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To Members of the Legislature.

THE DAILY PATRIOT AND UNION will be furnished to Members of the Legislature during the session at the low price of ONE DOLLAR.

Members wishing extra copies of the DAILY PATRIOT AND UNION, can procure them by leaving their orders at the publication office, Third Street, or with our reporters in either House, the evening previous.

THE Chairmen of the several Democratic County Committees of Pennsylvania are requested to send, without delay, to WILLIAM H. WELSH, the Chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee, at Harrisburg, a correct list of the delegates to the late Democratic State Convention, from their respective counties, for publication. Until all the names are obtained it will be impossible to publish the proceedings of the Convention in a perfect form; which it is desirable to do at the earliest moment.

Many of the newspapers in the Southern Confederacy are insisting that the Permanent Constitution be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection, as they may decide. They deny the right of the Conventions chosen in the several States to act upon the question of Secession, to decide upon the Constitution. For a contention (says the New Orleans Bulletin) "to attempt to perform acts and exercise authority that were never contemplated by the electors at the time, would be neither more nor less than an unwarrantable assumption of arbitrary power foreign to the genius of our institutions and repugnant to the will of the people."

Important Decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

We give below the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on the Lago case. This was an application for a mandamus upon the part of the Governor of Kentucky against the Governor of Ohio, Wm. Dennison, to compel him to surrender, under the Constitution, a fugitive from justice from Kentucky. Gov. Dennison had refused to do so upon the ground that the offence—stealing a negro, of which the fugitive was accused in Kentucky—was not a crime by the laws of Ohio. The Supreme Court has no power to grant a mandamus, but it distinctly affirms that the law is against Gov. Dennison, and that it was his duty to deliver up the fugitive. So Kentucky gets the decision on the merits of the case, while the Court was not authorized to grant the remedy required. We presume, however, that after this the Governor of Ohio will conform his action to this decision. Here it is:

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 14. Chief Justice Taney delivered an opinion in the matter of the Commonwealth of Kentucky against the Governor of Ohio, Dennison, deciding it was a case of original jurisdiction, and in effect one State against another, and, therefore, the Court has jurisdiction under the Constitution. It is a case to compel the Governor of Ohio, by mandamus, to surrender a fugitive from justice from Kentucky.

The Court says that the demanding State has a right to have every such fugitive delivered up; that the State of Ohio has no right to enter into the question as to whether the act of which the fugitive stands accused is criminal or not in Ohio, but that it is the duty of the Governor of Ohio to deliver up, upon any proper proofs that the act charged is a crime by the laws of Kentucky; that the act of Congress of 1793 determines what evidence is to be submitted to the State of Ohio; that the duty of the Governor is ministerial merely, like that of a sheriff or marshal, and appeals to his good faith in the discharge of a constitutional duty, for the reason that Congress cannot impose any federal duty on the officers of a State; and that where such officers are called upon by an act of Congress to perform such duty, he concludes to be but good sense and good faith on their part to do so. And on these grounds the mandamus is refused.

Proposed Amendments to the Free Banking Law.

Our attention has been directed to a bill on the file of the House of Representatives, proposing certain amendments to the Free Banking act of last session—which bill is printed without having been examined and reported by committee. Whether it was printed by order of the House, or is a private speculation, we are unable to say; but we are informed that copies have been sent to all the banks in the State for their information, or, possibly, as a warning of what they may expect from the Legislature in case of their refusal to make satisfactory arrangements with reference to the resumption of specie payments.

This bill removes nearly all the restrictions contained in the Free Banking law, and liberalizes that system to a fearful extent. It should be entitled, "An act to facilitate the business of banking without capital, and to promote the circulation of shinpasters." The amendments are artfully interwoven with the original act, so that the public may be deceived, as far as possible, as to their true character. For instance: the 7th section of the Free Banking law requires the Auditor General to have notes engraved and issued to the banks incorporated under its provisions, of different denominations—not less than five dollars. These words in italic are stricken out, and the following proviso attached:

Provided, That not more than fifteen per centum of the whole amount of such notes issued or to be issued, shall be in possession of any bank, shall be of denominations less than five dollars.

