

fugitive slaves can be adjusted to the satisfaction of the injured property holder, and without dishonor to ourselves.

Fourth, That in relation to the maintenance of the rights we have, or those that have been defeated or impaired, and in whatever concerns the subjects of contumely and insult we can demand there may lie a sufficient cause for increased vigilance, for preparation, for alliance among the Southern States, for the demand of new guarantees, but not for disunion, until there is a refusal of redress. In my opinion, separate State action will result in the discredit and defeat of every measure for reparation or security.

In conclusion, he says: I need not state to you that my connection with the Federal Government has continued till this time, rather in deference to the inclinations of others, and upon public considerations, than from any desire on my part to hold my office. My commission would not be affected by the action of the State. But I determined many years ago that my obligation was to follow the fortunes of her people. I shall terminate my connection with the government as a consequence of her act.

SOUTH CAROLINA POSTAL SYSTEM.
A special committee of the South Carolina Legislature have made a report concerning the postal system of the State after session. The proposed arrangement with Adams and Co.'s Express is declared to be inadequate to the exigencies of the case, and therefore they submit the following:

Resolved, That to avert, as far as practicable, the commercial embarrassments that would result from an abrupt cessation of postal arrangements in and through this State, and the persons engaged in the transportation and distribution of the mails in this State, be and they are hereby authorized and requested to continue in the performance of such services to the community until a postal treaty shall have been concluded between this State and the government of the United States.

PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.
Mr. Corwin, the Chairman of the Committee of Thirty-three, has reported a series of resolutions, which, it is understood, are intended to meet the crisis. It is said that they meet the approval of a majority of the Republicans on the Committee. They are nearly as follows:

First—Pledging the faith of Congress against any attempt to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

Second—against interfering with the interstate trade between the States.

Third—The abolition of slavery in the dock yards and arsenals in the slave States.

Fourth—In favor of any amendments rendering the fugitive slave act effective and satisfactory to the South.

Fifth—Against any discrimination by Congress against slave States asking admission.

Sixth—Protecting persons and property in the Territories till they have thirty thousand inhabitants, when non-intervention by Congress shall be the law.

It is rumored that it is not improbable that the committee may be able to report by the middle of the week.

CAUCUS AT WASHINGTON.
The congressional delegation from New York, without regard to politics, met on Sunday night at the room of John Cochrane to deliberate upon the course proper to pursue in the future.

Nearly all were present. Mr. Reynolds, elected as an Anti-Compromise Democrat, offered a resolution affirming that the Union "must and shall be preserved," and pledging New York to its support.

The proposition met with general support, except on the part of Mr. Sickles, who introduced an amendment, proposing a meeting and consultation between the New York and Virginia delegations upon the crisis of affairs, for the purpose of securing a union of action between these two great States.

He supported his proposition in a strong speech, but the proposition of Mr. Reynolds is said to have been almost unanimously adopted.

The Patriot & Union.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 10, 1860.

O. BARRETT & THOMAS C. MADDOWELL, Publishers and Proprietors.

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The Will of the Majority.

There is nothing that the Republicans harp more upon at this time than the will of the majority. They assume that LINCOLN was elected President of the United States by the majority of the people, and that therefore they owe no concessions to a factious and turbulent minority, as they delight to call the Southern people. Now, the fact is that the people of the United States pronounced against LINCOLN and the doctrines of the Republican party, by an overwhelming majority, at the late election. Instead of being the choice of a majority of the American people, the popular vote shows a majority against LINCOLN of nearly one million.

In other words, a majority amounting to one million of the citizens of these United States testified their abhorrence of the aggressive principles of the Republicans, and their apprehension that the success of those principles would endanger this Union, by casting their votes against LINCOLN. And this triumph of a minority could not have been secured except by a resort to sectionalism, by which means a popular majority was obtained in the Northern States exclusively. This vicious sectionalism, so much dreaded by the Father of his Country, was the life and strength of the Republican party. Any principle which would have nationalized it would have proved its immediate destruction. Its existence depended upon the advocacy of opinions which could by no possibility obtain favor in the fifteen Southern States of the Union; and hence it was necessarily both sectional and aggressive. Had it not been for the peculiar method of electing a President prescribed by the Constitution, and which was adopted at a time when it was not anticipated that the Northern mind could ever be so debauched by abolitionism as practically to exclude the Southern States from participation in the government, the success of LINCOLN would have been impossible. Had the electors been chosen by districts, as members of Congress are, the country would not now be suffering the fearful consequences of sectional animosity and arrogance. The majority of the people were loyally willing and anxious to thwart the designs of the Republican party, but they could not. Their hands were tied.

