The Press.

PHILADELPHIA:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1861.

FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS

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This paper is published exclusively for CALIFORNIA CIRCULATION,

And contains a complete summary of what has transpired in our City, State, and the Atlantic States, since the departure of the last steamer for California.

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.

FIRST PAGE.—New Publications; Our New York Letter; The Burns' Oration; Important Letter from Major Anderson; Letters from the South; Maryland did not ask for the Enactment of the 95th and 96th Sections of the Revised Penal Code of Pennsylvania; The Revolution in the South.

FOURTH PAGE.—Foreign News; The Canada Fugitive-Slave Case; Matters at Charleston; Marine Intelligence.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, "Occasional," has repeatedly asserted, and, we think, conclusively proved, that every demonstration that has proceeded from Mr. LINCOLN, the President elect, since the day he was chosen to the high position he is shortly to occupy, was, in every sense, a concession, or rather a tribute to the spirit of honorably compromising our deplorable difficulties with the Southern States. But in proportion as this theory, anticipating the probable action of Mr. LINCOLN and his probable present opinions, has been put forth and defended, it has been opposed and ridiculed in certain quarters. There are so many reasons why Mr. LINCOLN should desire to preside over an entire country, and so few why he should look to administering the affairs of only a fragment of the country, that we have not been able, with all our charity, to supply the best motives to those who have toiled to make him appear the representative or reflection of a mere platform. At last, however, we are enabled to point to something intelligible from Springfield, Illinois. Not only does the Springfield *Journal* of the 24th of January (a paper supposed to speak for the President elect), manfully assert that the Republicans are in favor of a concession that will be satisfactory to the South, whether in the shape of an act of Congress or a constitutional amendment, but it says, "We are in favor of, and earnestly recommend, the repeal of all State laws in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, or that in any way obstruct or interfere with the execution of the Federal laws." In addition to this, recent telegraphic despatches in accepted newspapers, distinctly assure the people that the President will not hold those men as his friends who steadily refuse to give their aid to any honorable plan of adjustment. Mr. LINCOLN's appointment in succession of Mr. BATES, of Missouri, Mr. SEWARD, of New York, and Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, as members of his Cabinet, in view of the early and late conservative declarations of these gentlemen, was a more emphatic statement of his opinions than anything he could have written or spoken, and when to these indications is added the fact that every motive alike of interest and of obligation conspires to urge him to assume a conservative attitude, we cannot withhold the expression of our amazement, that some of those who claim to be his especial friends should seek to put him in a different and what is evidently a false position.

The Admission of Kansas.

After all the angry agitations which have arisen in our country in reference to the admission of Kansas into the Union, she has at length been permitted to assume the position of a sovereign State, so quietly and unobtrusively that the fact is scarcely deemed worthy of attention or remark. On Monday last the rules were suspended in the House of Representatives by a vote of 119 to 42, and the amendment of the Senate to the bill for her admission being agreed to, it requires but the signature of the President to become a law. It is vain now to indulge in lamentations and regrets for the errors of the past, no matter by whom they were committed; for it is the imperative duty of every patriot and statesman to deal as best he can with the stern realities of the present. But we cannot forbear remarking that if the people of Kansas had been more fairly dealt with in 1857, and if the original policy suggested by Gov. WALKER and endorsed by the Administration had been adhered to, we believe that the nation would not to-day be in the deplorable condition to which it has been reduced. Among all the causes that have contributed to create the perilous state of affairs that now exists, none has been so powerful as the attempt to force the institution of slavery upon the people of that Territory against their will. By her climate, soil, and the character of the immigration within her boundaries, it was virtually decided at an early day in her history that she would inevitably become a free State, and all the efforts made to prevent that result by unjustifiable and unfair means, only injured the cause they were nominally intended to promote.

Our Charleston Correspondence.

We publish, this morning, two more letters from our able Charleston correspondent. They give a very faithful description of the actual state of affairs in the Palmetto State. An intense feeling of hostility to the Federal Government prevails, and there is a restless anxiety to attack Fort Sumpter, which cannot long be restrained. Governor PICKENS is severely censured for his delay, and if he does not soon authorize an assault, it will probably be made without his consent. Sober-minded citizens, however, are becoming heartily tired of the Secession experiment, which has crippled all the great interests of their section, and destroyed nearly all kinds of business. The future, too, is full of dangers and embarrassments, and amid the conflict of interests and views in regard to the policy of the proposed new confederacy, many of its originators will, doubtless, find ample cause to repent their folly in attempting to overthrow the noblest Government that has ever existed.

Conciliation in our State Legislature.

