The Press.

PHILADELPHIA: THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1861.

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.—The circulation of THE PRESS exceeds that of any other daily paper in Philadelphia, with a single exception. Satisfactory proof of this fact will be cheerfully given to advertisers.

THE WEEKLY PRESS,

FOR SATURDAY next, is now out, and can be had at the Office, in wrappers, ready for mailing. It contains the LATEST NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS, as well as Editorials on all the popular topics of the day. No weekly paper published is better suited for persons in the city to mail to their friends out of town, as a single copy is a complete history of the times for the preceding week.

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THE WEEKLY PRESS is furnished to subscribers a $2 per year, in advance, for the single copy, and to Clubs of Twenty, when sent to one address, $20, in advance. Single copies for sale at the counter of THE PRESS Office, in wrappers, ready for mailing.

The Last Message of Governor Packer.

Governor PACKER's last official communication presents a most gratifying picture of the condition of Pennsylvania, as reflected by his administration of all the departments of the State Government. Financially, our State is in the course of rapid diminution, notwithstanding the tax on real and personal estate has been but two and a half mills on the dollar for the last three years, while from 1844 to 1857 it was three mills; that for two years and six months the State has received no part of the tax on tonnage due from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and that since July, 1859, the interest on the bonds held by the State against the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company has remained due and unpaid. The funded debt of the State is less than it has been since 1842, and the unfunded and floating debt, which, at that time, amounted to upwards of two millions of dollars, has been almost entirely redeemed.

The claims against the State are now reduced to a merely nominal sum, and hereafter, when the ordinary expenses of her Government have been paid, she will have nothing to do but to devote her revenues and energies exclusively to the payment of the interest, and the discharge of the principal, of her public debt, and, in view of surrounding perils and gloomy anticipations, this retrospect of the pecuniary position of Pennsylvania, and this prospect of a future so full of promise, will undoubtedly operate most advantageously upon the influence of our State at home, and her credit abroad.

The contest between the State and the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company—which latter refuses to pay the tonnage tax required by the act incorporating that body—is still before the Courts, and the Governor confidently believes that the Supreme Court of the United States will vindicate the power of the State to impose such taxes upon corporations as, in her sovereign will, she may deem proper. It is just to add that this highly influential corporation intends presenting a proposition to the Legislature, asking the repeal of the law imposing this tax upon her tonnage—which application will be founded upon the argument that transporters and consumers are compelled to bear the burden of this tariff, and that if the State shall release her she will bind herself to extend or complete certain lateral lines of railroad highly important to populous districts of the State, and necessary to increase her revenues, and the prosperity of the people at the same time.

His recommendations to the Legislature in regard to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad will, we hope, receive the prompt concurrence of the Legislature. Apart from the fact that Pennsylvania is the creditor of that company to the amount of three and a half millions of dollars, the completion of the road will open a most important channel of trade between the city of Philadelphia and the great lakes of the West, entirely within the limits of the State, and this, with other considerations, will doubtless induce the Legislature to observe a wise and generous policy in considering the pending application of the company for relief.

On the subject of popular education in the Commonwealth, Governor PACKER is unusually interesting. That department of the State Government, under the experienced management of the admirable Superintendent, Hon. THOMAS H. BURROWS, has rapidly extended its operations, and may now be said to be, more than ever, an established institution. His suggestions under this head are alike practical and statesman-like.

The free-banking system established by the act of the last Legislature has not yet had a fair opportunity of trial, but the Governor believes that all his predictions in regard to this system will be realized; and it is evident that he will sign no charters to old banks until the experiment of free banking, so successful in other States, has been fully tested in our own.

His recommendations in regard to the receiving, keeping, and disbursement of the revenues of the State, and his allusion to the various charitable and reformatory institutions of which Pennsylvania may proudly boast, will no doubt be favorably acted upon by the Legislature.

When Governor PACKER comes to that part of his message which is devoted to national politics, he strikes that chord which Union-loving men will sincerely respond to. He faces the public peril, not only with candor, but with surpassing ability; and although extreme men may find fault with some of the remedies he proposes, there is, in our opinion, little reason to doubt (now, when all are thinking how to escape our troubles, and when the millions interested in an honorable adjustment of these troubles eagerly welcome every idea looking to such a settlement) that the suggestions of Governor PACKER, and the spirit in which they are made, will awaken, if not a unanimous, certainly a very general, expression of approbation.