With these facts in view, and when the majority of the people demand that proper con-

cessions be made to quiet the apprehensions of the South, it is the extreme of insolence for the Republican minority to say that such assurances shall not be given. If the popular voice is heard and heeded the Southern States will not be permitted to seek redress out of the Union, but will obtain what they require in the Union. The only men who stand in the way of a permanent pacification at this momentous crisis in our national history are the Republican leaders, who are more intent upon saving their miserable sectional organization than upon preserving the Union. They are the true secessionists and disunionists. Their stubborn arrogance must be lashed out of them by public opinion. Then the majority will govern, and the Union be preserved.

Who are the Disunionists?

Manifestly those who have produced a deep seated apprehension in the Southern mind that their rights are not secure within the Union. It will not do for the Republicans to profess peculiar devotion to the Union, and claim that they have done nothing to put it in peril, after having done everything to produce the disunion excitement at the South. Fire will not burn without fuel. There would be no disunionists at the South if there were no hostile Republicans at the North. Disunion is the necessary outgrowth of Republicanism. Northern sectionalism is the cause and disunion the natural and inevitable result. Torture a man on the rack and he will cry out with pain. Suppose that the torturer should reprove the sufferer for the disagreeable noise he is making, because it alarms the neighborhood and keeps quiet people awake at night. The victim would reply—"Cease your intolerable torture and I will not create this disturbance. The remedy is in your own hands."

The South has been driven to desperation by the hostility of the North, and because they writhe in anguish and threaten to retaliate, the dominant party at the North, like the man who stretches his victim on the rack, rails at them for creating a disturbance. The South boldly confronts its accuser and says that the moment this aggression ceases, and adequate security is afforded that the system of insult and injury which has been systematically pursued through a long series of years, shall not be continued in the future, then, and not until then, will she consent to be quiet. The remedy is in the hands of the North.

The Northern people fail to appreciate the impressions produced upon the Southern people by the avowed purposes of the Republican party. They take Mr. LINCOLN at his word. They believe that he means what he says. They understand it to be the object of the Republican party to circumscribe the limits of slavery, and gradually to close in upon it until it shall be ultimately extirpated. From this fate the South is determined to save itself at any cost; and if we believed there was any real danger that such a malign purpose could be executed within the Union, we should say to the Southern States retire at once while you have strength enough left to save yourselves from the fate of St. Domingo. But the South is wrong in apprehending that the purposes of the Republican leaders can be carried out. It is true that LINCOLN has declared that the Union cannot endure half slave and half free; that SEWARD has announced an irrepressible conflict, not to terminate until slavery is abolished; that SUMNER has threatened to pursue the South until it dies of rage, like a poisoned rat in its hole; and that LINCOLN, SEWARD and SUMNER are captains of the Republican party. But notwithstanding the Republican leaders are determinedly hostile to the South, the conservatives of the North can and will subdue them, and stand like a wall of adamant between them and their purposes. Yet can we wonder that the South is apprehensive that the designs of these men, who seem to enjoy the confidence of the dominant party, may ultimately be carried out? Is it surprising that Southern men take them at their word, and judge the party they represent by them? And so judging the Republican party, is it a matter of astonishment that deep apprehension stirs and excites the Southern men, and they begin to consider how they shall save themselves?

The real disunionists are the authors of this feeling of alarm which pervades the South; and the way to check disunion is to allay the apprehensions of the South, by showing them that LINCOLN, SEWARD, SUMNER, and other leaders of the Republican party, are not the true exponents of Northern sentiment.

