhaust-ed in wild campaigns and hopeless enter-mises. The neorld will feel thet their are women and children have been considered worthy a passing notice. It shows that they may look for some slight sympathy after the negroes are all well pro-

Mr. Lincoln promises to be reasonably merciful; he will not shed unnecessary merciful; he will not shed unnecessar blood, not more than decimate us—one in every ten for the gallows, so much he can

But as to confiscation, that is the law of he land, and until repealed, must be exe-uted; that his people have a great debt, is soldiers deserve much at his hands, and while he would like to be merciful in the while he would like to be merciful in the matter of property, justice to his soldiers will not permit him to hold out any great hope that much property can be spared to the people of these States. He is humane, but he must be just. Rebellion is sin; loyalty is virtue; the one must be punished, the other rewarded.

Such are the prospects of peace. Thank foil that the prospects of peace. Thank foil that the prospects of war are much orighter—cannot be darker than those of peace. At most, we can only be killed in the fight, and that is the worst that Mr. Lincoln promises. Then worst that Mr. Lincoln promises. Then war and fight is to be our work. Let us go manfully to our duty, and let us leave peace in the hands of God, until his wise Providence shall see good to bless us with its homorable attain-ment.

Public Meeting at the African Church Public Meeting at the African Church. In response to the call of Governor Smith of Virginia, to meet him at the African Church, the greatest concourse of people assembled in that building last evening (Feb. 6.) that ever before was at one time collected under its roof. The meeting was advertised to be held at 7½ o'clock. Before advertised to be held at 7½ o'clock. Fetore 5 o'clock every seat and position where a man could stand was occupied, and each noment the crowd became greater by ad-ditional arrivals, until at last what had been a crowd became a jam. The galleries were so closely packed that serious fears were entertained that they would give way under their weight and crush all beneath hem.

It was gratifying to see this immense atendance at a meeting whose object was url back into Lincoln's teeth the insu out upon the Southern people by his answe o the Confederate Commissioners sent to onfer with him on the subject of a peace between the two countries. Standing in that immense assemblage, and hearing the patriotic expressions of the citizens and sol-diers there gathered together, one was in-voluntarily carried back by the sight and by the carge crisit that counter the sight and by the eager spirit that animated all present, to the first days of secession. Neve before has the war spirit burned so fiercely and steadily. The firm resolve to resist to the very death the demands of the Northern tyrant that now animates the whole South-ern people was plainly visible in that meeting.

ern people was plainly visible in that meeting. About 7 o'clock Gov. Smith, attended by President Davis and several distinguished citizens, came upon the stands. The procee-dings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Burrows, of the Baptist. Church. The Governor addressed the multitude in a pa-triotic and soul-stirring speech, during which he was frequently interrupted by thunders of applause. He was followed by thunders of an hour, during which he was frequent Davis in an address of about three quarters of an hour, during which he was frequently interrupted with the wildestout-bursts of applause. Upon the subject of thebursts of applause. Upon the subject of the recent peace commission, President Davis said he hinself had never entertained much house of affecting house burgets. said he himself had never entertained much hope of affecting honorable terms so long as our cause was meeting with reverses; but, ander the circumstances, when semi-official representatives had so frequently visited our Government, intimating that negotia-tions might result in a satisfactory adjust-ment of our difficulties, and when it was plain that the sufferings of the prople diations might result in a satisfactory adjust-ment of our difficulties, and when it was plain that the sufferings of the people dic-tated that every effort on his part should be made to bring about a cessation of hos-tillities, he felt it his duty, as he had always done, to appoint those whom he regarded as among the best men we had, who were most calculated to heal the existing breach which severed us, and obtain that independences for the Confederacy from the Federal Gov-ernment which no other Power on the face of the earth but the Yankees would think of denving. As to the conditions of peace, President Davis emphatically asserted that none save the independence of the Confed-eracy could ever receive his sanction.— He had embarked in this cause with a full knowledge of the tremendous odds against us; but, with the approval of a just Providence, which he conscientiously be-lieved was on our side, and the united re-solve of our people, he doubted not that vic-tory would yet erown our habors. In his cor-respondence with Lincoln, that functionary had always spoken of the United States and the Confederacy as our afflicted country; but, in his replics, he (the speaker) had never failed to refer to them as separate and distinct governments, and sooner than we should ever be united again, he would be willing to vield un everything he had ce never failed to refer to them asseparate and distinct governments, and sooner than we should ever be, united again, he would be willing to yield up everything he had on earth, and, if it were possible, would sacri-fice a thousand lives before he would suc-cumb. It was impossible at the late hour when President Davis congluded to give anything like an accurate summary of his