He takes up the declaration of the Convention of South Carolina dissolving the connection between that State and the United States, and discusses the claim to the right of secession, and the accusation of South Carolina against Pennsylvania, on the score of this Commonwealth having assisted to obstruct the execution of the act of Congress in regard to fugitive slaves, and displays an ability and a force in his argument against the heresy of secession, and his repudiation of the accusation against Pennsylvania, that will impress every impartial reader. He believes that there can be no peaceful secession, and proves it, too. With singular clearness he shows that ours is a Government based upon the written Constitution, and made vigorous by laws carrying out the guarantees of such a Constitution; that it is as potential in its sovereignty as any Government in the civilized world; that resistance to it is rebellion, and rebellion which can only be purged of crime by successful revolution—a revolution which, if unsuccessful, will put all those who take part in it in the attitude of traitors. He demands that the laws of the United States should be executed at all hazards, and insists that the Constitution itself contains sufficient remedies to protect every citizen against real or alleged grievances, prior to a resort to the dreadful alternative of revolution or civil war. How well and how healthfully the logic and the language, the temper and the tone, the patriotism and the courage of WILLIAM F. PACKER, in uttering these noble sentiments contrast with the timidity and shuffling of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, who, while arguing against secession in one breath, with the other pleads against the expediency of enforcing the laws, until the Southern conspiracy had reached such a head as almost to be more powerful than the Central Government itself.

But when Governor PACKER defends Pennsylvania against the accusation of South Carolina, viz: that this, like other States named, has enacted laws nullifying the Constitution, and rendering useless the act of Congress relative to the surrender of fugitive slaves, he presents such a vindication as will, we hope, not be without effect upon the unthinking and unreasonable men who now hold the reins in the Palmetto State, and as will make them ashamed of the indictment they preferred against Pennsylvania. *No act of our Legislature was ever passed with a deliberate purpose of interfering with the execution of the fugitive-slave laws. Even the offensive section of the act of 1847—which section was repealed in 1852—was believed, at the time, to be in complete consistency with the decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of Prigg—denying that the legislature of any state had any right to take action in regard to the execution of that law.*

Governor PACKER goes on to show that, from the earliest day, even when Pennsylvania was a province—in 1705—our people legislated so that a slave escaping from his owner should not be held in violation of the claim of such owner. In 1780, eight years before the Constitution of the United States went into operation—even while Pennsylvania passed her laws for the gradual abolition of slavery—she provided that the owner should have the right to claim and take away his absconding slave, or servant, "a provision," as Governor PACKER well says, "much more unequivocal in its phraseology and direct in its commands than those found on the same subject in the Constitution of the Union," and, as at that day, the Congress of the American Colonies were in session in Philadelphia, "this act, by its terms, was not made to apply to slaves attending upon the delegates in Congress, or upon those passing through the State, and sojourning for a period not longer than six months."

In 1788 the Legislature passed another law, construed by the Supreme Court of the State to apply to a still further recognition of the right of the slaveholder even to forcibly remove his fugitive slave. In 1826, a still further act was passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania to give effect to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States relative to fugitives from labor, for the protection of free people of color, and to prevent kidnapping. It was this act that was repealed, or substituted in 1847, owing to the unfortunate decision of the Supreme Court in 1842; but for which decision the law of 1826 would remain upon our statute-books to-day.

Governor PACKER explains the history of all the legislation on the subject, and proves conclusively that if our State has, directly or indirectly, offended in regard to fugitive slaves, the blame is not with her people or her Legislature, but with the Southern States, at least with Maryland, and with the Supreme Court of the United States. As showing the anxiety of all our people of all parties to right even any *accidental* wrong they may have committed upon the Southern people, he refers to the repeal of the offensive section of 1847, by our Legislature, in 1852; and as proving his own willingness to adjust our present troubles, even while showing that Pennsylvania is entirely guiltless of the monstrous accusation of the conspirators in South Carolina, he proposes that all the so-called doubtful sections of the act of 1847, which have been construed by fault-finding casuists to operate against the rights of the South, shall be unconditionally repealed.