At the last session of Congress the Philadelphia Press had a correspondent at Washington named EZEK RICHARDS, who is now furnishing "Congressional Notes" to the States and Union. In a recent communication to the last named paper Mr. RICHARDS indulges in some speculations concerning the Senator to be elected from Pennsylvania in the place of Mr. BOLGER, in which he furnishes the startling information that "JOHN W. FORNEY has been spoken of with some confidence" as a candidate for that responsible and honorable office. Now as JOHN W. FORNEY is the only man in this State who would be likely to speak with confidence of JOHN W. FORNEY, it is fair to presume that he made this communication in the strictest confidence to EZEK RICHARDS, with the understanding that he would confide it to the world. The news that FORNEY is a candidate for Senator may take such men as M'MICHAEL, POLLOCK, WILMOT, and COWAN by surprise; but we beg leave to ask, why should Mr. FORNEY not be a candidate for the U. S. Senate? Has he not earned some recognition at the hands of the Republicans of Pennsylvania? Has he not labored to promote their success with untiring assiduity and zeal? Has he not pursued every sound Democrat in the State, conspicuous for fidelity to the party organization, with unrelenting animosity? Did he not help to elect CURTIN and LINCOLN? Was not all his time and talents devoted to securing the success of the Republican party? Neither WILMOT, or M'MICHAEL, or POLLOCK, can safely affirm that they did more for the cause than FORNEY, and if promotion is to reward distinguished merit, he will be the man. For fear modesty should deter him from urging his claims, we take the liberty of calling public attention to them.

PRODUCE OF THE ERIE CANAL.—Forty boats are frozen in at Fort Plain, in which there are 820,000 bushels of wheat, 4,000 barrels of flour, 6,000 bushels of corn, 40,000 bushels of oats, and 2,000 barrels of apples. There are boats at other points, but their numbers are not stated.

The Popular Vote.

We are now enabled to present very nearly completed returns of the votes for President of the United States at the recent election, as follows:

| STATES. | Lincoln | Breckinridge | Douglas | Ball | Other |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Maine | 62,547 | 6,409 | 29,508 | 3,009 | ..... |
| N. Hampshire | 37,510 | 2,112 | 28,811 | 411 | ..... |
| Vermont | 33,883 | 1,559 | 8,743 | 217 | ..... |
| Massachusetts | 108,888 | 6,105 | 34,870 | 22,231 | ..... |
| R. Island | 12,024 | ..... | 7,536 | 24 | ..... |
| Connecticut | 43,792 | 16,493 | 17,574 | 3,307 | 1,876 |
| New York | 363,946 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 312,510 |
| New Jersey | 65,975 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 62,801 |
| Pennsylvania | 270,170 | 12,809 | 11,890 | 12,750 | 176,435 |
| Delaware | 3,515 | 7,237 | 1,023 | 3,845 | ..... |
| Maryland | 2,865 | 42,511 | 5,953 | 41,785 | ..... |
| Virginia | 1,929 | 74,333 | 16,223 | 74,884 | ..... |
| N. Carolina | 48,239 | 2,701 | 44,590 | ..... | ..... |
| S. Carolina | 30,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Georgia | 52,131 | 11,010 | 43,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Florida | 8,543 | 807 | 5,487 | ..... | ..... |
| Alabama | 45,331 | 15,443 | 35,443 | ..... | ..... |
| Mississippi | 40,797 | 3,283 | 25,040 | ..... | ..... |
| Louisiana | 22,831 | 7,024 | 20,204 | ..... | ..... |
| Arkansas | 42,556 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Missouri | 17,028 | 31,917 | 68,873 | ..... | ..... |
| Illinois | 49,669 | 10,280 | 49,710 | ..... | ..... |
| Kentucky | 55,143 | 25,581 | 60,668 | ..... | ..... |
| Ohio | 231,610 | 11,405 | 127,107 | ..... | ..... |
| Indiana | 139,013 | 12,551 | 115,165 | ..... | ..... |
| Iowa | 70,495 | 2,292 | 108,254 | ..... | ..... |
| Michigan | 85,978 | 4,866 | 61,284 | 1,846 | ..... |
| Wisconsin | 86,110 | 888 | 65,021 | 161 | ..... |
| Minnesota | 22,253 | 743 | 11,878 | 44 | ..... |
| California | 88,792 | 34,041 | 43,860 | 8,704 | ..... |
| Oregon | 6,490 | 5,943 | 3,127 | 976 | ..... |
| Total | 1,865,176 | 711,433 | 1,006,936 | 571,161 | 656,531 |
| Total against Lincoln | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,844,121 |
| For Lincoln | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,865,176 |
| Majority against Lincoln | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 978,976 |

The votes given for Lincoln are nearly, but not quite, two-fifths of the whole. The votes of the different candidates are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Lincoln | 1,865,176 |
| Douglas | 1,006,936 |
| Breckinridge | 711,433 |
| Ball | 571,161 |
| Fusion (Breckinridge and Douglas) | 555,631 |
| Total votes | 4,709,307 |
| Total vote in 1856 | 4,040,204 |
| Increase | 669,103 |

It is a remarkable fact, that while DOUGLAS received a larger popular vote than BRECKINRIDGE, he had but 12 electoral votes, whereas BRECKINRIDGE had 72. This resulted partly from the fact that the votes for BRECKINRIDGE represented a much larger slave population; which, although not counted numerically, adds to the number of electors.