to the press, We are gratified to see that not only in this city, but in other parts of the Confeder-acy, public meetings are being held, and acy, public meetings are being heid, and the gifted patriots of the land are appealing to their countrymen in behalf of the cause in words of burning eloquence. Keep the ball rolling. Speak to the soldiers—speak at the County Courts—in the cities and in the country. Stir up the laggards, cheer the desponding, encourage the patriotic, and raise a storm of enthusiasm that will sweep over the country, and mait all in a served

over the country, and unite all in a gra-rally for the defense of our rights, our li-and our independence. ANOTHER GREAT MEETING. The following call appears in all Richmond papers: Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter, and J. A. Campbell desire to cross my lines, in accordance with an understanding chimond papers : control papers : reat Meeting of the People to be held at the African Church, on Thursday, the Ninth instant, at Treche o'clock M. claimed to exist with Lieutenant Gene Chamied to exist with Lieutenant General Grant, on their way to Washington as peace commissioners. Shall they be admit-ted? They desire an early answer, so as to come through immediately. They would like to reach City Point to-night if they can. If they cannot do this they would like to come through at 10 A. M. to-morrow morn-ing. Major General Convider Ninth Const.

Resolved, That we, the citizens here as-inbled, do spurn with indignation due to

t our command.

PRESIDENT: Hon. R. T. M. HUNTER. VICE PRESIDENTS: His Excellency Governor Smith, Thos, W. McCance, Thos. W. McCance, Judge Wm. H. Lyons, Abraham Warwick, Raleigh T. Daniel, George K. Crutchfield, Dr. J. A. Cunningham, Wellington Goddin, George W. Munford, John S. Caskie, Wm. H. Macfarland, John Dooley. John Purcell, John Dooley, John Randolph Tucker, Gen. J. R. Anderson, Peachy R. Grattan, Thos. R. Price, Dr. Bener (J. C. 1997) Dr. Robert G. Cabell. A. Y. Stoke Loftin N. Ellett. SECRETARIES : John Mitchel.

Nathaniel Tyler, James McDonald, James A. Cowardin, R. M. Smith.

R. M. Smith. SPEAKERS : Hon. Hugh W. Sheffey of Virinia ; Hon. A. H. Stephens of Georgia ; Hon. J. A. Gilmer of North Carolina ; Hon. J. P. Benjamin of Louisana ; Hon. G. A. Henry of Tennessee ; Hon. HumphreyMarshall of Kentucky.

Couldn't Stand the Pressure. The Philadelphia Sunday Mercur announces that the Fifth and Sixthstreet passenger railway, which opened its cars to the negroes, and allowed them the privilege of riding along side the whites, soon found their vehicles running almost empty. The whites shunned them, as they still fortunately have the right to do. This brought the negro equality corporation to its senses, and they have concluded to compromise matters by putting on cars for the exclusive use of negroes. The Mercury suggests that a discerning public should continue to discriminate against the cars of the company. So think we Any remedy to bring the crazy fanatics to their senses, and punish them for attempting to force their odious doctrines on the public.

Fifty days having expired since the last call for three hundred thousand men, the draft will be enforced in most of the districts during the present week. Such is the brief announcement made in a telegram from Washington to the New York Herald of yesterday. The country has got so used to seeing drafts postponed that we suppose there are iew who really believe that the one now so imminently impending will come off at the time set. That it must be enforced very speedily is a fixed fact. More men will be imperatively demanded for the opening campaign, and they can only be had by conscription. The coming draft will be more terribly severe than all those which have preceded it combined. The men must be had. Volunteering is at a stand-still emphatically played out—and the draft must be enforced, and that at once.

furkeyfoot township to capture delinquent drafted men. They suc-ceeded in capturing eight. With two of them they had quite a battle. We learn that a squad of 21 proceeded to the house of a Mr. Murray, at 4 o'clock in the moving when a well of climital the morning, when a regular skirmish commenced between Mr. Murray, his wife and son in the house and the guard without lasting until noon that day, when Mr. Murray was taken prisoner. severely wounded in the scuffle. The prisoner person now resisting the national authority,