His recommendation that the consent of the State should be given that the master, while sojourning in our State for a limited period, or passing through it, may be accompanied by his slave without losing his right to his services, will be bitterly contested in certain quarters. To believe a similar movement is on foot in New York, and Governor PACKER defends this recognition on the ground that, from 1780 to 1847, a period of sixty-seven years, Pennsylvania, herself a free State, permitted the citizens of other States to sojourn within her limits, with their slaves, for say period not exceeding six months, and to pass through the State, in travelling from one State to another, free from all molestation," and asks, "Was she injured, or was the cause of human freedom retarded, by the friendly granting of this privilege?"

¶ It ought to be borne in mind, by those who may argue against this recommendation of Governor PACKER, that while many important interests would be protected, society would be encouraged by such a concession as he proposes. The slaveholder who comes here with his property must run his own risk, under the law, and no harm could come to our people. May not some such recognition of the rights of courtesy and comity go far to moderate or to mollify the existing exacerbation of feeling in the slave States?

On the Territorial question, Governor PACKER briefly repeats his well-understood views, places himself squarely upon the non-*intervention platform of Judge* DOUGLAS, and announces the opinion which is bound in a short time to be the rule of action on the slavery question—that to the people themselves belongs the right to regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.

In view of the distracted aspect of public affairs, however, he says that he is nevertheless "not so wedded to his old opinions as to reject unceremoniously all other propositions for the settlement of the vexed questions which now threaten to sunder the bonds which, for three-quarters of a century, have made us one people," and therefore he takes ground in favor of the proposition (substantially that recommended by Mr. CRITTENDEN, and presented in the shape of amendments to the Constitution by Mr. DOUGLAS) re-enacting the old Missouri line of 1820, and extending it to the boundary of California.

After Governor PACKER has thus ably summed up the condition of the State, and frankly given his own views as to the remedies proper to compose the difficulties now disturbing all social and business relations, he employs the following significant language, which we trust the Legislature will pause and ponder upon. Addressing the people of Pennsylvania, he says:

"Before assuming the high responsibilities now dimly foreshadowed, it is their solemn duty to remove every just cause of complaint against themselves, so that they may stand before high Heaven and the civilized world, without taint and without reproach, ready to devote their lives and their fortunes to the support of the best form of government that has ever been devised by the wisdom of man."

In other words, that those composing the States, the destiny of which is certain to give us the control of this country in time to come, and the Republicans, as the victorious party in the late campaign—should primarily determine to be right, to consider everything that may be justly demanded by our passionate and exacting brothers in the slave States; and if they should reject the olive branch thus freely and affectionately proffered, then, however reluctantly, we may take up the sword, and wield it in the consciousness that it is to be used in defence of the best Government ever created by man, and in opposition to those, who, in that event will stand self-convicted before the civilized world as the most arrogant, tyrannical, and unreasonable of men. And we are happy to add, that when every remedy shall be exhausted by the Republicans, and by the conservative men who desire to see Mr. LINCOLN'S Administration inaugurated, (these remedies being rejected by the Southern people,) Governor PACKER, and the thousands associated with him, will stand ready to support any Administration in the execution of the laws of the Federal Government.

It is difficult for the Chief Magistrate of a State like Pennsylvania to administer his office satisfactorily during even a single term, but this vexation is doubly complicated when he is compelled to speak his thoughts in the midst of the dissensions that now rend our society and our politics. Governor PACKER has been unusually successful in his experience in the Executive chair of Pennsylvania, and notwithstanding his views on distracted questions may be antagonized, and will be criticised, there are few who care for a united country, and who look forward to a peaceful Administration of the Federal Government, after the close of the present most calamitous Administration of that Government, that will not accord to him the high merit of having candidly, logically, and patriotically discharged the duty incumbent upon him.

Military Arrangements at Charleston.

