The Daily Post.

MONDAY MORNING::::::::: FEB. 11.

PITTSBURGH, February 6, 1861.

THE COUNTY COMMITTE OF CORRESPON ENCE met at the St. Charles Hotel, and was called to order by James Salisbury, Chairman.

The Chairman stated the object of the meeting to be to make arrangements for calling a County Convention, to elect 21 delegates to represent the County in the State Convention to be held at Harrisburg, on Thursday, the 21st day of February, 1861.

Mr. J. S. Murray, of South Pittsburgh, offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Democracy of the various election districts be requested to meet at the usual places for holding elections on Saturday, February 16, 1861, to elect delegates to a County Convention to be held at the Court House, on MONDAY, at 10 o'clock, the 18th day of February. The meetings in the townships to be held between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock, P. M., and in the Wards and Boroughs between 5 and 7 o'clock, P. M., four delegates to be elected from each district.

On motion adjourned.

JAMES SALISBURY *Chairman.*

SAMUEL HARPER, *Secretary.*

THE COMING CONVENTION.

On next Saturday, of the present week, as will be seen by the call of the County Committee, the Democracy of the several districts of the city and county will be called upon to elect four delegates in each precinct to assemble in County Convention on the following Monday, to choose twenty-one delegates to meet in State Convention, at Harrisburg, on the 21st inst., to consider of and take action regarding the course for the Democracy to pursue in view of the present dangers which threaten the Republic.

This is an important Convention—the most important which has ever been held by the Democratic party in Pennsylvania. Its object is to declare the policy and shape the action of the Democratic party of the State, in view of facts as they exist. The cotton States have seceded and manifest a determination to try their fate outside of the Union. They are tired of our present form of Republican government, and are evidently resolved to make a most hazardous experiment, by which they think their political ambition and material interests will be greatly subserved. Having seceded from the Union with these ideas, they are determined not to be coaxed back by spurious promises on the part of the North.

The Northern and the Border States, however, still love the Union and are attached to it by a thousand memories, dear to the hearts of the people, and a thousand rich benefits which the Union has conferred upon them.

The interests of the border and middle States are identical. Their interests are our interests, and for the sake of satisfying them any reasonable compromise which they shall ask, should cheerfully and promptly be acceded to on the part of the North. If the allegiance of the border States is thus secured, the Southern States will, sooner or later, get tired of their secession from the Union. Coercion, without a bloody and prolonged civil war, is impracticable. The movement is too big a one to be decided by battles. It is a people divided against itself, and compromise only can heal the breach which has occurred. The Border States hold the balance of power, and they will be satisfied with compromise.

The object of this convention is not a political one. There are no offices to give out. It is a meeting of the representatives of the people, to take counsel upon their own highest and dearest interests. The people will at last have to settle this national difficulty, if it is ever settled. The politicians have worked at it in vain, until the people have lost all hope and confidence in them. The people are for the Union, and their sentiments upon the terms and conditions under which it can be preserved are now of the greatest moment. It is clear that the question cannot be adjusted upon party or sectional issues. It is these very issues which have caused the difficulty. The body which the people are now to select should be of their own men. Those who have heretofore been prominent as politicians are not the men to send to such a convention as this. Those should be sent to Harrisburgh who are ready and willing to renounce partizan standpoints, and take their stand upon the Constitution with liberal national patriotism. No issues which have heretofore been entertained in party disputes should have influence in the selection of these delegates.

In the city, the delegates to the County Convention should be selected from among our business men—merchants, manufacturers, and mechanics. Party politicians should especially be avoided. In the country districts, the people should choose the most intelligent and upright farmers. Let us have new men in this convention—men fresh from the ranks of the people; and so the delegates to Harrisburgh should be selected with an eye to their patriotism, their conservative love of the Union, and their personal influence as men. This convention should be composed of men who are for the country—not who are for their own personal aggrandizement, or who are seeking political preferment. In its deliberations, this convention must be guided by the Constitution and the laws, and not by prejudice partizanship or personal feeling. It must be composed of men who are equal to the task of doing the work like true American citizens. Let the people see to it that this is done; and, to this end, let all their delegates be men who are not politicians, except in the enlarged meaning of that term.

THE NEWS.

The news in our telegraphic columns this morning is important and interesting.

There are now two Republics. On Saturday, Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, and A. H Stevens, of Georgia, were respectively elected unanimously President and Vice President of the "Confederated States of North America.

The Boston Bankers have determined to refuse any government loans under the new administration until affairs are settled. The New York bankers have already done the same thing.