We are pleased to learn that there is a fair prospect of our State Legislature adopting several conciliatory measures, which are well calculated to strengthen the conservative men of the South, and thus to prevent the Border States from being precipitated into a revolution. We are called upon to deal practically with the gravest events that have occurred since the formation of our Government, and men should be prepared to act, not as bitter partisans or as prejudiced sectionalists, but as patriots and statesmen. If civil war must come, Pennsylvania will be one of the greatest sufferers from its terrible consequences. And it is clearly her duty now, not only to adopt all fair and proper measures to avert that dread calamity, but to so unite her whole population in sentiment and feeling, that if an appeal must at last be made to arms, they may present an unbroken front.

THE late speech of HENRY G. LEISENRING, Esq., one of the representatives from this city in the State Legislature, in reply to Mr. WILLIAMS of Allegheny, whose intemperate and violent harrangue was regretted by all true friends of the Union, was a triumphant vindication of the principles of the Federal Constitution, and a convincing argument in favor of every proper and honorable concession for the adjustment of our national troubles. This is Mr. LEISENRING's first session in the Legislature, and we predict that it will not be his last appearance in the public councils.

Cosmopolitan Art Association.

To-morrow evening, at six o'clock, will commence the drawing of sculptures, paintings, bronzes, and engravings, to be fortuitously allotted among the subscribers to the Cosmopolitan Art Association. This allotment will be public, by the Association, in New York, and no complaint has yet been made of its fairness. So convinced are we upon this point that we have paid our *fourth* annual subscription. Whether we gain a prize or draw a blank, the fine engraving which we obtain, and the quarterly illustrated Art Journal of the Association, are worth *four* times the three dollars which we have expended on our membership. Of course, we intend drawing the principal prize—a piece of beautiful sculpture, this year—and, if we do not get it, we cry "quits," having actually got a great deal more than the fullest value of our money. The agents for this city are E. H. Hunt & Company, corner of Chestnut and Fifth, and they cannot admit subscribers *after noon to-morrow*.

The latest news from Europe is at once important and interesting. On the 15th inst., the Court of Queen's Bench—the Chief Justice and the three *puisne* Judges being unanimous—assented to an application by Mr. EDWIN JAMES for the issuing of a writ of Habeas Corpus, directed to the Governor General of Canada and other officials of that Colony, commanding them to bring up the body of JOHN ANDERSON, a fugitive negro, whom the Canadian Judges had decided should be delivered up to the United States, on a charge of having slain a white person who endeavored to arrest him as he was making his escape from bondage into Canada. The only point discussed by the Court of Queen's Bench was whether it had jurisdiction in Canada. It was decided that this right did exist, whereupon the writ was issued, which, for the present, may prevent ANDERSON's surrender to the United States under the extradition treaty. Two difficulties may arise from this action of the English Judges—a quarrel with the United States, if ANDERSON be liberated, and, at all events, a dispute with the Canadian authorities as to their being subject to the jurisdiction of a Court of Law sitting in England. Indeed, Mr. Justice BILL pertinently asked what was to be done should the Governor of Canada refuse to execute the writ.

The greatest distress prevails among the working classes in England, particularly in London, and the unusual severity of the weather, supplemented by the dearness of fuel and food, had greatly aggravated the evils of non-employment.

Reports had circulated that the Bank of France was in such a state of temporary embarrassment, that a suspension of cash payments was contemplated. The latest intelligence says public confidence had been restored, which might prevent the suspension. The *Moniteur* had published an official statement that the revenue of 1860 was 21,000,000 less than that of 1859. The Senate and the Corps Legislatif had been convened for the 4th February. The English Parliament meets on the 5th.

The new King of Prussia opened his Legislative Chambers on the 14th instant, with a speech, in which he declared that it was his intention to remain faithful to the principles of government which he imposed on himself on assuming the regency, as he found in those principles a safe guarantee against the revolutionary spirit spread abroad in Europe. It this means anything, it is that his Majesty will continue the Absolutism of which the late King was so extremely fond. At this crisis, with Austria at a dead lock, in consequence of an excessive paper currency (Government notes as valueless as our Continental paper or the Assignats of the first French Republic,) Prussia might become the ruling power in Germany, by wisely adopting a liberal policy. The King had granted an amnesty for all persons who have been found guilty of high treason, treason against the country, offences against his Majesty, crimes and offences constituting an abuse of the rights of citizens, and for those persons who have been convicted according to civil law for resisting the authorities of the State or disturbing public order. Those who evaded trial by flight may return, and those who have been condemned by military tribunals, and implore pardon, will be judged by the King himself—no doubt leniently. It is to be noticed that the King has assumed the title of WILLIAM I. We argued rightly, it seems, a short time since, that it was utterly impossible he could be called WILLIAM V., as erroneously stated at the time.