Apparently, this language is restrictive; it seems to limit the amount of small notes that may be issued, when, in fact, it confers a privilege that does not now exist. Instead of saying, in direct language, that hereafter the banks incorporated under this act may issue bills of a less denomination than five dollars to the amount of fifteen per cent. of their capital, restrictive words are used to grant an extension of power. This has all the appearance of a small trick. It will also be observed that

the denomination of notes authorized to be issued under five dollars is not fixed; so that by the terms of this proviso the banks might issue small shinpasters for fifty or twenty-five cents.

The provision of the original act requiring that the notes issued to the banks by the Auditor General for the stock deposited with him shall be five per cent. less than the market value of such stock, is removed in this amended bill, and that officer required to issue notes to the full market value of the stock deposited with him as security. So no margin is left for depreciation; and in case of a fall in the value of the stocks the loss would fall upon the bill holders in winding up the concerns of an insolvent bank.

Again the 16th section of the original act requiring that no bank shall be permitted to commence or carry on the business of banking unless at least twenty per cent. of the capital stock shall be paid in gold and silver coin, and be in actual possession of the bank, is stricken out bodily. Also the 31st section requiring each bank at all times to keep in its vaults gold and silver equal to twenty per cent. of its circulation. These wholesome provisions are to be swept away for the purpose of facilitating the establishment of banks without capital.

We can hardly suppose that the gettysburgers of these amendments will seriously urge their adoption by the Legislature. Reckless as this Legislature is, it can scarcely be prepared to flood the State with small shinpasters issued by banks without capital—although there is no saying what may not be done. It is well to be forewarned of the danger.

The policy of the Administration in reference to the removal of the troops from Fort Sumpter is not yet promulgated in any official shape, though there appears to be a general understanding that the evacuation will be accomplished during the present week. The final formalities, it is believed, were arranged at the Cabinet meeting on Saturday. With reference to recent movements of naval vessels it is semi-officially stated that the United States ships Supply, Mohawk and Crusader, which left the New York Navy Yard on Thursday, are destined to join the squadron which has been recalled from the Gulf of Mexico to our seaboard. The revenue vessels added to the fleet are intended to augment it to a respectable coast-guard as already stated. The chartered vessels Steam of the West, Empire City, Philadelphia, and Coatzacoatl, are employed for the purpose openly avowed by the Government, namely, that of conveying United States troops from Texas, and between other posts. The detachment of troops sent from New York is for Florida. The Mohawk and Crusader will report to the Commander-in-Chief of the station, in the neighborhood of Pensacola. The Philadelphia will probably be used, if Sumpter is evacuated, to bring the garrison of that fort to Old Point Comfort, Va. The various other surmises as to the destination of the ships named are chimerical.

A New York paper of Saturday evening gave currency to a report that a collision had occurred at Pensacola. The report has not been in any way confirmed, and is most probably only one of the "startling rumors" of which Washington is at this time so productive.

The first case of real difficulty growing out of the absence of United States Collectors at some of the Southern ports, occurred at New York on Thursday, and resulted in the seizure of the schooner Restless at that port, from Havana. The Collector at Mobile refusing, as a United States officer, to exchange a consoling license for a register, in order that the vessel to go to Havana for a cargo, the Captain "protested." The Spanish Consul counter-signed his document, and he then proceeded on his voyage. At New York Collector Schell seized the vessel for violation of the laws. The facts of the case have been sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, who, it is believed, will remit the penalty incurred.