The proceedings of Congress are important. In view of the free trade proceedings at Montgomery, the seizure of New York ships, at Savannah, and the obstruction of the interior commerce at New York, Mr. Cochrane will to-day press the passage of his bill for the protection of commerce, through the execution of the Federal Revenue laws. The Little Rock Arsenal with 9000 stand of arms, a large amount of ammunition, forty cannons, including Capt. Braggs battery, has been surrendered to the State authorities, and is now garrisoned by one hundred volunteers.

FROM North, South, East and West we have news of a terrible storm, prostrating telegraph wires, unroofing houses, uprooting trees and demolishing high chimneys and weak walls.

For the Pittsburgh Post.

COUNTY FINANCES—SOME FACTS AND FIGURES.

MR. EDITOR:—Having carefully examined the published abstract of the proposed change in the management of our County Finances, and being fully satisfied that if the act itself will carry out in detail the changes foreshadowed in the abstract, it would be a vast improvement on our present system,—(or rather utter want of system)—and should meet the approbation of every taxpayer.

I was, therefore, somewhat surprised to learn that a vigorous assault is to be made on it; and, if public rumor is to be believed, by those whose past and present positions should certainly have advised them of the necessity for reform.

I desire to submit to the public, and to the gentlemen now most active in opposing the new law, some facts and figures which, —although within their reach—must have been overlooked by them, else surely they would have refrained from putting themselves forward as the chief opponents of a measure intended to stop large and growing leaks in our County Treasury.

The following table exhibits the amounts paid for the several purposes therein named in each of the years since 1854—except 1857, which I cannot find:

	1854	1855	1856	1858	1859
	$ 804 00	$ 740 50	$ 867 00	$ 2,717 14	$ 1,091 76
District Attorneys	534 00	606 00	837 00	659 00	1,200 02
County Auditors	1,721 00	1,867 00	1,959 00	2,081 20	2,413 33
County Commissioners	1,966 67	2,079 67	2,264 77	2,688 91	2,924 24
Clerks	1,379 77	1,513 00	1,583 40	2,125 80	3,016 32
Clerk of Quarter Sessions	1,030 75	1,130 75	1,029 75	2,362 35	11,416 00
Sheriffs	5,212 00	5,592 12	6,315 97	7,829 75	9,325 00
Prothonotary, Court H. & Jail	2,004 67	2,125 00	2,425 00	3,023 79	20,194 18
Expenses in the Poorhouse	12,837 41	12,835 05	12,835 05	12,835 05	84,546 67
Mayor Allegheny, Judges, Inspectors, Clerks of Election					13,127 49
Judges Court H. & Jail					$71,018 98

Here are seven items, which cost nearly three times as much in 1859 as in 1854. *And as Allegheny county approaches* [illegible] the leap upwards will be such as to dwindle into insignificance most of its predecessors.

Bear in mind that these are not by any means the only expenses of rapid growth they, though not nearly the worst, are cited because their applicability will be appreciated by the chief opponents of the proposed change; others will be adduced in due time, as new Reformers appear in the field. Now, if half the annual increase on these alone could be stopped, it would far more than pay all expenses of a controller's department.

The Collectors' and Treasurer's compensation for collecting and disbursing the County, State and County Poor tax assessed last year will cost the tax payers of the County over nine thousand dollars ($9000) more under the present system than under the proposed one—which is to be defeated through the instrumentality of hucksters, paid by contributions levied on collectors as a condition of their appointment.

However a change of the system may affect a few, certainly the tax payer can have no interest in perpetuating a system which annually increases his taxes and year after year conceals from the public even a knowledge of what is done with the money collected. Ten years ago we complained that the County accounts were not all settled up and audited by the first of April. Now we must be contented if they see the light a full year after they should be closed.

On the last day of December, 1859, the public got their first sight of the account for 1859, and paid three Auditors for nearly a whole year's work at them—certainly not much less than $1,500. When the account for 1860 will appear we can but guess.

Take the following as an approximation, according to the doctrine of probabilities:

1854.	Auditors report, finished	April 5, 1856.
1855.	" "	June 14, 1856. This year they discovered gross errors of former years, and saved the County several thousand dollars
1856.	" "	April 3, 1857.
1857.	" "	" 14, 1858.
1858.	" "	Sept. 10, 1859.
1859.	" "	filed Nov 17, 1860.

and published December 30th, 1860. We may look for it about June 1862; but even some additional allowance should be made on account of the absence of a portion of the auditing board now at Harrisburg—not likely, however, as borers against a law which would hurry up County accounts and thereby diminish auditors' pay.

SEWICKLEY.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL'S REPORT has the following in relation to Petroleum: The development of Petroleum or Rock oil, in large quantities in the northwestern portion of the State, while adding to the wealth of the people, has also increased the business of the office. The applications for vacant land and islands, throughout that region, are flowing on continuously, and not always as smoothly as the oil which is coveted.