(c) Chosen by the Legislature, unanimously. * Estimated popular vote. ** This includes the Douglas vote on a Fusion ticket.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1860.

In the absence of Congressional news, I have been looking about the city for such objects of interest as are found here at this season of the year, when we have congregated the "grave, the gay, the lively and severe." At this focal point of national attention we find the representatives from all the courts and crowned heads of the Old World, in the shape of Ministers Plenipotentiary, Charge d'Affaires, Lords, Dukes, Earls, Marquises, and a long train of dignitaries, who are special objects of attraction for all such as have a penchant for looking upon such creatures (a weakness which, I thank Heaven, I never had); whilst in the teeming multitudes that throng the city during the session of Congress there are individual cases, whose history, if written, would attract a more lively interest than the dignitaries to whom I have alluded. For the persons who occupy the dignified positions of diplomatic representatives, at Washington, we can find a parallel, without the slightest difficulty, in almost any community; because human nature is susceptible of producing just such men as we have had in all ages of the world, under a like state of circumstances; and yet to this rule, which seems to be taken for granted, there are some marked exceptions; and it is to one of these exceptional I propose to devote a portion of this letter—a task which I undertake with a degree of dread and reluctance I never experienced in the whole course of my life before. I feel a consciousness of my utter inability to draw the picture true enough to give the reader anything like an adequate idea of the reality as I have witnessed it, but I will nevertheless make the attempt.

There is now in this city an individual, in the person of a blind negro boy, of a little less than eleven years of age, who is, beyond question, the most wonderful prodigy—no; prodigy is not the word—who is a living, breathing, moving miracle. A native of the State of Georgia, born blind—of a physical conformation so near akin to the lowest type of the Congo negro that he scarcely rises to the dignity of being classed among the list of God's intelligent creatures—whose chronological development gives the lie direct to all the theories of Spurzheim, Gall, Coomb, and the lesser phrenological lights of the past and present generation—because he is phrenologically deficient, totally deficient, in those organs, so far as external signs are concerned, that constitute him at once the wonder and admiration of the age. In person he is about four and a half feet in height, with long legs, short body, arms of an unusual length, a hand differing in its conformation from that of any other human being I ever saw, from the fact that his thumb is so placed as to give to his reach at least one inch more when his hand is expanded than any other person, whilst his fingers are not only small, but tapering and rather shorter than are found in persons of his physical proportions. His head and face are of that shape so peculiar to the most inferior class of Africans, that the most critical observer, ignorant of his wonderful gifts, would fail to discern the slightest traces of genius of any kind. His face is almost void of the slightest ray of intelligence, save when he is in the act of recitation; when it assumes an expression which is both pleasing and bewildering, and the beholder forgets for the time being his protruding mouth, thick lips, flat nose, and forehead villainously low, with the upper and back part of his head running up to an unusual altitude, covered with a thick crop of stiff and matted wool, characteristic of his race. He is the nineteenth child of his mother, who is at present a field hand on the plantation of his owner, Mr. Oliver. His father is also a field hand on the same plantation, and both parents are said to be specimens of the most degraded type of the lowest scale of the African negro.

Tom, the immediate subject of my notice, at the age of about six years, was discovered to possess a gift that is seldom imparted to any of God's creatures; certainly in no instance, besides Tom, in such bountiful measure and exquisite degree; a gift of other's the most purely heavenly—that of producing the sweetest melody that ever saluted human organism from the keys of the piano forte, with the accuracy and precision of perfection itself. This discovery was accidental, because no amount of training could qualify any creature to execute as Tom does. Heaven, in recompense for his deprivation of sight, conferred upon this poor child's capacity for infinite enjoyment in the world of sound and harmony, and his power to produce by the magic of his touch the most transporting and ecstatic music that mortal ear ever heard.

His intellect seems to be of that astonishing character that he can produce any note in music that can be written without the slightest difficulty, and without education, for he does it by intuition, and his brain seems to possess the peculiar power

to stereotype not only music, but language, with equal facility.

