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PITTSBURGH:

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 31, 1861.

LOUISIANA AND TEXAS.

Some of the ultra secessionists are beginning to find out that there are serious difficulties connected with their hasty and ill-advised movement, which cannot be obviated by bombastic resolves and inflammatory speeches. The New Orleans *Bulletin*—a paper which has had a great share in bringing about the present excitement in the South, and which for the last two months has discoursed very flippantly of "Northern aggressions" and "Southern wrongs"—has, since the secession of Louisiana discovered that Texas, even if induced to separate from the old confederacy, may not be willing to unite its fortunes with the bantling of Yancey, Toombs and Company. Such a course on the part of Texas, it admits, would be fatal to the commercial interests of New Orleans and Louisiana, and it therefore earnestly calls on the people of the latter State to avert the danger by using every influence with the magnates of the "Lone Star" Commonwealth to bring them into the Montgomery scheme. Our southern agitators are beginning to realize their condition already, and in a short time we will find them anxious to retrace their steps. When that time comes, woe to the leaders who are now directing the storm. The Toombses, and the Benjamins, and the Slidells, and their confederates in treason, instead of destroying the Union will find that they have only destroyed themselves.

THE GREAT THEFT AT WASHINGTON.—The deep interest which the people feel in the Secession movement has absorbed so much of their attention that they have scarcely noticed the developments concerning the great robbery at Washington carried on by Mr. Floyd, late Secretary of the War Department, or, if they have noticed them, they have regarded them as so much a matter of course, from the preceding corruption of the Administration, as not to be surprised at them.

The present head of that Department has communicated some of the facts concerning it to Congress; but it is only an opening, not by any means the whole, of the rottenness. It shows that thieving on a most gigantic scale has been in progress since July last, at least. The acceptances issued before July were small in amount, comparatively, but then they ran up at once to a hundred or a hundred and fifty thousand dollars a week, at intervals, omitting a week in the order of drawing them; and to back this profuse issue it then became necessary to put out the bonds held by the Indian bureau as collateral. Toward the close of the year the issue of these acceptances became perfectly reckless, the amount put out without registering, or any other official record even, going as high as eight hundred thousand dollars. No wonder this paper required bolstering in the market, and those who took and made advances on it demanded more solid securities. Not a dollar of the whole three or four millions of securities held by the Indian bureau would have been left by this time, had Floyd remained in office.

A One-Sided Truce.

President Buchanan, in yielding to the demands of Ex-President Tyler, who is a warm sympathizer with the extreme politicians, that the government shall abstain from re-enforcing Southern forts for the sake of peace, should certainly require a cessation of hostilities on the part of the South Carolina insurgents. While Major Anderson is permitted to remain without succor, dependent for his supplies, in a great measure, on the kindness of the enemy, the rebels are working day and night for the avowed purpose of compelling him to surrender his position. Why does not President Tyler exercise his good offices in the direction of Charleston, where they seem to be most needed? A secessionist writing to New Orleans, from Fort Moultrie, thus exposes the plan of operations in that vicinity:

"The rigid watch kept upon the fort has not for a moment been relaxed, and on Cummings' Point (the portion of the mainland nearest to Fort Sumter) the erection of a powerful masked battery has been commenced, and so large a force is now engaged upon it that it will be in complete fighting trim before this letter reaches you. Upon this earthwork the heaviest columbiads which the State possess (64 pounders) are being mounted, pointing directly to the 'impregnable' ramparts of Ft. Sumter. It certainly requires a fanciful turn of mind to construe these vigorous hostile preparations into omens of an amicable arrangement. Practicable people here begin to think that Hayne's "mission" is all moonshine, that his "propositions" will be made to be rejected, and that the real purpose of his having gone to Washington, is to *gain time to construct that Cumming's Point battery*. If these shrewd popular conjectures should be correct, the fight here will begin with a suddenness which, I fancy, neither General Scott, nor any of his myrmidons will be prepared for. In a word, South Carolina will, as soon as she is ready, take Fort Sumter first and negotiate in *earnest* afterwards."

If Fort Sumter is taken by South Carolina, President Buchanan will be held to a fearful responsibility by the country. All the blood shed on that occasion, will be traced to his weak and vacillating conduct, now, when vigorous measures are so necessary.