There is a prospect of litigation—an ill-wind that will blow good to somebody. The applications are so numerous in various northern counties for warrants to take up beds of rivers, since the oil excitement, that it will be doing a service to many worthy persons to state distinctly, that no warrants, for that purpose, can issue to any county in the State, *except Allegheny.*

The discovery of the oil was made many years since; hence the name of Oil Creek. The Seneca Indians applied it by mixing with their war paint, and for religious purposes. "The great Chief would recite the conquest and heroism of their ancestors. The surface of the stream was covered with a thick scum, which burst into a complete conflagration.—The oil had been gathered and lighted with a torch. At the sight of the flames, the Indians gave forth a triumphant shout, that made the hills re echo again! Here is revived the ancient fire worship of the East. Here then, are the children of the Sun." This description was written more than one hundred years ago to Gen. Montcalm. The first settler acquainted with the locality of the oil springs was Nathaniel Curry, of Franklin, seventy years since.

On the 26th of August, 1859, a vein of oil was struck at the depth of seventy-one feet, on Oil Creek, below Titusville, in Venango county, superintended by Col. E. L. Drake, the projector of the Pioneer well. To him much of the credit is due in bringing *to light* this important branch of business. His energy and perseverance, amid delays, difficulties, and a vast outlay of expenditure, triumphed over natural obstacles, and the more severe trial of the laugh and sneers of his neighbors.

It is not the province of this Department to advance a theory respecting the origin of this valuable addition to the resources of the State, or enter into a dissertation predicting its future growing prosperity. It is a subject often discussed in business transactions, and naturally finds a place here. The foregoing facts have been gleaned from an interesting little work, "Rock Oil in Pennsylvania and elsewhere," by Thomas A. Gale.

For the Pittsburgh Post.

Can the Government Coerce the Seceding States? I answer No!

MR. EDITOR:—At this particular time, it may be well to refer to the olden times, when men were patriotic and not led off by greed of power and paltry gain. The Republican party, as a party, will have much to answer for if their dogged obstinacy will not allow a fair settlement of the points at issue by the adoption of the wise and salutary measure introduced by the able Senator, John J. Crittenden. Where can the Union be in trusting the people to vote on the proposition? The Democracy of the nation are friendly and willing to put the whole matter before the voters of the country, in this the act so should become all good men—no matter by what party name he may be designated, the crisis demand the action of all citizens when our common country is rent asunder by contending elements, then it becomes the duty of all right thinking people to come forward and stay the torrent that threatens to engulf our happy form of government.

The idea of civil war can only be advocated by those who read but little and think less.

If any resort be unfortunately had to force, the dissolution of the Union is a fixed fact. The attempt to maintain a Union of equal States by coercion is as ridiculous as absurd.

In the convention of '87, this subject of coercion of States was then agitated; it was proposed to vest and give power to Congress—the proposition was manfully and earnestly opposed by two of the most accomplished statesmen that held power in the land—the erudite Madison and the brilliant Hamilton.

When the convention met in New York to form the Federal Constitution this question of coercion was up and under consideration. Mr. Hamilton then remarked:

"It has been well observed, that to coerce the States is one of the maddest projects that was ever advised. A failure *of compliance will never be confined to a single State*, this being the case, *can we suppose* it wise to hazard *a civil war?* Suppose Massachusetts, or *any larger State, should refuse, and Congress should attempt to compel them, would they not have influence to procure assistance, especially from* those States which are in the same situation as themselves, what picture does this issue present to our view? A complying State at war with a non complying State; Congress marching the troops of one State into the bosom of another, this State collecting auxiliaries and forming, perhaps, a majority against its federal head. Here is a nation at war with itself. Can any reasonable man be well disposed towards a government which makes war and carnage the only means *of supporting itself—a Government that can exist only by the sword?* Every such *war must involve the innocent with the guilty.* This single consideration should be sufficient to dispose every reasonable citizen *against such a government.*

This is the best authority that can be named, for Hamilton was the head and front of the party that the present Republicans spring from. Dare they denounce their sires? and it must be conceded by all that the distinguished author of the Federalist was a man of transcendant statesmanship and ability. He, then, in the above, gives strong statements to the rights of States. With equal force rising the last part of the "Empire State" in the fastness of the Catskill Mountains, in 1776, asserted boldly—*"that the people alone have an undoubted, unalienable, and indefeasible right to form, alter, or abolish such a government as may be deemed by the people whenever it shall be found inadequate to their happiness."* The Massachusetts Convention, in 1788, which ratified the Constitution, but the separation of the only from the Union, by the adoption of the Fifteen Constitutional amendments, the people have the right to resume their independent sovereignty. The wisdom of the opposition may be doubted when they cannot be read and reflect—that is, if reason and reflection are their minds. Mr. Wilson and others, in the convention, in 1787, said, "Let the people alone over the water, they are fit to hold the reins of government and to chastise any who transgress the Constitution."