It is scarcely possible to believe that the Administration still wavers in regard to the policy it ought to pursue in relation to the important military step taken by Major ANDERSON, in transferring his command from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumpter, yet such, we fear, is the fact. Messrs. HOLT, STANTON, and BLACK are very anxious that that gallant officer should be fully sustained, but Messrs. THOMPSON, THOMAS, and, to some extent, TOUCEY, are opposed to his movement, and anxious to have such military arrangements made at Charleston as will virtually place all *the forts there completely in the control of* the Secessionists. The latter have already seized Forts Moultrie and Pinckney, the custom house, the arsenal, the post office, and a revenue cutter, and it is contended that Fort Sumpter may also be as well surrendered, too, because, if the existing difficulties are peaceably adjusted, it will be returned to the United States, and if they are not, and the Union is dissolved, they will rightfully belong to South Carolina. To support these views, to denounce coercion in every shape, to protest against a vigorous enforcement of the Federal laws when they are antagonized by State authority, the Secession leaders employ all their arts upon Mr. BUCHANAN, so that he may be forced into a still more glaring abandonment of his true duty. The people should understand that influences of the most potent and influential character are brought to bear upon him, and if he proves able to resist them, as we still hope he may, the nation should be thankful that some little firmness in maintaining a righteous position is still left to him. Whatever can be done to encourage and stimulate him to a faithful discharge of his duty during the short period of power now left to him should be promptly attempted. Any friend of the Union who has with him a spark of influence should, by a despatch, or letter, or a personal interview, if possible, seek to impress him with the importance of the crisis, and with the universal desire of the people of the North, without distinction of party, that Major ANDERSON should be sustained and the laws enforced. However much his past policy is to be deplored, and however much the hearts of nearly all his former friends have been aggrieved by his devious course, certainly there ought to be a limit somewhere to his dereliction of duty, and every patriot should do what he can to induce him to set bounds to it, now, if possible, or if not, as soon as he can.

It is fearful to reflect that, up to a very recent period, the four great departments of the Government, which control its patronage and direct its most important operations, the War, Navy, Treasury, and Interior Departments, have been completely under the control of men who fully sympathized with the Disunion movement, and did all in their power to aid it. It cannot be doubted now that HOWELL COBB and Secretary FLOYD have done all they could to help the Secessionists—indeed, they would rather glory in than deny their affiliation with them. Mr. THOMPSON, the Secretary of the Interior, has also warmly favored their movement, and will probably leave the Cabinet, if Mr. BUCHANAN sustains Major ANDERSON, as soon as the circumstances connected with the abstraction of the Indian trust bonds are investigated. Mr. THOMAS, the new Secretary of the Treasury, *fully sympathizes with* Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. TOUCEY has made such a disposition of the naval forces as to render them as useless and unavailable as possible in any sudden emergency upon our sea coast which may arise. No Government was ever more completely betrayed into the hands of its foes. A parallel for such treachery can only be found in some of the plots and conterplots of ancient Rome or the intrigues of military leaders and political aspirants in France during her revolutionary struggles.

Thomas Holiday Hicks, of Maryland.

It is rare that a Governor of a single State has such an occasion to signalize his devotion to the Union as that which is now presented to THOMAS HOLIDAY HICKS, the present Executive of the State of Maryland. Because he has refused to yield to the mandates of men, some of whom are supposed to be anxious to place Maryland in the hands of the Secessionists, he is denounced in the most violent manner, but it is gratifying to perceive that, in proportion as he has been resolute, the people have gathered around, and applauded his course. Why should Maryland be in a hurry to assist South Carolina? Why should her people be divided by a contest for delegates to a Convention that may be controlled by the mercenaries of the Federal Administration intent upon destroying the Union?

An Important Appointment.

Our correspondent at Washington announces that the President yesterday informed the Senate that he had appointed Mr. MCKIBBIN, of this city (we presume CHAMBERS MCKIBBIN, our Naval Officer), as Collector of the Port of Charleston. The Associated Press' correspondent says the appointment has been given to Mr. MCINTYRE. This is an important move in the right direction. The duties at that port should be collected, and legal clearances granted to such vessels as depart from it. The former revenue officers there have refused to act for the United States, and thus prevented, as far as they could, the due execution of our revenue laws. It is, therefore, eminently proper that a new collector should be appointed, and if the citizens of South Carolina will not permit him to act in Charleston, he might convert Fort Sumpter or a vessel of war into a "collector's office." Every sign of a disposition on the part of Mr. BUCHANAN to discharge with fidelity any portion of his duties should be received with satisfaction, in these exciting times. Let us be thankful for even small favors from him.

WASHINGTON, Jan 2, 1861.

A New Collector for Charleston.

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Senator Baker's Speech.

The speech of Senator BAKER, of Oregon, is spoken of very highly by Republicans and *Democrats*. The conclusion to-morrow will be brilliant.

The Coming Message.