THE TONE OF SENTIMENT AT WASHINGTON.—The well-informed correspondent of the Philadelphia *North American* gives the following concerning the tone of public sentiment at Washington:

"Many leading Republicans in both branches of Congress, who are sincerely disposed to a final and satisfactory settlement of the slavery question, will not advance an inch in that direction as long as the cotton States and their confederates maintain an attitude of defiance, and threaten to overthrow the government, unless their dictation is obeyed. It is useless to disguise this fact, or to shut out evidence which is palpable to every eye. This secession matter must be settled somehow, and settled decisively, before any compromise can be obtained. They insist upon knowing whether we have a government at all, or anything more than a "central agency," which a refractory or contumacious State may upset by an ordinance of secession. There is great force in what Mr. Simmons, of Rhode Island—than whom no man in or out of Congress is more conservative and fair—said the other day, when discussing these difficulties: "I am afraid to compromise for fear of demoralizing the government." While conspirators avow their purpose to establish a new confederacy, organize armies to resist the laws of the United States, seize the forts, arsenals, arms, and public property, and actually, "levy war" against the government, it may well be asked by the most moderate and calm-judging men whether this is the time and these are the proper circumstances in which to open negotiations, or to bring forward measures of conciliation. A peace patched up on this state of things would be but a hollow truce, liable to be broken in any moment of passion or supposed aggression.

A GOOD MEASURE.—The following excellent bill has been introduced into the House, at Washington, by Mr. Reynolds, from the Select Committee of five for that purpose:

A bill to be entitled an act further to provide for calling forth the militia of the United States in certain cases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, that it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, whenever and as often as in his opinion it shall become necessary, to call forth the militia of all or of any of the States of the United States, or to accept the services of volunteers to such extent as may be required to protect and defend the forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, navy yards, public buildings and other property of the United States which has been or may be unlawfully seized or taken possession of by any combination of persons whatsoever; and the provisions of an act authorizing the employment of land and naval forces of the United States in cases of insurrections, approved March 3, 1807, and all existing laws and regulations relating to the actual service of the militia of the United States, shall be applicable to the employment of the same, under the provisions of this act.

From Harrisburg.

[Special Correspondence of the Daily Pittsburgh Gazette.]

HARRISBURG, Jan. 28, 1861.

Messrs. Editors: Both Houses held sessions today. The Senate passed about a dozen local and unimportant bills. One authorizing the laying out of a State road in the counties of Allegheny and Butler, was laid over on second reading and will come up on the orders to-morrow.

Mr. Imbrie read in place "an act to provide for fencing part of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh R. R., and for the better protection of property in Beaver county."

Mr. Gregg, "an act affording relief and granting stay of execution."

Mr. Smith, "an act providing for compensation to the owners of fugitive slaves in cases where they have been rescued or enabled to escape by means of mobs, riots, violence or threats and fear thereof, and to prevent and punish such mobs, riots, violence and disturbances of this Commonwealth," which was committed to a special committee of five.

Ordered, that 500 additional copies of said bill be printed for the use of the Senate.

Mr. Smith also introduced a resolution to appoint five commissioners to meet commissioners already appointed from Virginia, and commissioners from other States, if they shall be appointed, to convene at Washington on the 4th of next month, on the State of the Union.

The resolutions were referred to a Special Committee.

Judging from the action had in the House on the motion to postpone indefinitely and for the present, they will meet with favor in that branch. They are postponed until to-morrow at 12 o'clock. To-morrow being private calendar day in that branch I presume their consideration will be further deferred.

Resolutions passed by the Legislatures of Tennessee, Virginia and Ohio, relative to the state of the Union, were presented, read and referred.

There is certainly no lack of *Resolves* for the Union.

Those from Tennessee, it seems to me, are insulting to Northern freemen. The Chairman of the Special Committee, in the Senate, I think, so regards them.

If we are going to eat dirt, why not at once pass the following brief *Resolves*, which I respectfully recommend:

1. That we are sorry that we ever made a Republican platform.

2. That we are sorry we have succeded in electing a President.

3, That if the South will forgive us, we promise never to do so again.

4. That hereafter we will eat as much dirt and as often as our masters may desire.

Resolutions have passed both branches authorising the appointment of Committees to invite the President elect to visit Harrisburg on his way to Washington. Yours, C. P. R.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 29, 1861.

The Senate convened at the usual hour. But little business was done prior to the report of the following resolutions, which were taken up and very ably discussed, until the hour of adjournment—half-past three o'clock. Messrs. Penney, Landon and Irish ably and powerfully opposed the resolutions. Messrs. Finney, Bound, Smith, Lawrence and Schindel ably advocated their passage. They finally passed by a vote of 22 to 6. Messrs. Benson, Imbrie, Irish, Landon, Penney and Robinson voted in the negative. The resolutions will go the House to-morrow, but are not expected to meet with so welcome a reception.