The unthinking and ill-advised Republicans who, at a distance from danger, and place safe in war, and apt to be led by a high, lofty and proud appreciation of their abilities, stand ready to cry, "Let the Union be what it may, we will have it so!" Let such remember that the Democracy have been consistent, and when they cry, "Let the Democracy fight it for us," they will find themselves mistaken. The Democracy of the North are willing to do their share of fighting for their rights, but what is right to a Democrat, they will not, and do not, shrink from, as will be seen by a reference to the letter of Jefferson.

Permit me to say, in concluding, that when the Democrat speaks, it is in earnest, and I think will speak great principles, and will win in place of seven.

The Louisville JOURNAL of SECESSION—Mr. Buchanan, I will say—"We are free to confess that the Democratic party, in the South, differs very widely and very decidedly from its earlier creeds, which it existed only as a vague and impracticable idea, as a temporary revival of the fierce spirit of radicalism. It is now a great historic fact, a movement in which the best of population of six, or perhaps seven States are involved, to which they have pledged their lives and fortunes, and which, through weal or woe, they will maintain against all the armies and navies that can be summoned against their cause."

Now, of no less authority than comes from high authority. James Madison, a member of the Federal Convention of 1787, and justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in his published writings says:

"The people may change the Constitution *whenever and however* they please—this is a right of which no positive institution can deprive them."

Again the same distinguished gentleman says:

"Permit me to mention one great principle—the vital principle, I may call it—which diffuses animation and vigor through all the others. The principle I mean is this—that the Supreme or sovereign power of the society rests in the citizens at large, and that therefore they always retain the right of abolishing, altering, or amending the Constitution at whatever time, and in whatever manner they shall deem it expedient."—*Vol 1, p. 17.*

Judge Story, speaking of the Declaration of Independence—still greater than the Constitution—says:

"It was not an act done by the State governments then organized, nor by persons chosen by them; it was emphatically the act of the whole people of the United Colonies, by the instrumentality of their representatives chosen for that among other purposes. It was an act not competent to the State governments to adopt. Those charters neither contemplated the case nor provided for it. It was an act of original, inherent sovereignty by the people themselves; resulting from their right to change the form of government, and to institute a new government whenever necessary for their safety and happiness."—*Vol 1, p 198.*

Chief Justice Marshall remarked: "It has been said that the people had already surrendered all their powers to the State sovereignties, and had nothing more to give; but, surely, the question whether they may resume and modify the powers granted to government does not remain to be settled in this country."

Again, Mr. Wilson says: "The truth is that in our government the supreme, absolute and uncontrollable power remains in the people. As our constitutions are superior to our legislatures, so the people are superior to our constitutions. Indeed, the superiority in this last instance is much greater; for the people possess over our constitutions control in act as well as right."

Again he says: "Of the right of a majority of the whole people to change the government at will, there is no doubt.

"The revolution principle—that sovereign power residing in the people—that they may change their constitution and government whenever they please, is not a principle of *discord and rancor or war*; it is a principle of *amelioration, contentment and peace.*"

Justice Story in his commentaries on the Constitution.

"The declaration (of independence) puts the doctrine on the *true ground*—that governments derived their powers from the consent of the governed, and the people have a right to alter it, &c." Page 300, vol. 1.

But to crown all, you will find in the Constitution of the "old dominion," a State distinguished for great and good men, and the annals of civil liberty does not produce its equal, it is recognised in the 3rd article of the bill of rights.

"That government is or ought to be instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community. And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes a majority of the community hath an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal."

This carries with it the whole question, and shows conclusively that the South is right in demanding what is justly due to them: and it is a solemn truth, not to be overlooked, that fifteen slave states ask but the rights which the Constitution guaranteed to them, and which from 1790 to 1820 were recognized as theirs in *legislative, executive and judicial branches* of the government, and fully and freely enjoyed by the people of those sovereign States of this Confederacy. The Democratic party cheerfully award to them the same privileges, even unto the present day, and will not be forced wanting in time to come, professing as we do the salvation of all the States, and bound by one common tie. Yet should the worst come to that, we will be found protecting and defending the men who stand by Democratic principles and the Constitution, let them hail from what part of the country they may; and if the opposition, who are so anxious to precipitate the people into civil war call this treason, they can make the most of it.

TESTUDO.