The following dispatch is forwarded to you for your action, since I have no know-ledge of Gen. Grant's having had any un-derstanding of this kind. I refer the mat-ter to you as the ranking officer present in plans A. LINCOLN. (Sent in cipher at 9.30 A. M.)

the Army of the Pol

as follows, to wit:

follows, to wit :

FROM HEADOUARTER

ARMY OF THE JAMES-6.30 P. M

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC-4 P. M.,

January 29, 1865.) Major-General E. O. C. Ord, Headquarters of the Army of the January

Major General Com'dg Ninth Corps. Major General Com'dg Ninth Corps. Respectfully referred to the President for such instructions as he may be pleased to give. EDWIN M. STANTON, EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War. January 2d, 1865, 8,30 P. M.

Secretary Stanton to General Ord

It appears that about the time of placing

the foregoing telegram in my hands, the

Secretary of War dispatched General Ord

WAR DEPARTMENT

Army of the James : By direction of the President, you are in-

Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, that a messenger will be dispatched to them, at or near where they now are, without un-

t or near where me, necessary delay, EDWIN M. STANTON, Societary of War.

Mr. Lincoln's Order to Major Eckert.

Afterwards, I prepared and put into the

ands of Major Thomas T. Eckert the fol-

pass them through as directed in the letter of the Secretary of War. If by their answer

ieral to

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.

Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Blair.

owing instructions and message :

Vor T. T. Eckert :

tructed to inform the three

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON,

terstood it.

Cipher.)

see. Hunter of Vir

Reply of General Grant. the two armies. JOHN G. PARKE, Major General Commanding. HEADQUARTERS 9TH ARMY CORES, J JANUARY 29, J Afterwards, the following dispatch was JOHN G. PARKE, eceived from General Grant :

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT, Major-General John G Parke, Readquar n cipher.)

The following telegram, received at Vashington, 2.30 P. M., February I, 1865. om City Point, Virginia, February 1, 12.30 P. M., 1865;

is Excellency, A. Lincoln, President of the United States: Its Exceedence, A. Encour, Frienden & Marken & United States: United States: Your dispatch received ; there will be no armistice in consequence of the presence of Mr Stephens: and others within our lines. The troops are kept in readiness to move at the shortest notice, if occasion should justify it. U.S. GRANT, Fortoward Grouped

Lieute General Mr. Lincoln to Major Eckert. To notify Major Eckert that the Secretary of State would be at Fortress Monroe, and put them in communication the following spatch was sent :

WAR DEPARTMENT, WARDER ANT MARY 1 WASHINGTON, February 1 ". Eckert, care General Grant, Major T. J. Freed, can Point, Fa.: Call at Fortress Monroe, and put yourself under direction of Mr. S., whom you will find there. A. LINCOLN. On the morning of the 2d inst, the following telegrams were received by me respecively, from the Secretary of State and

January 29, 1865–10 P. M.) Major General Orn: , This department has no knowledge of any understanding by General Grant to allow any persons to come within his lines as comfajor Eckert: mers of any sort. You will therefor allow no one to come into your lines unde Dispatch from Secretary Seward. such character or profession until you re-ceive the President's instructions, to whom your telegrams will be submitted for his directions- EDWIN M. STANTON, FORTRESS MONROE, Virginia, Feb. 1-11:30 P. M. directions- EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War. [Sent in cypher at 2 A. M. The President of the United States

Arrived at 10 this evening. Richmond party not here. I remain here. W. H. SEWARD. second Dispatch from Secretary Stanton to General Ord,

Dispatch from Major Eckert. CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 1-10 P. M. Afterwards, by my directions, the Secre-

ary of War telegraphed General Ord as I have the honor to report the delivery of your communication and my letter at 4.15 this afternoon, to which I received a reply at δp , M, but not satisfactory. At 8 p, M, the following note addressed to General Grant was received. WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.-10 A. M., January 30, Major-General O. F. C. Ord, Headquarters of the

Frant was received : CITY POINT, February 1,

CITY POINT, February I. To Licutenant General Grant: SIR: We desire to go to Washington city to confer informally with the President, personally, in reference to the matter men-tioned in his letter to Mr. Blair of the 18th fonce in its leater to bir, blair of the isin of January ultimo. Without any personal compromise on any question in the letter, we have the permission to do so from the authorities in Richmond.