The death of the Count DE MONTEMOLIN is reported as having taken place on the 14th instant. His wife's death occurred a few hours later. The Count, born on the 31st of January, 1818, was eldest son of the late DON CARLOS, next brother of the late FERDINAND VII., of Spain. If the Salique Law had not been abrogated by FERDINAND, in favor of his eldest daughter, ISABELLA II., now Queen Regent, DON CARLOS would have succeeded to the Spanish Crown, *de jure*. He maintained a War of the Succession, for several years, and finally, in May, 1840, abandoned all his claims to his eldest son, who assumed the title of Count DE MONTEMOLIN, without resigning his birth-claim as Infant D'ESPAGNE. In July, 1850, the Count married a Neapolitan Princess, sister of the late uncle to the present (titular) King of Naples. This union being without issue, the Count's next brother, the Infant JOHN CHARLES CAROLINE FERDINAND, married to an Austrian Archduchess, (sister of the ex-Duke of Modena,) becomes the Spanish "Pretender?"—if it suit him so to be.

The siege of Gaeta has been suspended, by consent of the belligerents, at the suggestion of NAPOLEON, until the 19th inst. But the ex-King of Naples has written to the Emperor of Austria, that he will not give in, until he is entirely conquered.

To avoid a European war, a strong effort is being made to persuade GARIBALDI to forego, for the present, any effort to liberate Venetia. Austria, as well as France, feels disposed to be quiet, at present. Even the expected outbreak in Hungary may be prevented, if the Emperor of Austria will accept the programme of the National party there, viz: A responsible minister for Hungary; a Hungarian Diet selected on the basis of the law of 1848; the removal of all except Hungarian troops from Hungary; the Hungarian troops to take an oath of fidelity to the Constitution of 1848; reorganization of the National Guard; and finally, that a liberal Constitution be granted to the other crown lands of Austria.

MR. GEORGE VANDENHOFF.—Last evening, Mr. VANDENHOFF, acceding to a very pressing invitation from various leading personages in New York, recited, in Hope Chapel, the New York *Herald* tells us, "his original poem, entitled 'Life, or Men, Manners, Modes, and Measures,' which teems with passages strong for the Union, and breathes a spirit-stirring call to patriotism on the examples of the great heroes of our history. The poem, as we gather from the St. Louis and other papers of cities in the West, where it has been recited with great success, abounds in sparkling passages of wit and pleasant satire, touching love, marriage, and Union in general. It is altogether, we are assured, a highly pungent production, and will no doubt attract the public attention." We hope that Mr. VANDENHOFF, one of our best public elocutionists, and a gentleman of great ability as a man of letters, may be induced to deliver this poem in Philadelphia. He never disappoints, and has no *offensive isms*, personal or political, and may calculate on a hearty reception.

BENEFIT FOR THE POOR OF THE CITY.—To-morrow evening, at Walnut-street Theatre, the performances will be for the benefit of the Poor of this City—a numerous and pitiable class at all times, but especially in hard weather like the present. The principal performances will be "The Surgeon of Paris" and "All is not Gold that Glitters," with Frank Brower (who has kindly volunteered his services) as *Ginger Blue*, in "The Virginian Mummy." Moreover, that "old, familiar friend" of the public, Mr. W. A. Chapman, will sing a comic song—which, of course, will be encored *ad libitum*, to make up for the few instances in which he has sang of late. Under other circumstances we should say that it was unfortunate, if not injudicious, to sandwich *this* benefit between Dr. Cunnington's and Mr. Chapman's, but the fact is it is the only night that could be obtained, owing to previous fixed arrangements, and the praiseworthy object, backed by the personal exertions of many benevolent gentlemen, who are interesting themselves to make this a success, will fill the house, we hope and believe.

The Evening Journal.

Mr. FREDERICK W. GRAYSON has retired from the editorship and proprietorship of this newspaper, having disposed of it to Messrs. CARE and ELLIOTT, who have had no small experience in newspapers, and promise to spare neither money, industry, nor available talent in making it worthy of public patronage. We wish them an infinity of success.

DR. CUNNINGTON'S BENEFIT.—This evening, we beg to remind the public, Dr. CUNNINGTON, conductor of the orchestra at Walnut street Theatre, will be exceedingly pleased to see his friends at his annual benefit. The programme, as befits his position, abounds in musical as well as dramatic attractions, and Mr. FRAZER will sing.

THE Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, at their meeting on Monday last, elected Dr. Addisell Hewson surgeon to the institution. Dr. Hewson stands deservedly high in his profession, and is in every way qualified for the important position to which he has been elected.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, January 29, 1861.