For the Morning Post.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb 6, 1861

MR. EDITOR:—I am happy to be able to inform you that the symptoms this evening at Willards are favorable, and strong hopes are entertained that an arrangement of the unfortunate troubles will be made or suggested by the Convention of the States, which will satisfy all except South Carolina. Senator Bigler informed me a few moments since, that when he looked at the immense crowd of Union loving men, who were constantly coming in, he felt as though God had really stretched out his omnipotent arm to save this model fabric. I have this evening, since dinner, conversed with at least fifty prominent men, from all parts of the Union, and all speak hopefully; encouragingly while the cheerful smile which lights up the countenance of men who, like shocks of corn fully ripe for the sickle, are ready to be garnered, (and are only anxious for their children,) speaks in unmistakeable language. Oh, if your preachers ever prayed let them wrestle with the Lord now. They never had more of my assistance to pray for.

I hope to be excused for my zeal in this matter. I have a personal interest in it. Twenty seven years ago a revered mother, whose sainted spirit I now behold in Heaven, where dissolution, secession or war cling will never enter, brought me, a baby on her knee, from down trodden Ireland to this blessed land of liberty. She early taught me the importance of understanding, appreciating and maintaining the institutions of the home which she brought me, and, if in my humble capacity, I should fail to do my duty, I would fear that she would lay upon me her reproach, or leave it to reproach me.

To day, in the Senate, I listened to a speech of beholding the old Lion roaring. He may be above the mark in some of his views, and I for one will show the country I respect him, he has long and hard earned the part of South Carolina to his Democratic associate, as the property of the Democracy of New York is pledged to the effect that it will not permit it to make the purchase she has made, at the point of the sword. As the invasion of South Carolina is the invasion of property between Democratic States, the last position impresses the Democrat as being sacrificed in an unusual form. He says, we never gained the claim on which it is based, and quotes from the declaration that "government is established."

And it may be here remarked that much stress has been laid on the employment of the word "property," and "property party" by the President in his messages. These are the most objectionable terms which can be used in such a document, and, when referring to a fort or any other article of absolutism, they embrace the idea and claim of the interest of the government therein, and the United States to Fort Sumpter are property and property here. Were its interests in fact property, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, the President would be entitled to the exercise of the rights of an owner. But it has also political relations, and he is of a much higher and more imperative character than those of mere proprietorship. It is a jurisdiction over the fort and the soil on which it stands. This jurisdiction consists in the exclusive legislation over the fort referred to, and is, therefore, nearly incompatible with the entire eminent domain now insisted upon by South Carolina. The authority was not delegated to the United States, South Carolina can no more assert the right of eminent domain over a fort within her limits than Maryland can assert it over the Potomac forts. The political and proprietary rights of the United States in either case, rest upon precisely the same grounds.

The President however, is relieved from the necessity of further pursuing this inquiry, by the fact that, if a claim of South Carolina to this fort be established, the constitutional power to cede or surrender it to a foreign power, is denied by the force of the Union, and cannot be exercised under the same sanctions. The President, as the head of the Union, and the guardian of its interests only, can no more surrender Fort Sumpter to South Carolina than he can surrender the capitol of the United States to Maryland, or any other State or individual seeking to possess it. His excellency the Governor is too familiar with the constitution of the United States, and with the authorities and the powers of the Chief Magistrate of the Union not to appreciate at a glance the force of the legal principle.

The power to reinforce Fort Sumpter is so fully elucidated in my letter to Senator Sidell and others, of the date of the 21st January, a copy of which accompanies this, that its discussion will not be renewed, then and

At the present moment it is not deemed necessary to reinforce Major Anderson, because he makes no call for aid. Should his safety, however, require reinforcements, every effort will be made to supply them.

Coupled with all of the explanations of this language, which I have alluded to, is the existing status. The right to send forward reinforcements, when in the judgment of the President the safety of the garrison requires them, rests on the same unquestionable foundation as the right to occupy the fortress at all.

In the letter of Senator Davis and others to yourself, under the date of the 18th ult, they say: "We therefore think it especially due from South Carolina to our State, to our peace and safety and the other slaveholding States, that she should, as far as she can consistently with her honor, avoid irritating hostilities between her and the United States, or any other Power." And you now, yourself give the President the gratifying assurance that South Carolina has every disposition to preserve the public peace. And since no himself sincerely animated by the same desire, it would seem that this common and patriotic object must be of certain attainment.

It is difficult, however, to reconcile with this assurance the declaration, on your part, that "it is considered by the people of South Carolina, her own dignity as a sovereign and the safety of her people which prompts her to demand that this property should not longer be used as a military post by a Government she no longer acknowledges."

The thought you so constantly present is that this occupancy is most lead to a collision of arms, and the commencement of civil war. Fort Sumter is in itself a military post and such its size, and it would seem that not so much the fort as the purpose of its use should give to it a hostile or friendly character.