MARTYDOM OF THE POPE.—A French bishop, who has lately had an interview with the Pope, gives out that his Holiness is firmly resolved not to quit Rome under any circumstances whatever, and reports the following as the substance of a statement made by the Pope in the course of a conversation. The Pope has not the least doubt that sooner or later France will withdraw her troops, and that the Piedmontese will take possession of his small remaining territory. But this "crowning act of spoliation" will in no way change the conduct of the Holy Father. "I may perish," he says, "but the Papacy will not perish. I may suffer martyrdom, but the day will come when my successors will enter in the full possession of their rights. St. Peter was crucified, and I am here." It being remarked to the Sovereign Pontiff that he would very soon be penniless, he replied that he was quite devoid of anxiety upon that subject, since he should always be sure of finding 3f. a day to live upon, and that was all he wanted.—Liverpool Times.

INDIAN MASSACRES.—A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican writing from Tucson, Arizona, under date of the 25th ult., complains bitterly of the neglect of the General Government in not affording them either civil or military protection. "We have lived," says the writer, "through lawlessness and crime, with over fifty deaths per annum by violence, in a community not numbering more than 3,000 whites, and have inaugurated enterprises which will enrich future generations, but now all our energies are prostrated by the neglect of Government. Already, this year, though two months have scarce elapsed, we have lost eighteen men by Indian massacres, and our future promises to be a record even more bloody than the past."

GRAIN AT THE WEST.—It is stated that among the immense quantities of grain now in store at the West, destined for shipment to Buffalo and Oswego, on the opening of navigation, there is a present stored in the great warehouses of Sturges, Buckingham & Co., on the Illinois Central Depot grounds, in Chicago, the amount of nearly a million and a half bushels of grain. In warehouse "B" there are 214,585 bushels of spring wheat, 567,534 bushels of barley, 7,888 bushels of oats. Total 801,148 bushels, or by weight, 22,672 tons. In warehouse "A" there are nearly 700,000 bushels of grain, and the quantity will increase until the amount in the other is reached, unless in a short time owners commence putting it on board vessels in the river.

ESCAPE OF CAPT. LATHAM.—Capt. Latham, alias Ruiz, who has been in prison in New York since the 8th of January, has escaped. He was charged with the capital offence of taking slaves from the coast of Africa on board the slave ship Cora, of which he was master and part owner, and which was captured by a government vessel with slaves on board. It appears that he was taken from prison by an officer to a clothing store on Broadway, to make some purchases, as alleged, on Friday evening, and was thus engaged he succeeded in making his escape, thus defeating the ends of justice and rendering nugatory all the expense incurred by the government, and all the labor of the United States District Attorney's office.

For a number of years past a religious body, known as the African Methodist Episcopal Conference, has been in the habit of holding its annual meetings in Baltimore, and they had appointed to meet again during the present month or early in April. The Board of Police deems such a proceeding unlawful, as it infracts a provision of the code which prohibits the assembling in Maryland of non-resident colored people, and have, therefore, given instructions to forbid the meeting.

PENNA' LEGISLATURE. SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, March 20, 1861. The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock by Mr. SHEPPARD, Speaker pro tem. Prayer by Rev. R. Catell.

A large number of bills were reported from the different standing committees.

BILLS IN PLACE.

Mr. FINNEY, an act relative to bridges in Crawford county; which was taken up and passed.

Mr. M'CLURE, an act to lay out a State road in Franklin county, to the Maryland line.

Also, an act relative to vacancies in boards of certain corporations.

Mr. MEREDITH, an act to incorporate the Brady's Bend Iron company.

Mr. CONNELL, a supplement to the act relative to measurement of marble.

Mr. ROBINSON, an act authorizing the banks of this Commonwealth to issue notes of a less denomination than five dollars.

Mr. BRISTAND, an act to lay out and extend Mary street, in Lancaster.

Mr. LANDON, a supplement to the charter of the Bartley coal company.

[NOTE.—A number more bills were read, which the reporter could not hear, and the SPEAKER pro tem, contrary to all parliamentary usages, refuses to take the trouble to repeat the titles from the Chair—the only place they can be heard distinctly by the reporter.] ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. PARKER offered a resolution that the House be requested to return to the Senate the act to regulate the sale of stone coal in the city of Philadelphia; which was passed.