Truly is South Carolina entitled to the honor of leading in the Disunion movement. A plot so exquisite, so senseless, and so reckless—a plot which, without doing good to its originators, has inflicted immense harm upon the innocent and the worthy—would not be consistent without such a defender as South Carolina. I have heard of the blind leading the blind, but it is not often that sensible men agree to follow the commands of the lunatic. Yet so it is in the case of the Secession conspiracy! South Carolina is insane, or else she is incendiary. When she inaugurated the plan of breaking up the Government, she announced that she would be governed by no outside counsels, that she had her own purposes in view, and that those who did not care to do as she bid them could remain behind; but this was presumed at the time to be the mere ravings of the chief madmen of the sect of the Charleston *Mercury*. As the revolution advanced, broadened and heightened, it was expected that something like discretion and prudence would be exhibited on the part of South Carolina. It is now evident that, whether there is method in her madness, there is at least consistency, and she is resolved to rule or ruin. The resolutions unanimously adopted by her Legislature, in which the intervention of Virginia is rejected with courteous scorn, possess a double significance. They tell the Border Slave States that all their efforts to harmonize our unhappy differences are looked upon with contempt by South Carolina; and, also, that South Carolina has no interest whatever in the Constitution of the United States, and regards the Union as a foreign government!

To the free States the action of South Carolina is no less important. It is an unconscious invitation to them to yield at the earliest moment to the demands of the Border States, and to do everything in their power to render the position of the Disunionists as unenviable and disgraceful as possible. What a rebuke the action of South Carolina is to those men in Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky who have pretended to follow her lead, while, at the same time, protesting their devotion to the Constitution and the Union! It is now evident that South Carolina, and all who act with her, intended from the start to discard everything like a reconstruction of the Government, to repudiate all offers of compromise and concession on the part of the North, and to set up for themselves. Infatuated and intoxicated at the success which has thus far attended their plans, the Disunionists of the Palmetto State flatter themselves that they can carry all the Cotton States with them. They think that Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and the rest, will ratify the tone of the resolutions of their Legislature in reply to Virginia; but they will be sadly mistaken, and in the consequent disappointment South Carolina will be so hemmed in by her own folly and weakness, as in a short time to be left alone in her inglorious solitude.

The fact is, not only are these misguided men resolved to consent to no settlement of our troubles, intent upon erecting a Government of their own on the most aristocratic models, but, as you will perceive by late despatches, they are determined to plunge the country in civil war, if they can do so. Thus the General Government is informed that, unless Fort Sumpter is surrendered, it will be taken by the military of South Carolina. The more of these rash and scandalous proceedings, however, the better for the country at large. In proportion as South Carolina vapors and threatens, the good Union men of the Cotton and Border States, and the great mass of the population of the free States, will be inspired by fraternal feeling, and thus the road for conciliation and for a lasting peace between the sections will be happily smoothed.

The fourth of February, 1861, will be an eventful day in Washington. On that occasion the commissioners from all the Constitution-obeying States of the Union will assemble in this city, at the call of Virginia. Highly important consequences must flow from their deliberations. It is essential that harmony should prevail, that no personal pride or party opinion should be permitted to intrude into this august consultation. The men who have thus far been selected are statesmen, who can afford to lay aside all selfish considerations, and to act alone for their country. *Pennsylvania should be particularly careful to be represented by her most experienced, disinterested, and patriotic citizens.* Now that South Carolina has taken a new tack, and has made more exacting and imperious demands than ever—now that she has separated herself from all reasonable and unpolish men—it becomes Pennsylvania that she so appear in this conference as to co-operate with Virginia, without reference to former relations or existing politics, and looking solely to the permanent prosperity of the entire Republic.

I notice that the Breckinridge men in Philadelphia are calling upon Mr. Welsh, the chairman of the Breckinridge State Central Committee, to call a State Convention in regard to the present perilous condition of public affairs, and that he has responded to this call by summoning the members of the Executive Committee to meet at Harrisburg to-day. In such a conjunction of evils as that which surrounds the Government, any man who will deserve to be applauded who can present a practical solution of our difficulties, or point out the way to tranquillity and peace; but it seems to me that the last man in the world to suggest anything like a satisfactory adjustment are the most of those who have signed the letter to Mr. Welsh. They have been, in fact, among the chief destroyers of the Democratic party, and hence the pioneers of all our present difficulties, and, to be consistent with their past record, they should do that which will be distasteful, not merely to the masses of the Democracy in your State, but to your whole people. These gentlemen are looking forward to what they popularly call capturing the organization in Pennsylvania, so as to provide themselves with places in time to come, and to punish the independent men who have steadily in times past stood by the old fashioned faith of the party. Most of them are theorists, who regard slavery as a divine institution, and who are anxious to see Pennsylvania be serf of South Carolina, and a mere echo of the wicked absurdities of the Disunionists generally. The Republicans have their own troubles with their leaders—men who will concede nothing in order to calm the tempest. The Democracy of Pennsylvania have been literally ridden to death by a set of incapables—Bourbons, who remember nothing but that which they should forget, and who have forgotten all that they should remember, and in full view of the consequences of their disorganizing conduct now come forward and audaciously claim still further, it may be, to disturb and to disrupt our happy country. If, however, they shall do any good, I shall be among the first to applaud them; but if a Democratic State Convention is to be called, it will then become the duty of the sincere friends of Democratic principles to rally to it, to vote down and to vote out all the heresies of which these gentlemen have been the representatives, and the defenders, and to compel them positively to submit to a long midnight of minority and defeat. Unhappily, at the very period when the country needs patriots we are furnished with partisans; at the very time when party hacks are asked to stand back, party hacks insist upon thrusting themselves forward. I am not without hope that this impudent attempt to tie Pennsylvania to the chariot wheels of a faction will be so rebuked, that the very movement these pseudo Disunionists have begun will be turned against them.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from "Kappa."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1861.