The fortress is now held by the Government of the United States for the same objects for which it has been held from the completion of its construction. These are national and defensive, and were a public enemy now to attempt the capture of Charleston or the destruction of the commerce of its harbor, the whole force of the batteries of this fortress would be at once exerted for their protection. How the presence of a small garrison actuated by such a spirit as this, can compromise the dignity or honor of South Carolina, or become a source of irritation to her people, the President is at a loss to understand. The attitude of that garrison has been and is declared, is neither menacing, nor defiant, nor unfriendly. It is acting under orders in a manner strictly on the defensive, and the Government, and the people of South Carolina must well know that they can never receive aught but shelter from its guns, unless, in the absence of all provocation, they should assail it and seek its destruction. The intent with which this fortress is held by the President is truthfully stated by Senator Davis and others, in their letter to you of the 18th of January, in which they say that it is not held with any hostile or unfriendly purpose toward any State, but merely as the property of the United States, which the President deems his duty to protect and preserve.

If the announcement so recently made of the President's peaceful purpose in continuing the occupation of Fort Sumpter and the question shall have been settled by competent authority, has failed to impress the Government of South Carolina, the forbearing conduct of the Administration for the last few months should be received as conclusive evidence of his sincerity. And if further assurance, in view of the circumstances which have so severely tried it, be not accepted as a satisfactory pledge of the peaceful policy of this Administration towards South Carolina, then it may be safely said that no other language nor conduct can possibly satisfy. He with all the multiplied pro fe which surround the President's anxiety for peace, and of the earnestness with which he has pursued it, the authorities of that State shall assault Fort Sumpter, and peril the lives of the beautiful of brave and loyal men shut up within its walls, and thus plunge our common country into the direst of civil war, then upon them and those they represent must rest the responsibility.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. HOLT, Secretary of War.

Hon. T. W. Bartley,
Attorney General of the State of South Carolina

WASHINGTON, Feb 8.—Ex-President Fillmore of New York, and Alexander H. H. Stuart, of Virginia, are at present in this city urging the adoption of some equitable Compromise by the Peace Conference.

Mr Stuart says that if the Commissioners of the Peace Conference cannot agree, the State of Virginia cannot be kept in the Union.

The Peace Conference met to-day, with all the delegates present who have been appointed thus far by the different States.

The appointment of Hon. Thurlow Weed, as one of the New York Peace Commissioners, and the recent speech of Mr. Kellogg, of Illinois, give great encouragement to the friends of the Union, and a settlement of our political troubles is considered certain by many Union men.

There is a rumor prevailing here that the British Consul at Savannah, Ga., has been tarred and feathered, in consequence of the recent trouble there in which a British Shipmaster was engaged.

The President returned Col. Hayne's last letter as being offensive. He refused to send it into Congress on that ground.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE!

FORT SUMPTER TO BE REINFORCED IF NECESSARY!

THE CHANCES IN FAVOR OF A BATTLE!

THE REPLY OF THE EXECUTIVE THROUGH MR. HOLT!

On Friday the President sent in a message to the House, including his correspondence with the South Carolina Commissioner.—Some of these letters have already been published. Mr. Hayne, the South Carolina Commissioner, demanded the surrender of Fort Sumpter, and stated that Major Anderson's reinforcement would be resisted by South Carolina. The President states that if Major Anderson wants reinforcements, he shall have them. The chances of a battle, therefore, at Fort Sumpter, are great. Civil war may, perhaps, stalk at us through this fort, for a fight would probably stir to arms the whole country. The following are the particulars:

THE REPLY OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The following is Secretary Holt's reply:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Feb. 6, 1861.

SIR, The President has received your letter of the 31st ult., and has charged me with the duty of replying thereto.

In the communication addressed to the President by Governor Pickens under date of 12th of January, and which accompanied yours now before me, his Excellency says: "I have determined to send to you the Hon I. W. Hayne, the Attorney-General of the State of South Carolina, and have instructed him to demand the surrender of Fort Sumpter, in the harbor of Charleston, to the constituted authorities of South Carolina. The demand I have made of Major Anderson, and which I now make of you, is suggested because of my earnest desire to avoid the bloodshed which a persistence in your attempt to retain the possession of that fort will cause, and which will be unavoidably to secure to you that possession; but induce a calamity most deeply to be deplored."

The character of demand thus authorized to be made, appears under the influence, I presume, of the correspondence with the Senators to which you refer, to have been modified by the subsequent instructions of his Excellency, dated the 5th, and received by yourself on the morning of 11 January, in which he says: "It is the Fort Sumpter to be held as property, then as property the rights, whatever they may be, of the United States are to be maintained, and for the satisfaction of those rights and the pledge of the State of South Carolina, you are authorized to see the full scope and proper import of your instructions as thus modified."