I heard him at the Assembly Rooms on Thursday night last for the first time, and heard him play some of the most difficult pieces of Operatic music with a taste and accuracy that thrilled the large, fashionable and critical audience then and there assembled, like an electrical shock, and as he proceeded produced an effect that no pen can describe. He commenced with "Love Not," which he rendered to perfection; then played pieces from the Operas of "Norma," "Linda," "Lucresia Borgia," "Traviata," "Somnambula," "La Fille du Regiment," &c., &c., and several pieces of his own composition, such as polkas and reels, that were exquisite. He imitated the drum and fife, a Dutch organ grinder, accompanying the piano with his voice in the most accurate manner; played two pieces of music at the same time—"Yankee Doodle" with his left hand, and "Fisher's Hornpipe" with his right, and keeping up at the same time a lively conversation with his master; then capped the climax by turning his back to the piano and playing a tune. I felt such an interest in this wonderful creature that I determined to visit him, which I did this morning through the politeness of his master, Mr. Oliver, who, by the way, is one of the most elegant specimens of the genuine Southern gentleman that can be found in a day's journey anywhere. On entering the room of his master and mistress, at the boarding-house, we found Tom, who, on being informed that two gentlemen (I was accompanied by a friend) had called to see him, saluted us in a loud voice, with a "How do you do, gentlemen; very glad to see you," which he got out after the greatest difficulty, owing to his habit, for he is not only blind, but he stammers painfully in conversation; but never does in singing or in reciting a piece of composition, which latter fact was fully verified to us during our visit, for he recited "The Lord's Prayer" in Latin, two verses of "The Marseillaise Hymn" in French, and a part of the song, entitled, "When the Swallows Homeward Fly," in German, together with the beautiful composition by Sir Walter Scott, commencing with—

"Lives there a man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land?"

All which he rendered with wonderful accuracy and distinctness. His motions, grimaces, gesticulations, and oddities, whilst we were in the room, when left to himself, and not engaged in conversation, were such as to induce the belief that he is an idiot; but when you come to talk with him, and witness his coherent and intelligent answers to all questions, the idea of his idiocy vanishes, and you gaze at him, as I did, in mute awe and astonishment, and exclaim inwardly, "The ways of God are not our ways." His wonderful workings are beyond our finite comprehension. There is a creature gifted with a divine endowment, who is not conscious of its possession himself. Verily, the Great Ruler of the Universe "chooses the weak things of this world to confound the mighty," and here is an illustration in this simple child, that is a more eloquent sermon than ever man preached. But, as I said at the out start, I feel my utter incapacity to give a full description of this miracle in this moral and physical world of ours; this creature, who has no parallel; but who must be seen, and whose wonderful performances must be witnessed, to be appreciated. I quit the subject, bewildered and amazed by the bare attempt to comprehend this human genius.

The resignation of General Cass, as Secretary of State, at a time like the present, was not in keeping with the old veteran's character, and has damaged him in the estimation of many of his old friends here, as it will elsewhere. He differed with the President as to the policy of refusing to send more troops to Fort Monroe. The President would not yield, and the General in a moment of pique quitted his post, at which it would have been better for his fame had he remained till the 4th of March next. The policy of the Chief Magistrate is unquestionably right. His object is to prevent as long as it is possible, the shedding of human blood; a policy that commends itself to every good citizen in this country. The determination of the Administration is to abstain from any act that would be calculated to irritate or aggravate the present unhappy state of things at Charleston, or elsewhere; and if an overt act is committed, it must be committed by the South, and then the South will be in the wrong, and if blood must be spilt, that blood will be upon the skirts of the people of the South, who will be held accountable for it, not only by our own people, but by the civilized world. There is a sublime grandeur in this position of Mr. Buchanan at this moment, and his firm purpose to exhaust every persuasive measure to bring the people of the South to reflect upon the ruin that must follow secession, is only another proof that he looks upon the questions involved in the present controversy between the people of the North and those of the South with the eye of a consummate statesman and patriot, who deprecates domestic strife as the worst of evils that can befall a Nation.

In painful contrast to the President will be found Senator Douglas, if rumor speaks truly, who, it is said, intends making a speech this week advocating coercion of the South. If such should turn out to be true, Mr. D. has but one more step to take, and that is into the ranks of the Black Republicans, who are in favor of a similar bloody policy. I trust, however, that this rumor may be false, for Mr. Douglas's own sake as well as that of the country.