I learn that the President hesitates to send in his message to Congress until he has received further news from South Carolina.

Commodore Shubrick.

This officer has left for Charleston to reclaim the stolen cutter.

The Judgment of Events.

HENRY WINTER DAVIS, so abused by many because of his vote for PENNINGTON as Speaker of the House, turns out to be a very thorough Union man, and I will not be astonished if his plan of adjustment shall prevail. Whatever may be said of DAVIS, he is a man of our age, and of convictions—self-poised and self-reliant.

Message of Governor Packer.

The telegraphic abstract of the message of Governor PACKER was received here this afternoon, and read with great satisfaction. Its pluck, point, and logical accuracy gave great joy to the Union men. The effect of this fine State paper upon Maryland cannot be over-estimated, and will do much to counteract the effort to over-ride Governor HICKS.

Late News from Georgia and Mississippi.

Late intelligence from Georgia and Mississippi indicates that recent conservative manifestations in the free States have produced the happiest results, and that if the proposition of Mr. CRITTENDEN should be adopted Georgia, at least, would give a terrible back-handed blow to the enemies of the Republic in that quarter.

The Unfinished Capitol.

Strangers look at the magnificent building in which the two Houses of Congress are assembled, and, while admiring it, are told that all appropriations for completing it are withheld on account of the political troubles. Captain FRANKLIN, an officer of the army, born in Pennsylvania, *who has charge of the work for the extension of* the Capitol, despairs of getting an appropriation until some fair adjustment has been reached.

From Florida.

SPANISH FLEET OFF KEY WEST.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—A private letter, just received from Fort Jefferson, Key West, says that five Spanish vessels are lying off the harbor. Their destination is not known, but the supposition is, that they they meditate an attack on the Mexican coast.

The United States cruising vessel having been withdrawn, the people there are in a defenceless condition.

Explosion of Oil Works on Fish Island, Massachusetts.

TWO MEN KILLED.

NEW BEDFORD, Jan. 3.—There was an explosion at Howland's *Oil Works, on Fish Island, this evening*, jarring the neighboring houses, breaking windows, and doing other damage. Two men, named Downey and Welch, were killed, and several badly injured. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, Jan. 2, 1861.

In the Senate, yesterday, Hon. George R. Smith, of Philadelphia, submitted a series of resolutions on the state of affairs brought about by the secession of South Carolina and the threatened secession of other Southern States. They were adopted in a caucus of the Republican Senators, and reflect the views of the dominant party, and, perhaps, of the Democracy also:

Whereas, A Convention of Delegates now assembled in the city of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, did, on the twenticth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, adopt an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the Constitution of the United States of America," whereby it is *declared* that the said Union is dissolved:

And Whereas, It becomes the duty of the people of Pennsylvania, through their Representatives in this General Assembly, to know what frame consider to be the objects sought, and the obligations and duties imposed by the Constitution; it is therefore

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, &c.,

That the Constitution of the United States of America was ordained and established, as set forth in its preamble, by the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity; and if the people of any State in this Union are not in the enjoyment of all the benefits intended to be secured to them by the said Constitution, or if their rights are disregarded, their tranquillity disturbed, their property in bondage, or their persons imperilled by the people of any other State, full and adequate redress can and ought to be provided for such grievances through the action of the Congress and other proper departments of the National Government.

Resolved, That the people of Pennsylvania entertain no feelings of hostility to the more fraternal sentiments for their brethren of other States, and are ready now, as they have ever been, to co-operate in all measures consistent with their rights, dignity and purposes under the Constitution which makes us one people; that we feel that they share with us the spirit of liberty inherited from the founders of our State, sealed with the blood of the Revolution, and witnessed in the history of their institutions; that we are ready to maintain now, as they have ever done, the right of the people of the sovereign States to the uninterrupted enjoyment of the blessings of our institutions, and all their constitutional rights in relation thereto.

Resolved, unanimously, That we adopt the sentiment and language of President Andrew Jackson, expressed in his message to Congress on the sixteenth of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, that the right of the people of a single State to absolve themselves at will, and without the consent of the other States, from their most solemn obligations, and hazard the liberties and happiness of the millions composing this Union, cannot be acknowledged, and that such assertion is an utter repudiation of the principles upon which the General Government is constituted, and the objects which it was expressly formed to attain.