The South Carolina Seceders have rejoined the proffered hand of friendship and reconciliation of the old Commonwealth of Virginia. They declare openly that their secession is final. This is also another proof that they are Disunionists *per se*. Knowing that they cannot successfully oppose the strong hand of the Federal Government, they now trust and hope that England and Exeter Hall will come to their rescue. The Charleston *Mercury* counsels, therefore, the cotton-growers not to export any cotton at present, and expresses the firm belief that England will thus be compelled to make war upon the United States, and open the Southern harbors by force of arms. This shows that it is not independence and liberty which these traitors desire to achieve by secession; for, if England should really comply with their wishes, and be able to free them of the dominion of the United States, history has given us sufficient reason to believe that she will not do so for a small price. South Carolina will be nothing but a dependency of hers. And who will afterwards assist South Carolina?

A few days ago I met an old soldier who was one of the garrison at Fort Moultrie during the Nullification war. Then, not only Forts Moultrie and Sumpter, but also Castle Pinckney, were in possession of the United States troops. Besides several men-of-war were in the harbor lying under the guns of the forts. General Scott was the commander of all the forces. My informant, belonging to the company of Captain Ringgold, who afterwards fell a hero on the battlefields of Mexico, narrated to me the following touching incident of that memorable and unfortunate rebellion, which I will give in his own words: "One night," he said, "we perceived the whole horizon over the city of Charleston painted with a gloomy red, which increased the brightness every minute. At first we believed that the Nullifiers were amusing themselves with large bonfires, but when the skies grew redder and redder, it became apparent that the city was on fire. Whilst standing and quietly looking, we were aroused from our reveries by the sudden arrival of Captain Ringgold, who immediately ordered the company to fall into line, without arms, and march to the landing. Unfortunately, however, the tide was very low, and the boat lying high and dry. He jumped into the boat and ordered us to carry it into the water, which we did. We then started in the greatest hurry, passing various United States vessels and posts, who, on hailing us, received as answer: 'Captain Ringgold's company, going to the rescue of Charleston.' 'Pass on,' was the sole reply. When near the city, the captain gave strict order to be as quiet as possible, that we might not be heard; for he did not trust the Charlestonians, as, only a short time before, they had driven a United States company out of town, which then had gone to Castle Pinckney. The wharves, however, were forsaken, and not a man visible. We marched in the direction of the fire, and soon came on one of the squares where the fire was. A large number of people were present, who immediately surrounded us. Seeing us without arms, and suspecting the purpose of our coming, they immediately gave vent to the most boisterous hurrahs for Uncle Sam's soldiers. Captain Ringgold approached one of the foremen of the fire-engines, asking him, as his men were probably fatigued, to let his soldiers work, which request was immediately complied with. We worked as hard as we could until four o'clock in the morning. The inhabitants, soon after we commenced working, sent us large quantities of refreshments. The danger being over, Captain Ringgold ordered us to leave, and we marched down to the wharves. But before we could get there, we were stopped by a crowd of gentlemen, who insisted that we should follow them to an adjoining restaurant, where the tables were spread with the best things that could be had. We then left under the cheers of the assembled multitude. Thus did our forces fight the Charlestonians."

The old soldier, when he closed, wiped his eyes. His patriotic heart remembered olden times, when the same demon of Disunion, but less fearful than now, threatened to destroy our glorious Union. He was then a young man—he is gray now. "But," said he, "in spite of all that, I would, even now, if England or any other foreign nation should threaten South Carolina, shoulder the musket again, and march to her rescue. Her inhabitants, though misled by traitors and demagogues, are still our brethren. No secession ordinances can sever the ties which so long have united us. There are yet Union-loving people enough amongst them. The hearts of the people cannot be divided."

KAPPA.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, January 29, 1861.