The following is a copy of the resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Virginia has invited a meeting of commissioners of the several States of this Union to be held in the City of Washington on the 4th day of February next, to consider and if practicable agree upon suitable adjustment of the unhappy differences which now disturb the business of the country, and threaten the dissolution of the Union, and Whereas, in the opinion of this Legislature no reasonable cause exists for the extraordinary excitement which now pervades some of the States in relation to their domestic institutions, and while Pennsylvania still adheres to and cannot surrender the principles which she has always entertained on the subject of slavery, this Legislature is willing to accept the indication of Virginia and to unite with her in an earnest effort to restore the peace of the country, by such means as may be consistent with the principles upon which the Constitution is formed; therefore,

Resolved, &c., That the invitation of the Legislature of Virginia to her sister States, for the appointment of Commissioners to meet in the City of Washington, on the 4th of February next, be and the same is hereby accepted; and that the Governor be and he is hereby authorized to appoint seven Commissioners for the State of Pennsylvania, whose duty it shall be to repair to the City of Washington on the day designated, to meet such Commissioners as may be appointed by any other States which have not authorized or sanctioned the seizure of the Forts, Arsenals, or other property of the United States, to consider and, if possible, to agree upon suitable means for the prompt and final settlement of the difficulties which now exist; *Provided*, That the said Commissioners shall be subject, in all their proceedings, to the instructions of this Legislature.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Legislature, the people of Pennsylvania do not desire any alteration or amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and any recommendation from this body to that effect, while it does not come within its appropriate and legitimate duties, would not meet with their approval. That Pennsylvania will cordially unite with the other States of the Union in the adoption of any proper constitutional measures adequate to guarantee and secure a more strict and faithful observation of the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution of the United States, which provides, among other things, that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States," and that "no person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence or any law or regulation therein be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

In the House the private calendar was under consideration, and upwards of fifty local bills were passed, among which are the following:

"An act to incorporate the Masonic Hall Association of East Liberty, in the county of Allegheny."

"An act supplementary to an act incorporating the Mahoning Railroad Company, approved the 11th day of April, A. D. 1859."

"An act relating to the collection of taxes in the county of Lawrence."

The Union will of course be up "*sky high*" in the House to-morrow. Yours, C. P. R.

Franking Privilege.

The following correspondence between the Hon. John D. Ashmore, the Representative from the Fifth Congressional District of South Carolina, and the Acting Postmaster General, will convey to our readers information important at this time to the Southern States claiming to have withdrawn from the Union.—*National Intelligencer*.

ANDERSON, (S. C.) Jan. 24, 1861.

—MY DEAR SIR:—I have in my possession some 1,000 to 1,200 volumes of "public documents," being my proportion of the same as a member of the Thirty-sixth Congress. They were forwarded me in small sacks and are now lying in my library. Since the date of the ordinance of secession (December 20th, 1860) of South Carolina, I have not used the franking privilege, nor will I attempt to do so without the special permission of the Department. To pay the postage on these books, &c., would cost me a large sum and one that I am not prepared to expend. The books are of no use to me, but might be to my constituents, for whom they were intended, if distributed amongst them. Have I the right to frank and distribute them under existing relations? If so, please inform me. Having said that I have not used the franking privilege since the 20th of December, I need hardly add that I shall not do so, even on a "public document," unless you authorise it.

I am, with great respect,
truly and sincerely yours,
J. D. ASHMORE.

HON. HORATIO KING,
Acting Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
January 28, 1861.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 20th inst., asking if you have the right, "under existing relations," to frank and distribute certain public documents, I have the honor to state that the theory of the Administration is that the relations of South Carolina to the General Government have been in nothing changed by her recent act of secession; and, this being so, you are of course entitled to the franking privilege until the first Monday in December next. If, however, as I learn is the case, you sincerely and decidedly entertain the conviction that by that act South Carolina ceased to be a member of the Confederacy and is now a foreign State, it will be for you to determine how far you can conscientiously exercise a privilege the exercise of which assumes that your own conviction is erroneous, and plainly declares that South Carolina is still in the Union and that you are still a member of the Congress of the United States.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
HORATIO KING,
Acting Postmaster General

HON. JOHN D. ASHMORE,
Anderson, South Carolina.

BUSINESS AND PATRIOTISM.—The merchants of Mobile take rather a practical view of the secession business, and somewhat differing from that entertained by their clerks. The latter were the first to volunteer "to take the forts." It was a fine frolic, as there was no danger and a week's holiday. In their absence, however, some of the merchants supplied their places with other clerks, and the volunteers have nothing but their patriotism to subsist upon.

ARRESTED AS A SPY.—The Mobile *Advertiser* says:

"We learn from a letter from one of Capt. O'Hara's company, now at Pensacola, to his wife in this city, that the wife of Capt. Slemmer, commander at Fort Pickens, had been arrested at Fort Barancas as a spy. She went to Fort Barancas without any ostensible business, and the reasonable supposition was that she had come there to take notes of the position of things and report them to her husband."

THE Japanese Embassy have at last reached Yeddo and been safely landed. The President's letter has been delivered to the Tycoon, and he is delighted with it. An invitation has been extended to him to visit the Niagara. The Embassy have been received by their government in the most enthusiastic manner, and it is said will probably be sent to