Resolved, That we view the Constitution of the United *States or America contains all the powers necessary to* maintain its existence in its integrity, and is in the solemn and most imperative duty of the Government to adopt and carry into effect whatever measures may be necessary for the faithful execution of the trust, and the faith and the power of Pennsylvania are hereby pledged to the support of such measures, in any manner, and to any extent that may be required, by the constitutional authorities of the United States.

Resolved, That all plots, conspiracies, and warlike demonstrations against the United States, in any section of the country, are reasonable in their character, and will receive the full support and the power of the Government necessary for their suppression should be applied to that purpose without hesitation or delay.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Governor, or, he being absent, by the President of the Senate, to the Governors of the several States of the Union, and to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, who are hereby requested to present the same to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Robert B. Randall, of Philadelphia, introduced a series of resolutions, according with the recommendation of Governor Packer on the subject of our laws which relate to the sending back of fugitives from service. It is as follows:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, that it is the right and duty of every citizen of this Commonwealth to aid and assist in the execution of the Constitution of the United States, and the acts of Congress passed to carry it into effect.

That the right and this duty extend to every public officer of this Commonwealth, legislative, executive, judicial, or municipal.

That any act of Assembly which interrupts, impedes, limits, embarrasses, delays, or postpones the execution of such right and duty, is a plain and direct violation of the said Constitution, and of the oaths of office and allegiance taken to support it.

Resolved, That the provision contained in art. 4, sec. 2, clause 3, of the Constitution of the United States, requiring to the owners of fugitives from service or labor the right to the delivery up to them of the said fugitives is a binding obligation of the Constitution; infraction of this provision is therefore unconstitutional and void.

Resolved, That it is expedient to repeal the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 7th sections of the act entitled "An act to prevent kidnapping, preserve the public peace, prohibit the exercise of certain powers heretofore exercised by judges, justices of the peace, aldermen, and jailors in this Commonwealth, and to repeal certain laws," passed the 3d of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven; and 26th and 27th sections of the act entitled "An act to consolidate, revise, and amend the penal laws of this Commonwealth," passed the 31st March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

Resolved, That the Attorney General be requested to prepare and report a bill embracing the principles contained in the foregoing resolutions.

It being a joint resolution, under the rules of the House it lies over for the present.

The strong Union ground taken by Governor Packer in his message, joined with a disposition to repeal *all laws that could even be tortured into* unfaithfulness to our constitutional obligations, and to fairly compromise our differences with the South on the vexed slavery question, is endorsed by the Democrats to a man, and by many Republicans. In point of ability it is considered one of his best, and that is saying a good deal of an executive's message whose clearness and perspicuity are unexcelled by any of his many illustrious predecessors. It was listened to with breathless attention by the members of both parties, and a pin could have been heard to drop in the Hall while the clerk was reading. Although a majority of the members are opposed to Governor Packer, politically, they, to a man, confess that he has made a faithful chief magistrate, and generally approve of his recommendations.

There is a contested seat from Luzerne. The right of Lewis Pugho is resisted by D. L. Chapin, Democrat, and a member of last session. It is asserted that the election inspectors and judge in one precinct threw out thirty-two votes for D. D. Chapin, which elected Pugho by twenty-six majority. The Supreme Court has already decided that the middle name of a man was of no moment when it was known there was no man of that name in the community. Thursday a week has been fixed upon for drawing a committee to consider the case. Its action is final. PENN.

Edwin Booth's Benefit at the Academy.

This evening that great, though young tragedian, Mr. Edwin Booth, will take his first benefit at the Academy, appearing, for the last time but two, in the role in which he has achieved so much renown during the current week—*viz: Macbeth*—on which occasion we hope that he will receive the fitting reward that his genious and talent so justly merit. If our play-going public are true to themselves and the art they profess to love, there will be no vacant seat in the Academy this evening—first, as a tribute to the artist whose benefit it is; and secondly, as the opportunities that remain of witnessing Shakspeare's great work, "Macbeth," are limited, and as presented at the Academy it is the play not of a single evening, but a series.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, Jan 2, 1861.

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WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Kappa."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, January 2, 1861.