Mr. M'CLURE offered a resolution that evening sessions be held this and to-morrow evening, for the consideration of the bank bill, which was finally amended so as to make the session on Monday evening; which was agreed to.

ON THIRD READING.

A supplement to an act relating to corporations; passed.

An act for the suppression of fortune telling; passed—yeas 16, nays 11.

BILLS CONSIDERED.

Mr. CONNELL called up a further supplement to the act, incorporating the city of Philadelphia; which was passed. [The object of this bill is the erection of the 25th ward.]

Mr. PENNEY called up an act in relation to Allegheny county; which was passed.

Mr. IMBRIE called up House bill, entitled "An Act to extend the time for completing the Bude and Freeport turnpike road;" which was passed.

Mr. ROBINSON, an act relative to the claim of James M'Kean and Marmaduke Ramble; which was passed.

Mr. SCHINDEL called up House bill, entitled "An act to incorporate St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, in Upper Mount Bethel, Northampton county;" which was passed.

Mr. SERRILL called up an act relating to dog tax in the township of Thornbury, county of Delaware; which was passed.

Mr. PARKER moved to re-consider the bill to regulate the sale of stone coal in the city of Philadelphia; which was not agreed to, but on a motion of Mr. WELSH, postponed for the present.

Mr. CONNELL, an act to authorize the West Society to sell and convey certain real estate in West Philadelphia; which was passed.

Mr. THOMPSON called up an act to change the place of holding the elections in Frederick township, Montgomery county; which was passed.

Mr. BLOOD called up an act to change the place of holding the election in Highland township, Elk county; which was passed.

Mr. ARDREY called up an act in relation to certain claims; which was passed.

Mr. LANDON called up House bill, entitled "An act to authorize the sale of certain real estate;" which was passed.

Mr. BOUGHTER called up a supplement to the act incorporating the Harris Free cemetery; which was passed.

Mr. CONNELL called up an act to amend the charter of the Union Savings and Building association of West Philadelphia; which was passed.

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting a copy of the Corwin resolution. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, March 20, 1861.

Mr. SHEPPARD, Speaker pro tem, called the House to order at 10 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. AUSTIN, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. BALL was called to the chair, and Mr. SHEPPARD, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, called up the appropriation bill.

The bill being on second reading, several amendments were proposed and discussed.

The section appropriating \$100 to each of the fire companies of Harrisburg was stricken out.

Mr. HUNN moved to strike out the appropriation of \$1,000 to pay the clerk of the Sinking Fund and insert \$300; agreed to.

Several important amendments were made. Without finishing the second reading of the appropriation bill, adjourned until afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The SPEAKER called the House to order at 3 o'clock.

BILLS PASSED.

An act to incorporate the Clearfield Creek bridge company.

A further supplement to the act relating to roads in Middletown township, in Delaware county.

An act relative to the Cumberland road, in the county of Fayette.

An act to repeal certain road laws in Liberty township, Susquehanna county, and to revive the general road laws of this Commonwealth.

A further supplement to the act relating to roads and bridges in the county of York, approved the 17th day of February, A. D. 1860.

An act to incorporate the Jefferson turnpike road company.

A supplement to an act to appropriate the road taxes on certain unseated lands in Clearfield county to the improvement of a road through the same.

An act to incorporate the Great Bend bridge company.

An act relating to roads in Tобыne township, Perry county.

Supplement to the act incorporating the Perryville, East Waterford and Waterloo plank road company, approved April 18, 1853.

An act to lay out a State road in the counties of Berks and Lebanon.

An act to authorize the supervisors of Conestoga and Martio townships, in Lancaster county, to pay one-third of the cost of erecting certain bridges over Pequa creek.

An act to define the location and boundaries of certain lanes, streets and out-lots adjacent to the city of Erie.

An act to change the compensation of road supervisors in Spring Creek township, Elk county.