You have expressed yourself in the following words: "I am fully convinced, sir, as a military man, to demand the surrender of a fortress, that as the legal officer of the State of South Carolina to assume a claim for the State the exercise of its sovereignty, right of eminent domain and to pledge the State to make good all injury to the property of private individuals in case of a refusal to comply with your position, you add, "The proposition made by the South Carolina's law officers should, in the opinion of the Governor and his Council, be to pledge the faith of South Carolina to make such compensation in regard to Fort Sumpter and the adjacent works and materials, for the full extent of the property of the United States when it is surrendered to the authorities of South Carolina in your command.

You then add, "Accordingly, upon the full consideration of the subject, I agree that Fort Sumpter, with its appurtenances, if contained enough, may be regarded as a military post, and that as such upon it would be held by the United States, property, whatever the result, and if possible, I would be longer to the subject of an attack."

The proposition is now presented to the President, to supply and to the part of South Carolina to buy Fort Sumpter, and the question, as the property of the United States, and also in exchange for the Old Copper Coins *if delivered* at the Mint. The reasonable expenses of transportation of the New Coins, in sums not less than $20, thus exchanged, will be paid by the Mint as heretofore. JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

Director of the Mint.

fe11 3tmd

ORANGES AND LEMONS.—
50 boxes Orange;
50 do Lemons;
The first of the season. To arrive and for sale by
REYMER & BROTHERS,
Successors to Reymer & Anderson,
fe11 No. 39 Wood street.

SUGAR.—
50 bbls B Coffee Sugar;
20 do A do do;
Just rec'd and for sale by
REYMER & BROTHERS,
fe11 No. 39 Wood street.

RAISINS.—
100 boxes Sugar Raisins;
160 do Bunch do;
100 ½ do do do;
100 ¼ do do do;
50 do Valentia do;
For sale by
REYMER & BROTHERS,
fe11 No. 39 Wood street.
Opposite the St. Charles Hotel.

MENS' BOOTS,
BOYS' BOOTS,
YOUTHS' BOOTS,
CHILDRENS' BOOTS,
fe11 at D. & B. DIFFENBACHER'S,
No. 15, Fifth Street.

BRONCHIAL CIGARETTES;
BRONCHIAL CIGARETTES;
BRONCHIAL CIGARETTES;
BRONCHIAL CIGARETTES;
BRONCHIAL CIGARETTES;
One of the latest and best Remedies;
One of the latest and best Remedies;
One of the latest and best Remedies;
For Bronchitis, Asthma, etc, etc;
For Bronchitis, Asthma, etc, etc;
For Bronchitis, Asthma, etc, etc,
—ALSO—
BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES;
BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES;
BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES;
BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES;
For sale by JOSEPH FLEMMING,
For sale by JOSEPH FLEMMING,
For sale by JOSEPH FLEMMING,
corner of the Diamond and Market street,
corner of the Diamond and Market street,
corner of the Diamond and Market street.
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CUTLERY, GUNS, &c.—The attention of those in search of
CUTLERY AND GUNS,
is directed to our splendid stock of all kinds of Table, Pocket and Toilet Cutlery, Guns, Pistols, Rifles, &c.
CARTWRIGHT & YOUNG,
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EUROPEAN AGENCY.

THOMAS RATTIGAN, European Agent, No. 115 Water street, Pittsburgh, Pa., is prepared to bring out or send back passengers from or to any part of the old country, either by steam or sailing packets.

SIGHT DRAFTS FOR SALE, payable in any part of Europe.

Agent for the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad. Also, Agent for the old Black Star Line of Sailing Packets, and for the lines of Steamers sailing between New York, Liverpool, Glasgow and Galway. fe11

BULK MEAT.—50 lbs Shoulders, Sides, and Hams, just rec'd and for sale by
JAS. A. PETZER,
fe11 cor. Market and First sts,

RYE, BARLEY AND CORN.—
65 sacks Rar Corn;
30 bushels Spring Barley;
25 do Prime Rye;
Just received and for sale by
JAS. A. PETZER
fe11 corner of Market and First sts.

TO LET.—A Three Story Dwelling House on Logan street, near Wylie, with Bath Room—Hot and Cold Water, &c.
ROBB & M'CONNELLI,
fe11:3tmd Law Building, Diamond street.

R. R. BULGER,
MANUFACTURER OF
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF
FURNITURE
No. 45 Smithfield Street,
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A FULL ASSORTMENT OF
Pittsburgh Manufactured Furniture,
Constantly on hand which we will sell at the lowest prices for CASH. my28:1y

SELLING
AT
CHARLES GIPNERS,
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LADIES' WOOLEN HOODS, NUBIAS, Scarfs, Sleeves and Mitts.
Ladies' Lined Kid and Silk Gauntlets and Gloves;
Ribbed Cotton Mixed and Woolen Hose.
Ladies' Cotton, Silk and Merino undershirts and Drawers.