Half past eleven A. M.—There is a tremendous crowd in the galleries of the Senate. The announcement that Senator Douglas was going to speak brought people here from a distance of five hundred miles. Some Virginians, from the Blue Mountains, who came here for the express purpose of listening to the "Little Giant," feel quite indignant on account of a rumor that the Judge is not going to speak, as Mr. Baker, of Oregon, has the floor first. They say they came here to hear *Douglas, and he must speak. A great many ladies* and gentlemen, who cannot get access to the Senate's gallery, go over to the House, as a lively time is expected there, also, on the forthcoming message of the President.

I am informed that Mr. McClernand, of Illinois, is engaged with some Southern gentlemen to form a basis of settlement of the impending crisis 12 o'clock.—Senator Douglas has just made his appearance; he is still quite lame. Several gentlemen surround him, talking earnestly with him, urging him, as I suppose, to try to get the floor. The Judge leaves them, and goes over to the seat of Mr. Baker, engaging in a conversation with the latter. It will be an act of great courtesy if Senator Baker consents to let Judge Douglas speak first, as any man of Mr Baker's abilities cannot wish for a better opportunity to display them, for seldom was the Senate chamber crowded as densely as to-day.

SENATE CHAMBER, half past twelve.—Mr. Douglas states that he will speak to-morrow, and that Mr. Baker has the floor to-day. Lane and Gwin, being jealous, try to prevent Baker from speaking, by introducing bills. Gwin tries to choke off Douglas also, by making the Pacific Railroad bill the special order of to-morrow at one o'clock. His more generous colleague, Mr. Latham, reminds him that Judge Douglas is entitled to the floor, and proposes to postpone the consideration of the bill till Saturday. After some desultory remarks, Mr. Baker gets the floor.

Mr. Baker is not only an able and eloquent, but also a courteous speaker. He is not like many other Senators on both sides, coarse, impolite, and blunt, but he talks like a gentleman and a statesman. His speech was a reply to Senator Benjamin's, and will be fully reported to you by telegraph.

There is one thing of some importance, which the Seceders in the hurry have forgotten to take into consideration. It is a mournful fact, that the credit of the Federal Government has been destroyed at the bare idea of secession. Only one-half of the last five-million loan was bid for, and that at exorbitant and ruinous interests. Suppose South Carolina, or some other States in the South, after having separated from the Union, should intend, as they most probably will, to negotiate a loan of only one million of dollars, where will they get the bankers to do it for them, or where will they find money-lenders willing to oblige them, and trust their money to the tender mercy of the secession doctrine? No confederation, based upon that doctrine, will ever command the confidence of financiers. To keep large armies, pay ambassadors and commissioners, build and maintain a navy, will cost a great deal of money. Of course, as the money cannot be got outside of those States, their people will have to pay by direct taxation. How long they will be able to bear with these tremendous burthens, can easily be imagined.

KAPPA.

36TH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1860.

SENATE.

All the galleries were crowded before 11 o'clock, and all the lobbies were filled with ladies. A large crowd was collected outside of the door, unable to obtain admission.

A question of order arose, the Pacific Railroad bill being the special order, and Mr. Baker, of Oregon, having the floor on unfinished business.

The Pacific Railroad bill was made the special order for Saturday.

Mr. BAKER, of Oregon, proceeded to allude to the great responsibility he felt in speaking for the first time in such a presence. He complimented the speech of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Benjamin) as one of the *best he had ever heard. But still it reminded him* of what was once said of a famous book. What he had said was the best war in which could be said that which he never to have been said at all. The argument of the Senator was to prove that the Government was of no avail; that the Union was actually dissolved.

He (*Mr. Baker*) hoped *that his own* purpose was a higher one. He hoped that he would be able to contribute, even though be a poor argument, to sustain the Government under which he lived and under which he hoped to die. He desired to show that this Government was a substantial Government, capable of being maintained.