Supplement to an act authorizing the Governor to incorporate a company for erecting a permanent bridge over the river Schuylkill, at Matson's Ford, in Montgomery county.

An act extending the time for completion of the New Castle and New Wilmington plank road.

An act to give the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, of the borough of West Chester, power to sell certain real estate.

An act to incorporate the Green Mount cemetery.

An act to incorporate the Freeport gas and water company.

A supplement to an act to incorporate the Junction railroad company, passed May 15, 1860.

A further supplement to an act incorporating the city of Philadelphia. This bill takes from the Supreme Court the power of appointing municipal officers.

Supplement to an act to incorporate Saint Mary's cemetery, in Allegheny county, approved the 11th day of March, A. D. 1860.

An act to incorporate the People's railway company of Philadelphia. Mr. RIDGWAY offered a substitute; which was agreed to, and the bill passed.

An act relating to the Second Presbyterian church of the city of Philadelphia.

An act for the erection of a boom at or near Jersey Shore passed, under the operation of the previous question—yeas 23, nays 23. Adjourned.

DISTRESSING CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—The Binghampton Republican says:—"We have just heard from one of our citizens who returned from Arrarat, Pa., about twelve miles south of Susquehanna Depot, of a singular and distressing case of hydrophobia. About two years ago, Miss Sarah Low, daughter of Lewis Low, a respectable farmer, started to visit a neighbor across the fields a short distance, and after going a little way, was furiously attacked by a large dog, (afterwards ascertained to be mad,) who tore nearly all the clothes off her; but, reaching a stone fence, Miss Low succeeded in getting over, and the dog, in attempting to follow, pulled down a large stone, which, falling on his foot, held him fast, and Miss L. escaped, as she supposed at the time, without being bitten. A few months ago Miss Low was married to Mr. Albert Townsend, and on Sunday, the 9d inst., while her husband was riding in a carriage to her father's house, Mrs. T. exhibited symptoms of hydrophobia. Mr. T. hurried on to their destination, and during the night Mrs. T. was attacked with spasms, which were so violent that it required several men to restrain her—she attempted during the spasms, to bite any one within her reach. She continued in the same way up to the time our informant left (Friday morning last) and it was supposed that she could not survive much longer. It is believed by her friends that when attacked by the mad dog two years ago, there must have been some abrasion of the skin not observed at the time, through which some virus from the mad dog penetrated the system."

GENERAL NEWS.

THE MINNESOTA COPPER MINE.—We take the following from the Lake Superior Miner:—"The result of operations at the Minnesota mine during the past year is encouraging in the highest degree. The work done is greater than that of any previous year, and the amount of copper produced is larger than that of any similar period of time. The Minnesota mine has paid to the stockholders twelve hundred and eighty thousand dollars in cash dividends, besides the dividends in stock, which, when added to the Rockland, Superior, Flint Steel, and Lake Superior mines. The net earnings of the past year will probably enable them to divide at least \$180,000 more, which will make their total cash dividends amount to \$1,460,000. Now, the total cost to the original stockholders was only \$68,000. Truly, the success of this great mine will not suffer in comparison with any similar enterprise in any part of the world."

OPENING OF THE BRITISH RED RIVER TERRITORY.—It appears by the last news from England that a bill is in preparation in Parliament with reference to opening out the territory in British America lying between the Red River and the Pacific for colonization. The British Government are thus about to develop the Northwest territory, stretching out to the Pacific on one side, and to be ultimately brought into connection with the Atlantic on the other, by means of the Canada Trunk Railroad, the St. Lawrence, and every other available means of communication. This is a fertile region and a splendid wheat growing country; so that the American Northwest will soon have a rival beside her in the British Northwest, and the former will have to look sharp.

THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.—The Duke of Sutherland, whose death, at the age of 75, is announced in the English papers, was much less known in public life than the magnificent Duchess. Of a delicate constitution, and of a naturally retiring disposition, he led a life of strict privacy, and he was chiefly known as one of the wealthiest members of the peerage, as a munificent patron of literature and art, and as an open-handed supporter of charitable institutions. He is succeeded in the title and estates by his eldest son, the Marquis of Stafford, who was born in 1828. The Duke's death causes a vacancy in the representation of Sutherlandshire, the present Duke having sat for that county since 1850.

LAKE SUPERIOR MATTERS.—The Marquette (Wis.) Journal of the 12th February says:—"This month has been piercingly cold. On the 7th instant the thermometer stood at 30 degrees below zero in the morning, and 83 degrees below in the evening. A teamster, named Lampon, was frozen to death whilst going toward Neganee. An Irishman was also frozen to death. Nine persons arrived on snow shoes at Marquette from Portage Lake—four days in coming—left on Wednesday, were on the Huron mountains Thursday night, when the thermometer in Marquette stood at 33 degrees below zero, but kept from freezing by their big fire."

A "FUGITIVE SLAVE."—A few days since a great excitement was created in Hadley, Mass., by a "fugitive slave" who went about town soliciting aid to enable him to reach Canada. He found hearts and hands open to aid him in his escape from officers who were reported to be on his heels. Towards night it was ascertained that the fugitive was a white man who had blacked his face and dressed himself for the occasion. The fellow, it is presumed, knew very well that in that abolition region a white man meets with very little sympathy, and therefore painted himself black in order to make "a raise."

MASONRY IN MASSACHUSETTS.—The Bunker Hill Aurora reports that the number of persons received into the Masonic institution in Massachusetts for several years past, has been as follows: 1857, 1002; 1858, 951; 1859, 1189; 1860, 1323. Five dispensations for new lodges were granted; seven new lodges constituted, and twelve new halls dedicated, during the last year. At the close of the year there were 113 lodges in the State, and three in South America, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

The French Government has founded a biennial prize of 20,000 francs for the work or the discovery most worthy of honoring the national genius, to be decreed in the public annual session of the five academies of the institute. In the recent meeting of the five academies, upon the subject of decreeing the best of the progress was brought up, it was decided, with remarkable promptness and unanimity, to bestow it upon Mr. Fizeau, in consideration of his beautiful researches on the rapidly of light, measured on the surface of the earth.

Last fall the ship builders anticipated one of the busiest seasons at the opening of spring that they have had since 1852 and 1853. Parties had in contemplation the building of a considerable number of vessels, but owing to the Southern difficulties these projects have been abandoned for the present. There are no new contracts, and the ship builders do not anticipate doing anything further than to finish up the vessels now on the stocks, until the present national difficulties are settled.

PERPETUAL MOTION.—Self-winding Clock.—The Water Jeffersonian says that Mr. Robert Hitchcock, of that place, has invented a clock that never requires winding up by hand, and will keep running until it is worn out, if left alone. After being put up it requires no further attention. It is designed especially for town clocks, and large office clocks, to any of which it can be applied. Mr. Hitchcock has received a patent.

RESPONSIBILITY OF LIQUOR DEALERS.—One clause of a bill in relation to the sale of intoxicating liquors, which passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives on Friday, provides that the husband, wife, parent, child, guardian or employer of any person who hereafter may have the habit of drinking spirituous or intoxicating liquors to excess, may, in an action of tort, against any person or persons who shall sell or deliver such liquors to the person having such habit, recover as damages any sum not exceeding \$500 and not less than \$20.

AN ACTRESS MURDERED.—A young actress of great beauty, Miss Zove, was murdered in Paris on the 11th of January. She was performing at the Theatre Imperial, as Viola, in a new piece of Scribe's. She was found dead in her room the next morning, from strangulation, undisturbed of the past night's wardrobe. She was singularly beautiful. The Count de Poligny, a rich young officer of the Guard, is suspected of complicity in the murder. He had sustained improper relations to the actress, which it was known that he despaired of terminating.