In the Senate, Mr. Smith read in place an act to punish fraud, and other offences, against the city of Philadelphia. It provides that any officer, created by the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia, or any of its supplements, or any other law, who shall make out, or present, or officially sanction, or knowingly allow, any false or dishonest claim; or who shall be a participant; or who shall embezzle any money, goods, or chattels, of said city, or belonging to any trust fund, or to any department; or who shall make connive at, or participate in, any fraudulent contract; or who shall deposit or loan any money, goods, or chattels, of said city, or belonging to any trust fund, or to any department; or who shall make connive at, or participate in, any fraudulent contract; or who shall deposit or loan the funds of said city for his own benefit, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor. If convicted, he is to forfeit all claim to salary, to be fined not less than the money he obtained, be sentenced to make full restitution, and summarily dismissed from office. Any citizen of Philadelphia who assists in these misdemeanors shall be punished in like manner as provided for the punishment of the officer. Altogether, the act is very comprehensive, and so carefully drawn that the delinquent will find it a difficult matter to escape. It was introdu ed last winter, but failed for want of time to consider it.

Mr. Smith also read in place a bill which will greatly assist in preventing the rescue of fugitive slaves. It makes the city or county in which a rescue is made liable and legally responsible for the loser, liable to the amount of his value, and costs, and expenses, if a rescue take place. It is also made a high misdemeanor, punishable with a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding three years. The city or county is to have its remedy against the persons who occasioned the mob, in a civil suit.

In the House, Mr. Preston, an act relative to the Wissahickon Turnpike Road Company. It extends their road from a point on their present road to Kitner's tavern, on the Ridge road, about five miles in length. It also increases their capital stock four hundred shares for the purpose of raising funds to make the aforesaid extension.

Mr. Hopkins, relative to compelling the assignees of the Bank of Pennsylvania to settle their accounts. The object of the bill is expressed fully in its title.

Mr. Randall, an act relative to attorneys and rules of court. It simply authorises an attorney to practise in any court of the Commonwealth who shall be admitted to practice in the Supreme Court. Power is given to the Supreme Court to make rules to carry into effect the object of the act.

The Committee on Banks has refused to report favorably on the bill read by Mr. Patterson, which authorizes the banks to suspend specie payments until February, 1862. The Philadelphia banks could not accept the provisions of such an act, as their bills would not be a circulating medium outside of the State, if specie payments were refused. They have already resumed, and do not want the privilege of depreciating their paper. A good many of these institutions in the interior, however, are determined to have such a law, and accordingly for a long time have refused all discounts, for the purpose of bringing on such a pressure as will compel members to come into its support. A suspension, such as asked for, would depreciate country bank bills so as to be absolutely worthless outside of their own community, all of which loss would come off the unfortunate bill-holder. It is a sus pension without a panic. But there is no prospect of the bill becoming a law.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, January 29.

The Contest in Virginia.

The news received here to-night from Virginia, in regard to the election soon to be held there, for delegates to the State Convention, which has been called to decide the Secession question, indicates that a majority of the western of the Old Dominion will array themselves on the side of the Union. The Secession members of Congress from that State are becoming much alarmed, and they have telegraphed their friends there to-day that many of the Government clerks are flooding Virginia with copies of the late speech of SEBRAND CLEMENS, and other Union documents, and that they must endeavor at once to counteract the effect of these patriotic appeals.

The Public Buildings.

The force of watchmen in all the public buildings of this city is being increased, and other arrangements made for their protection.

Arrival of an Artillery Company.

A company of artillery, from Fort McHenry, arrived here to-night, and passed up the Avenue as the guests of Governor Morehead from the President's levee. They created a great sensation.

Ex-Governor Lowe.

The House Investigating Committee, which is now engaged in diligently inquiring into all the circumstances connected with the reported design of some of the Secessionists to attack the capital before the fourth of March, to-day summoned Ex-Governor LOWE, of Maryland, who is one of the leading Secessionists of that State, to appear before it as a witness. His testimony will probably be of an important character.

The President's Levee.

The President's Levee to-night was one of the largest ever held. Hundreds were present who always absented themselves before the recent purification of his Cabinet and his manifestation of a disposition to enforce the laws. One of its most striking features was that a very large number of officers of the army and navy were present in uniform.

Fort Washington.

The marines at Fort Washington, on the Potomac, below this city, and nearly opposite Mount Vernon, have been relieved by two companies of heavy artillery from Fort Monroe. The movement was effected so quietly and skilfully that even the persons who reside in the immediate vicinity were not aware of it.

Mr. Lincoln's Journey through Maryland.

REVERDY JOHNSON, and other leading citizens of Maryland, have volunteered to act as escort to Mr. LINCOLN during his journey through that State to Washington.