EMBROIDERIES.

Setts, Collars, Sleeves, Children's Robes, Infants Jaconett Bands, Ruffling, Edging and Inserting.
Gent's Silk, Merino and Cotton Undershirts and Drawers; Shawls, Cloth Gauntlets, Gloves, Neck Ties; Scarfs, Collars, &c.

THE ABOVE GOODS WE ARE SELLING
—AT—
GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.
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—IN—
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FOURTH STREET ENTRANCE.

HAVING RE-ARRANGED MY GALLERY, and fitted it up in the most modern style, I am prepared to take Ambrotypes of all sizes and of the finest quality. Intending to devote my whole attention to this class of picture, I feel warranted in guaranteeing satisfaction to my patrons. Prices moderate.
C. GLASGOW,
fe7:1yr No. 84 Fourth street, Pittsburgh.

For Rent.

TWO OFFICES ON SMITHFIELD ST., No. 122, near the Post Office. Inquire of
H. KLEBER & BRO.
ja18 Music Store, Fifth street.

JOHN W. GARRETT, Esq., president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, in reply to a note of inquiry from Mayor Barrett, of Washington, states that it is true that Mr. Lincoln has abandoned the idea of coming to Washington via Wheeling, in consequence of certain alleged threats of violence from parties in Virginia and Maryland. Mr Garrett, however, assures the Mayor that there has not been the least foundation for any of the rumors referred to, but that they are simply inventions of those who are agents in the West for other lines, and are set on foot for the sole purpose of interfering with the trade and travel on the shortest route to the seaboard, that they might secure it for themselves. He says the safety of the President elect would have been perfectly assured from the Ohio river to Washington. Mr Garrett further adds:

"Our road is regarded, both in Maryland and Virginia, as a monument of the common enterprise of their people, and as the means of a common prosperity. This feeling is of itself sufficient to protect the travel and freight of the road from all annoyance. I can only regret that the purpose of the President elect to travel by another route should serve to give countenance to the stories which are in every respect unfounded. You may be assured that whatever is done in Maryland or Virginia will be done with a steady regard to all the rights of persons and property of all sections of the land."

DIED:

At his residence, No 778 Penn street, February 10th, at 2 o'clock P. M., of Apoplexy, RICHARD HUGHES, in the 66th year of his age.

Funeral notice will be given in evening papers.

HERRADURA'S
HOLLAND BITTERS.
PREPARED FROM THE
Choicest and most grateful Tonics and Carminatives in the Vegetable Kingdom. Universally approved as a Family Remedy for
INDIGESTION, SOUR STOMACH,
COLIC, HEART-BURN,
HEADACHE, & ALL DYSPEPTIC COMPLAINTS.
The Weak and Nervous should try it.
Eleven or Twenty-four! Before dies of the pendulum, (half pint bottles.) Price One Dollar. Dose, a teaspoonful.
See that our name is on the label of every bottle you buy.
BENJAMIN PAGE, Jr. & Co
SOLE PROPRIETORS,
Sold by Druggists generally. Pittsburgh, Penn'a.

RELIEF FROM PAIN!
REED'S MAGNETIC OIL STILL holds the reputation it has had for years, of being superior to anything yet known for the following purposes:
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Spinal Affections;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Neuralgia;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Sore Throat;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Ulcers and Sores;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Nervous Headache;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Frosted Feet;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Fresh Wounds;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Sciatica;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Pains in the Back;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Nervous Affections;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Ear ache and Tooth ache;
Reed's Magnetic Oil cures Rheumatism;
Speedy and permanent relief, and for all *Accidents and Injuries* will relieve pain more rapidly than any other preparation. Sold by Druggists generally, at 25c per bottle. Country orders promptly supplied by Druggists and dealer in CHOICE FAMILY MEDICINES, corner Smithfield and Fourth streets, Sole Agent. ja23:3m

New Advertisements.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
PHILADELPHIA, February 4, 1861.

☞ The regulations heretofore prescribed, authorizing the payment of the expenses of transportation of the Copper coins of the U. S to the Mint, will be see on the 20th inst.

The Cents of the New Issue will be paid out at the Mint in exchange for any of the Gold and Silver Coins of the United States, and also in exchange for the Old Copper Coins *if delivered* at the Mint. The reasonable expenses of transportation of the New Cents, in sums not less than $20, thus exchanged, will be paid by the Mint as heretofore. JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

Director of the Mint.

SPECIAL LECTURES. A course of SPECIAL LECTURES on PARTNERSHIP CHANGES and SETTLEMENTS, will be given at the IRON CITY COLLEGE corner of Penn and St. Clair streets next week. Lectures to commence at 8 P. M. each day.
☞ Those interested are invited to attend.
fe9:1tdaw

LECTURE.
MR. BEN