Many regrets are expressed here among the numerous friends and acquaintances of the late lamented Isaac G. McKinley, of your city, who died last week. He was respected and beloved by those who knew him in this city, for his many virtues. His place will not be filled soon in the community where he lived. His loss will be felt and lamented for years to come.

DIRECT TRADE WITH EUROPE.—The Norfolk (Va.) Chamber of Commerce recently sent John D. Myrick as its agent to Europe to investigate the facilities for establishing direct trade. The Norfolk Argus, in announcing his return, says: Several firms of the highest repute in Liverpool, Havre and Antwerp, have been led to look to Norfolk as a point from which direct trade may be inaugurated; and they are pledged to make cash advances on any shipments that our enterprising merchants may make. It would not surprise us if one of the French lines which the Emperor has taken under his liberal patronage could be induced by efforts in Virginia to make our port its western terminus. Mr. Myrick has obtained many valuable assurances on these points, and we hope he will enable us to furnish to the business communities of our State the data which he has taken so much pains to secure.

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.—There are at present about 80,000 officers in the gift of the General Government, for which we may estimate 600,000 applicants, showing that a little under one-third of the people of the United States are interested not so much in the good of the country as in a change of the Administration. "Does not this assist in explaining why a President is never chosen for two terms now-a-days?"

DECLINE IN THE PRICE OF SLAVES.—Robert White, special commissioner, sold on Thursday last, a negro named Joe, aged about 25 years, with a good blacksmith, for \$800. J. M. Harris purchased. Two months ago he would have brought \$1,500. A likely negro boy, aged about 9 years, brought \$400; Major Wm. Hall purchaser.—Romney (Va.) Ar.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

XXVITH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.
SENATE.—The Vice President announced the reception of the report of the proceedings of the Parliament of Canada. Referred to the Committee on Libraries.
Mr. Lane, (Oregon), offered the following: WHEREAS, in 1847 and 1848 the Northern States adopted resolutions in favor of the Wilcox Provision, and the Southern States passed counter resolutions declaring that they would resist that measure; And whereas, in 1850 compromise measures were passed agreeing that the question of slavery in the Territories should be decided by the States; By the late election the Northern States have re-affirmed their former position that slavery be excluded: And whereas, a number of Southern States retracted the late action of the North as restrictive of the equality of States and their right to the common territory, and have indicated their purpose to dissolve their political connection; as such a result would be disastrous to both sections, and if attended by civil war create horrors never before recorded: And whereas, it appears that the present system of our government is inadequate to the exigency of the times: And whereas, in a similar difficulty our fathers met to adopt a new plan of government, therefore be it

Resolved, That the several States be requested to send commissioners or delegates to consult on the present times; that the Southern States be requested to meet previously to decide on the conditions necessary to their peace and safety, and submit them to the delegates from the Northern States.
Further Resolved, That it is contrary to religion and the spirit of the age for the Government to interfere in any way with any steps the States may agree to adopt.

Further Resolved, That the Federal Government will abstain from the employment of any force aggressive toward any State; if there be any danger of a collision between the Federal and State forces, the former be promptly withdrawn.
House.—The Speaker laid before the House a letter from Mr. Washburne, of Maine, informing him that he had placed in the hands of the Governor of that State his resignation as a representative from Maine, to take effect on the 1st of January.

Mr. Stevens, (Washington Territory), introduced a resolution authorizing a special enactment so as to enable the Secretary of the Interior to decide on the validity of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company; also a resolution having in view the employment of a war steamer on the Columbia River. The former was referred to the Committee on Public Lands and the latter to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Otero, (New Mexico), presented a resolution recognizing the co-operation of the volunteers with the regular forces in that Territory, and proposing an appropriation to pay them.
Mr. McClelland, (Ill.), rose to a personal explanation. Some friend had forwarded him the Illinois Journal of the 13th inst., published at Springfield, where Mr. Lincoln and himself reside. That paper is edited by a false perverted specimen of humanity named Baker, a nephew of the President elect, and a member of Mr. Lovjoy, (Ill.), raised the point of order that this was not a privileged question, and in this he was sustained by the Speaker, who said that it had been decided heretofore that newspaper articles did not come under that head.