There is no truth in the rumor published here that Mr. LINCOLN has written a letter to Mr. COLFAX on the subject of compromise.

The daily overland mail proposition, as it passed the House to-day, limits the cost to $300,000. The mail is to start from the western frontier of Missouri, and go through to Placerville in twenty days for letters and papers, and thirty-five days for magazines and documents, but which last may be sent by steamers at the contractor's expense Bids are to be received till April—the contract to commence on July 1st, or as soon thereafter as possible. Denver and Salt Lake are to be supplied semi-weekly by the contractor. The postage on letters is to be ten cents, and on papers one cent. The bill passed by a vote of 101 against 64.

The Protection of the Capital.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Two companies of artillery left here to day for Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Several artillery companies arrived here to-night.

The guard at some of the public buildings has been increased, though the necessity for it is not generally appreciated.

Disregard of Federal Authority.

THE REVENUE CUTTER LEWIS CASS ORDERED TO NEW YORK—CAPTAIN BERSHWOOD REFUSES TO TAKE HER OUT OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29.—The United States revenue cutter Lewis Cass has received orders to proceed to New York.

Captain Breshwood refuses to take her out of the river.

A Duel.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Dr. Jones, a prominent member of the Douglas Executive Committee, and Lieut Wilson, of Tennessee, left the city yesterday, for the Delaware line, to fight a duel. A private despatch says that Lieut. Wilson was wounded in the hip. The quarrel is said to have originated in remarks made by Wilson about Douglas distasteful to Dr. Jones.

Reported Failure at Boston.

BOSTON, Jan. 29.—The failure of Messrs Pierce and Brothers, dry goods merchants, with liabilities amounting to $750,000, is announced.

FROM CHARLESTON.

A War Steamer Reported off the Harbor.

The Charlestonians Startled.

A Negro Reports a "Suspicious Craft."

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 29.—The Charleston *Courier* and *Mercury*, of this morning, report that a large war-steamer was seen off the harbor on Saturday at dusk. It showed signals, and stood to the southward. It is surmised that it is still hovering about the neighboring coast.

Last night a negro came to the city, and informed his master that a suspicious craft was seen yesterday near Church's flat-stone. He represented that there were twenty men on board, but they were without arms and uniform. He thought they appeared as if about to pounce down on the plantations.

The South Carolina Legislature adjourned last night *sine die*.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Col. Hayne does not believe the truth of the despatch from Charleston as to the reported business which occupied the attention of the Legislature in secret session, yesterday. He has received no despatch or communication from Gov. Pickens on the subject. The report is believed to be equally erroneous as that which recently represented that a boat from Fort Sumpter had been fired into from one of the Charleston forts.

Mr. Hayne has made no demand of the Federal Government for the surrender of Fort Sumpter, and is patiently awaiting the action of the Southern Congress, at Montgomery, which will assemble next week The errand of the steam sloop-of-war *Brooklyn* is believed to be of a peaceful character, with the view of intercepting all hostile demonstrations on the part of the Gulf squadron. The troops on board were to be sent to the works at Tortugas, which were still in the possession of the Federal authorities, but without adequate force to hold them.

Captain Barron was sent by land a week since on a similar errand, and has probably arrived there by this time. His despatches to Fort Pickens and the naval commanders in the Gulf were of the most pacific character.

From Texas.

GOV. HOUSTON FAVORS A CONVENTION—THE LEGISLATURE FOR IMMEDIATE SECESSION.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29.—A despatch from Austin, Texas, on the 22d, says the Legislature of that State had met, and the Governor's message been received. He favors a calling of a State Convention—such being the manifest desire of the people.

Both Houses repealed the Kansas resolutions passed by the Legislature in 1858.

The House took up and passed the Senate bill directing the State Comptroller to proceed to Washington and receive the $180 000 due to the State of Texas by the Federal Government.

A resolution was unanimously passed by the House declaring that the Federal Government has no power to coerce a sovereign State after she has pronounced her decree of separation. The Senate will pass the same resolution by a similar vote.

The members of the Legislature favor the immediate secession of the State by a majority of three to one.

AUSTIN, Jan. 28.—Both houses of the Legislature have passed the resolutions repudiating the idea of using forcible means to coerce a seceding State, and declaring that any such attempt will be resisted to the last extremity.

Only one-fifth of the members of the House are opposed to immediate action, but it is expected that commissioners of secession will be referred to the people.

The Alabama Convention.

THE UNITED STATES PATENT LAWS—ALABAMA AGAINST THE REOPENING OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 29.—The Convention, in secret session last night, adopted a resolution instructing its deputies to the Southern Convention to insist upon the enactment of such measures as will forever prevent the reopening of the African slave trade.

To-day the Convention passed a supplemental ordinance, authorizing the Governor of the State to carry into effect the previous ordinance for the protection of the State defences in the Gulf.