Attorney in Richmond. Very respectfully yours, ALEX. H. STEPHENS, R. M. T. HUNTER, J. A. CAMPBELL' At 9:30 P. M., I notified them that they could not proceed further unless they com-blied with the terms expressed in way be EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. could not proceed an array of the second not proceed an array of the second and t SIGO 1. 1. Super-You will proceed with the docu-ments placed in your hands, and on reaching General Ord will deliver -him the letter addressed him by the Secretary of War. Then by General Ord's assistance War. Then by General Ord's assistance procure an interview with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, or any of them. Deliver to him or them the paper on which your own letter is written. Note on the Deriver to him or them the paper on which your own letter is written. Note on the copy which you retain the time of delivery, and to whom delivered. Receive their an swer in writing, waiting a rensonable tune for it, and which, if it contain their decision to come through without further conditions, will be your warrant to ask General Ord to pass them through as directed in the three

On reading this dispatch of Major Eckert was about to recall him and the Secretary of State, when the following telegram of General Grant to the Secretary of War was shown me:

Dispatch from General Gaant to Secre-tary Stanton.

of the Secretary of war. 110, there terms, they decline to come, or propose other terms, do not have them passed through. And they decline to come, or production of the do not have them passed through. And this being your whole duty return and report to me. Yours truly, A LINCOLN. OFFICE OF THE U.S. MILITARY TELEGRPH, WAR DEPARTMENT. (In cipher.)

The following telegram received at Washngton at 4.35 A. M., February 2, 1865, from Major Eckert to the Southern Commis City Point, Va., February 1, 10,30 P. M. : Messrs. Alexander H. Slevens, J. A. Campbell, and R. M. T. Hunter: Chy Point, via, repruny 1, 10.30 F. M. ? Hon. F. M. Manton, Sceretary of War: Now that the interview between Major Eckert, under his written instructions, and Mr. Stephens and party, has ended, I wilk state confidentially, but not officially, to be-come a matter of record, that I am convinc-ed unon conversation with Messus, Stephens and R. M. T. Hunter: Gentlemen: I am instructed by the Presi-dent of the United States to place this paper in your hands, with the information that if you pass through the United States military lines, it will be understood that you do so for the purpose of an informal conference on the basis of that letter, a copy of which is on the reverse side of this sheet, and that if you passed come a matter of record, that I am convinc-ed, upon conversation with Messrs. Stephone and Hunter, that their intentions are good and their desire sincere to restore peace and union, I have not felt myself at liberty to express even views of my own, or to ac-count for my reticence. This has placed me in an awkward position, which I could have avoided by not seeing them in the first instance. I fear now their going back, without any expression to any one in au-thority, will have a bad influence. At the same time I recornize the difficulties in thack if you choose to pass on such understand-ing, and so notify me in writing, I will prothority, will have a bad influence. At the same time I recognize the difficulties in the way of receiving the informal commissioners at this time, and I do not know what to re-commend. I am sorry, however, that Mr. Lincoln cannot have an interview with the two named in this dispatch, if not all three now within our lines. Their letter to me was all that the President's instructions contemplated, to secure their safe conduct, if they had used the same language to Major-Eckert.

U.S. GRANT.

The President Concludes to Meet the Commissioners. This dispatch of General Grant changed

the second for he give her in second and produce and

War in Somerset County.

pathy after the negroes are all well pro-vided for. It is to be hoped they will be so provoking as to die of cold and starvation before that happens, Wall Papers, Window Curtain Papers, &c., &c. Read adv. of Messrs, Howell & Bourke, in this issue. This is an old and reliable house. Give them a call.

The Braft to be Enforced this Week.

cure the commanding general to through the lines and to Fortre under such military precautions through the lines and to Fortress Monroe, under such military precations as he may deem prudent, and at which place you will be met in due time by some person or per-sons for the purpose of such informal con-ference, and further that you shall have pro-tection, safe conduct, and safe return in all events. THOS. T. ECKERT, Major and Aid de Camp. City Point, Va. Feb. 1. On last Thursday, the Provost Guard tationed at Somerset went to Lower

F. P. Blair, Esq. : SIR-You having shown me Mr. Davis's letter to you of the 12th inst., you may say to him that I have constantly been, am now and shall continue ready to receive any agent whom he, or any other influential