Mr. Baker proceeded to argue that *Madison expressly* declared that the Constitution was not a compact of the sovereign States. He also read from Webster's works the opinion that no State had the right to dissolve its relations to the General Government, and that there could be no secession without revolution. He then claimed that, according to Webster, the Government was the Government of the whole people, and not of individuals. He said that the argument made against nullification would apply also to secession, for secession was but the same relation to nullification as treason is to murder. He said that *history, when somebody has said that history was biography with its brains knocked out*, so it illustrated what was called the brains of history knocked out. He then referred to the extract read by the Senator from Louisiana from Judge Story's Commentaries, and that the senator unwittingly left out the first part, in which *to said that "nullification was an idea too absurd and preposterous to be entertained, and that* the right of a State to secede was equally absurd." He then read from the close of Adams' address to the effect that the Union was formed by the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, and the United States, though now double in numbers, was still one people. *He thinks* South Carolina would find it a very serious matter, if what he says she has done now. Then there was a President of the United States ready to do his whole duty. Whether there was such a President now, he would leave to others to determine. He read an extract from the inaugural address of President Jackson, [inserted in other more better days by the most distinguished statesmen of the country and also by the whole cabinet, and signed by Secretary Cass, a native of South Carolina, when he said that he did not wish slavery to extend, also from the speech of Mr Buchanan in 1844, and from Mr. Clay in 1850, and quoted to take slaves to the Territories. He quoted still further from Mr. Cass taking the same ground.

At this point Mr. Baker yielded to a motion to adjourn.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, asked leave to present the following resolution:

Whereas, By the second and third articles of the Constitution of the United States, it is declared to be the security of property, and it is indirectly provided that a State may keep troops and ships-of-war, and by the seventeenth clause of the eighth section of the federal Government is limited thereto.

Resolved, That until the application of a State to have *through a Convention or the Legislature, asking that* the Federal forces may be withdrawn, the President of the United States is authorized to use the military and Federal garrison, and take needful security for the safety of the public property remaining.

Resolved, Further, that if the Legislature of a State, in convention lawfully *assembled, shall cancel* that the safety of the State requires that she should keep troops and ships of war, the President of the United States is hereby requested to recognize the power of the State to do so, and by proclamation give information to all parties concerned.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Coburn, of Maine, in place of Governor Washburn, appeared in his seat, and was qualified as a member.

Mr. STRATTON, of New Jersey, presented a memorial from the citizens of Newark, N. J., asking Congress to recommend amendments to the Constitution to the several States, in view of the present political condition of the country. He moved its reference to a select committee of five.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, said we have already got a Constitution.

Mr. STEVENS moved to lay the memorial on the table.

Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee, called for the yeas and nays.

Mr. WASHBURNE withdrew his motion so that the memorial might be referred to the Committee of Thirty-three, on the motion of Mr. Davis.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, of New York, ineffectually sought to amend the motion to instruct the committee to report speedily on the subject.

Mr. ADRAIN, of New Jersey, presented the resolutions adopted at a meeting in Trenton, concerning *national questions*. They were referred.

Mr. CLARK, of Missouri, wished to know whether the committee was likely to report at an early day, or at all. It was important this should be known.

There was no response.

Several gentlemen called him to order.

The House passed the Indian appropriation bill.

The House took up the resolution offered by Mr. Davis, of Indiana, on Monday, instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into and report to the House, at any time, what legislation, if any, has become necessary on the part of this House in consequence of the secession position assumed by South Carolina.

The House refused to second the demand for the previous question, yeas 47, nays 72.

Mr. DAVIS withdrew the resolution. Mr. Holman, of Indiana, having proposed as a substitute a resolution against secession, and looking to the employment of the army and navy for the protection of the public property and collection of the revenue.

Messrs. VALLANDIGHAM and SHERMAN, of Ohio, severally contended that Mr. Davis had to right *to withdraw his resolution.*

The SPEAKER decided that Mr. Davis had the right.

Mr. SHERMAN claimed the privilege to offer Mr. Davis' original resolution as an amendment.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, of New York, said that such action was plainly out of order.

Mr. BOCOCK, of Virginia, took the same view, and others participated in the debate.

The SPEAKER decided against Mr. Sherman, quoting the rules which covered him.

Mr. SHERMAN appealed from the decision of the Chair, saying that it was due to the country that there should be a vote on the proposition.

Mr. ADRAIN, of New Jersey, moved to lay the appeal on the table, remarking that they could have a vote at a future time.

Mr. Adrain's motion was disagreed to by four majority.

Mr. HILL, of Georgia, moved a reconsideration of the vote.

Mr. MOORE, of Kentucky, moved that the House adjourn.

Mr. ANDERSON, of *Missouri*, said *it seemed* that any action on Christmas calculated to irritate the public mind and to hasten the impending events, and, therefore, he moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHERMAN said that if the resolution should be allowed to come in he would move to