Also, an ordinance adopting as the law of Alabama the laws of the United States relative to patents, securing the right of invention to the citizens of all slave States.

The Convention then adjourned till the 4th of March.

The Louisiana State Convention.

THE MISSISSIPPI NAVIGATION CONVENTION.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29.—The State Convention reassembled at noon to-day, in this city.

A salute of fifteen guns was fired at the opening of the session.

The Convention went into secret session at 12½ o'clock, to consider the Mississippi navigation question.

Before going into secret session, the Convention adopted a resolution appointing a committee to receive the commissioners from the seceding States.

The Committee on Federal Relations presented a series of resolutions, which they recommended to the immediate consideration of the Convention; but they were postponed.

It is supposed that the Convention is considering the resolutions of the Committee on Commerce relative to the free navigation of the Mississippi and the principles of free trade.

While the doors were open, the galleries were crowded with spectators.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29—Nine o'clock P. M.—The Convention still continues in secret session.

The North Carolina Legislature.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 29.—The Senate was yesterday engaged on private bills.

The House considered the Senate Convention bill.

Several amendments were adopted, but no vote was taken on its passage.

It will come up to-day at one o'clock.

A case of small pox was reported in the city yesterday, and the proposition by some members to remove to another city, while others favor an adjournment to March to await further developments.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 29.—The resolutions of the New York and Ohio Legislatures were received to-day. No action has yet been taken on them.

The Senate passed the House bill to-day for calling a State Convention, without amendment. There are some doubts yet of its final passage.

The New Jersey Legislature.

COMPLIMENT TO MR. LINCOLN.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 29.—The House to-day agreed to a concurrent resolution, inviting Abraham Lincoln, the President elect of the United States, to visit the capital of New Jersey, and extending to him the hospitalities of the State on his route to Washington city.

The Hunterdon and Somerset Farmers' Railroad bill was introduced to-day.

The Senate confirmed a number of nominations by Gov. Olden, of commissioners of deeds, for other States.

The Milwaukee Visitors on the National Crisis.

WASHINGTON, January 29.—The delegation of the business men from Milwaukee, excursionists to Philadelphia, having in their ranks Messrs Wadsworth, Cary, and Allen, of the Milwaukee Press, met at Willard's Hotel last night and adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, Since our visit to this city we have been more sensibly impressed than ever before with the impending crisis in the affairs of our country; and as lovers of our Government and friends of the Union, and without claiming more than a proper degree of patriotism,

Be it therefore Resolved, That we owe a higher allegiance to our country than to any mere party platform; and while we regret that all the political parties that took part in the late Presidential contest, and a large majority of us were the supporters of the successful candidate, we earnestly invoke the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the State of Wisconsin to sink at this time all partisan prejudice for the sake of the Union.

The State of Kansas.

LEAVENWORTH, Kansas, Jan. 29.—The announcement of the final passage of the bill admitting Kansas into the Union creates considerable enthusiasm among all parties.

One hundred guns were fired to-day in honor of the event by order the Republican Central Committee.

Messrs. Jones & Cartright, the transportation firm of this city, have not assigned, as may be inferred from a special despatch published in the St. Louis *Republican*, of the 27th. The assignment is that of Messrs Majors, & Waddell, who prefer home creditors and endorsers. Messrs Jones and Cartwright are preparing for an extensive freighting business on the plains during the coming season.

A new daily paper, published by J R. Anthony, made its appearance here yesterday. It will support the Republican Administration

The weather is very pleasant, and the recent heavy snow is fast disappearing.

Secession in Massachusetts.

THE PALMETTO FLAG HOISTED OVER PORT DEFIANCE.

BOSTON, Jan. 29—The citizens of Gloucester were greatly astonished, this morning, to see the Palmetto flag floating over Fort Defiance. A general spirit of indignation was soon manifested, and the revenue cutter in the harbor immediately sent a portion of her crew ashore in boats to cut it down.

There is said to be 30,000 barrels of mackerel at Gloucester waiting sale for a Southern market.

Abolition Convention at Syracuse, New York, Disbanded.

SYRACUSE, (N. Y.) Jan. 29.—The hall in which the Abolitionists were holding their convention was taken possession of this evening by a large body of men. There were evidently preconcerted arrangements to prevent the meeting, there being much confusion during the whole of the afternoon's proceedings. The hall was finally closed. The Abolitionists intend meeting again to-morrow, but it is the intention to break up the convention.

The Marine Hospital at New Orleans.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Owing to the urgent remonstrance of Secretary Dix, the affair in relation to the Marine Hospital at New Orleans has been satisfactorily arranged.

Capt. Faunce, commanding the revenue cutter *Harriet Lane*, is now in this