SECESSION OF A RIVER.—The New Orleans Delta says the communication between the Red river and the Mississippi is being gradually cut off. The former is fast off to the Gulf by way of Atchafalaya into Berwick's Bay. Unless something is done to prevent the Red river from seceding, New Orleans will lose a large amount of valuable traffic. A company is talked of to keep the channel open. It is thought it will cost \$2,000,000.

DUTY ON SLAVES.—In the Montgomery Congress, on the 12th inst., Mr. Barry, of Mississippi, introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of imposing an ad valorem duty on all negro slaves imported into the Confederacy from the slaveholding States of the United States, and to report as early as convenient, by bill or otherwise. The matter was, like all others, referred to the body in secret session.

THE PEACH DUPE.—The editor of the Rural New Yorker says he has continued observations in regard to the condition of the peach buds, and finds them injured in Western New York more than at first disposed to believe. There may be a few saved near the lake shore, or in close proximity to some of our inland lakes, and in a few favored localities, but the crop is gone.

HORRIBLE CASE OF POISONING.—Thirteen Persons Died.—The Cleveland Gazette says:—"We have reports of a horrible case of poisoning at Rockford, Ill., by which a whole family, consisting of a father, mother and eleven children have been destroyed. The poisoning was produced by eating pork, in the curing of which some deadly substance (probably blue vitriol) had been used by mistake for saltpetre."

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 20.

The War Department and those presumed to be in the confidence of the Government, are silent to-day concerning the Fort Sumpter question, and deny having any knowledge concerning its intended evacuation.

It is not true that orders have been issued for the reinforcement of Fort Pickens. There is good authority for stating that the members of the Cabinet differ materially as to the propriety of taking such a step.

Mr. Forsyth, one of the members of the Commission from the Confederate States, left for New York to-day, so there will be nothing done immediately upon their business.

The President to-day declined to give audience to any of the large throng of office-seekers that invaded the White House. He has been nearly worn out by the excessive pressure upon him.

The Government has received information by telegraph of the entire surrender of all the Federal troops in Texas to the State authorities.

Dispatches from Charleston have just been received dated to-day. They state that there is nothing going on there that looks at all as if Fort Sumpter was to be evacuated, and so far as is known, no orders have been received to that effect. But it is undoubtedly true that such orders have been issued.

St. Louis, March 20.

Major Wright concluded his speech in the Convention this morning, after which the first and second resolutions of the majority report of the Committee on Federal Relations passed, the first with one dissenting voice, and the second unanimously. Mr. Hough moved to amend the second resolution as follows: "That wishing to restore peace to our country, we desire the Federal Government to withdraw the troops from the forts now occupied by them in the seceding States." Tabled and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Post offered the following as an addition to the third resolution: "In the event of the refusal by the Northern States to agree to such an adjustment of the slavery question, and our sister border slave States shall decide to change their relations with the General Government, Missouri will not hesitate to take her stand in favor of her Southern brethren." Lost—yeas 22, nays 68. Two or three amendments were tabled and ordered to be printed, which will come up after the resolutions are passed upon.

A special dispatch to the Democrat from Little Rock, Arkansas, says that the secession ordinance was voted down to-day.

Affairs in Texas.

NEW ORLEANS, March 20.

No fears are entertained in Texas of any collision occurring between the Houstonians and the Secessionists. Advice from Pensacola dated yesterday, represent that matters there remain in statu quo.

Election in Burlington, N. J.

BURLINGTON, N. J., March 20.

Our city election came off yesterday. The whole Democratic Union ticket was elected by about one hundred majority.

Arkansas.

LOUISVILLE, March 20.

A dispatch from Little Rock, Arkansas, received here to-day, states that the Secession Ordinance was defeated by a vote of thirty-nine nays to thirty-five yeas.

Sailing of the Steamer Niagara.

BOSTON, March 20.

The Royal Mail Steamship Niagara sailed at noon to-day for Liverpool via Halifax, with 34 passengers. She took out no specie.

Declines.