Mr. Ely, (N. Y.), offered a bill amendatory of the Pacific Telegraph act. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.
Mr. Crawford called up the resolution introduced yesterday declaring that the Constitution recognizes property in slaves; that Congress has passed laws to aid slaveholders in recapturing their slaves whenever they escape and make their way into the Free States; that the Supreme Court has decided that negroes are not included either in the Declaration of Independence or in the Constitution, except as slaves; that they cannot become citizens, and we, the members of the House of Representatives, will sustain and support the construction of the Constitution, the laws, and the said decision of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Sherman, (Ohio), moved to lay the subject on the table, with a view to proceed to other business, as his consideration would probably consume the whole day. He was perfectly willing for a fair vote thereon on Monday.

Burning of a Steamer.
NEW YORK, Dec. 18.
The steamship John P. King, of the Charleston line, took fire at her anchor this morning. The attempts to extinguish the flames being unsuccessful, she was hauled out into the stream in order to prevent danger to the adjacent shipping, and she is now burning from stem to stern.
The burning steamer, John P. King, is surrounded with steam tow boats, from which steam and hand engines are throwing numerous streams of water. She is still burning below decks and is almost completely destroyed. The King is valued at \$160,000, and is owned at Charleston and this city. Her value is partly insured.

Arrival of the Steamer Etna.
NEW YORK, Dec. 18.
The steamship Etna has arrived from Liverpool. Her arrival has been anticipated by the Bohemian, which passed Cape Race on Sunday.
The steamship Etna brings 70,000 pounds sterling in specie.
The Atlantic, in specie, has 199,000 pounds in specie.
A fearful explosion has occurred in the Resca coal mine, near Newport, Wales. One hundred and seventy lives were lost.
Henry Heller, of Manchester, England, in the Levant-trade, has suspended. His liabilities are large.

From Washington.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.
The Secretary of the Treasury has advertised for proposals until the 23d, for the issue of five millions of Treasury notes, pursuant to the act just passed.
It is reliably ascertained that Secretary Thompson's mission to North Carolina, as the representative of Mississippi, is to procure her co-operation with all the Southern States in the event of Lincoln's administration so acting as to damage southern rights, whatever may be his individual opinion on the subject of secession.

Massachusetts.
BOSTON, Dec. 18.
A strong address to the people of Massachusetts has been published, denouncing as unconstitutional the Personal Liberty Bill, and recommending its repeal. It is signed by thirty-five gentlemen, including ex-Chief Justice Shaw, B. A. Curtis, late Judge of the United States Supreme Court, ex-Gov's Lincoln, Clifford, Washburne, Gardner, and other eminent citizens, representing nearly every county in the State.
The South Carolina Convention. CHARLESTON, Dec. 18.
Everything is being got in readiness for the meeting of the State Convention, the delegates of which will arrive here to-day. There is not much excitement. The reports circulated at Columbia, to the effect that there was more violence in Charleston than in Columbia, are unfounded. The Convention will meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Collection of Steamships.
The steamers James Adger and S. B. Claiborne from Charleston and Savannah, came in collision this morning while coming into dock.

The former had her stern and middles carried away, and the latter was badly damaged about the bows.

The Markets.
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18.
Flour dull; sales of small lots at \$4.75, 12 1/2 for common and choice brands and \$5.12 1/2 for extra. Small sales Extra Flour at \$3.50, 50 c. Corn Meal 1.38 for common, and Western \$1.23 for Southern do., and \$1.21 1/2 for common and choice White. Corn dull; Corn dull at 64c for yellow. Whisky firm 1 1/2 3/4; Brandy 17 1/2 c.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 18.
Flour dull; Howard Street and Ohio are held at \$5.4 3/4 for common. Wheat dull at \$1.10 1/2 for red, and \$1.20 1/2 for white. Corn steady; new white and yellow nominal. Coffee heavy and lower; sales at 12c 1/2. Flour steady at 18 1/2 c.
NEW YORK, Dec. 18.
Flour advanced 6c; sales of 10,000 bushels for common, 50c for extra, and \$1.20 for red, and \$1.20 for white. Corn advanced; sales of 15,000 bushels, at 63 1/2 c. Pork dull and nominal. Meats unchanged. Prime \$10.17 1/2. Lard steady. Whisky lower, at 15c.

New Advertisements.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.—The Orphans' Court of Dauphin county appointed the subscriber Auditor to make distribution of the estate of Jacob Buffington, Administrator, &c., of and among the creditors of said deceased, to wit: John Daniel, late of