Philadelphia North American and United States Gazette, Wednesday Morning, February 13, 1861

American and Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1861.

THE GREAT WAR DEPARTMENT ROBBERY.

The special committee of the House has reported its investigation into the great robbery perpetrated by Secretary Floyd, and it must be admitted that nothing in American history can be found on a scale at all comparable with it. The $870,000 worth of bonds stolen from the Indian Trust fund is but a small share of the aggregate stolen from citizens or the government. The committee evidently leans towards the admission of the acceptances now in the hands of innocent holders, to be at least equitable claims against the government. Before this ground is taken we hope a careful examination of the position of every holder will be insisted on. The total amount of acceptances issued is certainly $6,137,395, and it will probably reach about seven millions, every dollar of which was issued for "unearned money," and "on the credit of the contract" of that most extraordinary transportation firm, Russell, Majors & Waddell. The committee say that all this time during which these acceptances were issued, which business was begun in 1858, this contracting firm was paid regularly the full amount due them in cash, at Fort Leavenworth. No care was taken in regard to the return and cancellation of these, and it appears probable that they were simply taken out of the hands of such as advanced money on them as long as it was necessary to do so, and destroyed by the operators of the swindle.

The great question is now what number and amount of these acceptances are held by parties who did not know their illegal origin, and who are holders in good faith. They were sold to banks, sold to individuals, deposited as collateral, and were backed up, at last, by $872,000 worth of Indian bonds when they could be no longer sold without being strengthened by something better than the name of Secretary Floyd. A large number have already come in, and the Department estimates the outstanding amount at not less than $1,445,000—it may be much more. Floyd wrote to various banks and persons urging them to negotiate the acceptances. "Some twelve or eighteen months ago" this report of the committee is singularly loose as to dates and positive facts of every sort—it appears that Senator Benjamin undertook to look after some of this extraordinary paper, and took occasion to remonstrate with Floyd on its issue. Floyd, a day or two subsequently, wrote to Benjamin to say he had, on reflection, concluded to issue no more, but the evidence shows that at least two and a half millions were subsequently put on the market, and the $872,000 of Indian bonds were stolen to bolster up this paper, which was then beyond general discredit.

The whole story of the swindle has a wild, dreamy look, as though insane men had managed the affair. The committee is a little mealy-mouthed about calling it criminal, strange to say. If crime is possible in official swindling, this is crime. Nothing like it in magnitude has been known in all history, we believe. The $870,000 robbery we thought strong, but what is this beside one of seven millions? This is the secessionist Floyd, let it also be remembered, the traitor who did his best to destroy the military defenses of the country, and to take the whole public armament to the hands of southern revolutionists.

He was the hero of an ovation to the body of secessionists at Richmond, even after his violations of trust were exposed. Probably he will continue a leader in treason, and boast in the confederacy of cotton of the achievement by which the public and the government were robbed while he was Secretary of War. There is no measure of infamy too great to be meted out to such as he is. Cobb pales before Floyd; the imbecile manager, who lets the Treasury go to ruin by his stupidity, is no match for the man who can plunder as Floyd has plundered. The country will look with amazement on these exposures, though they are yet but a tithe of what should come out. Will not even the cotton States hesitate to instal such gigantic abusers of trust in power in their new kingdom, or will they put them in power in order to render the destruction of their work sudden and decisive?

HANSEATIC LEAGUE.

No confederacy in Europe has been so remarkable for its extensive geographical range and the number of cities composing it, with, at the same time, limited territorial dominion, as the Hanseatic League. The title is, we may observe, a pleonasm, since the words convey the same meaning—*hansa*, in the old Teutonic dialect, signifying a league for mutual protection. The first Hanseatic cities were Lubeck and Hamburg, which formed a union with each other for protection against the piratical attacks on their commerce by Waldemar, king of Denmark. They were soon joined by Brunswick, and, subsequently, by more than eighty towns, extending from the Zuyder Zee and the coasts of Friesland and Groningen, in North Holland on the west, to Revel and Riga on the east. Many of them were situated on the rivers Ems, Weser, Oder, Elbe and Vistula; many were spread over the southern coast of the Baltic Sea, in northern Germany, Prussia, Livonia and Lithuania. On the last we distinguish, at Konigsberg, Frankfort on the Oder, Gottingen, Hanover, Colberg, Cologne, Thorn, Dantzic, Konigsberg, Cracow, Revel and Riga. Lubeck was regarded as the chief city of the league, which held a diet and kept its archives there; regular meetings took place every three years. In addition to the actual members of the league, there were four great factories or depots, established in foreign countries during the latter half of the thirteenth century, or from 1250 to 1278. These were London, Bruges, Novgorod and Bergen. In the following century (1370) the formal act of confederation was drawn up at Cologne.

From being a union formed for protection against pirates by sea and robbers on land, the league enlarged its views, and aimed not only to guard, but to extend, and, as far as possible, monopolize, the foreign trade of the cities of which it was composed. It was intent also on maintaining the rights and immunities received from sovereigns in whose territories the cities were situated. Among the obligations incurred by each member of the confederacy, on admission into it, were those of furnishing soldiers and vessels, or, in some cases, money as a substitute, and to pay the duties and amercements.

The league, in the exercise of its judicial power, could inflict the greater or lesser ban. Some of our readers may require to be told that the ban, in ancient jurisprudence, was a declaration of outlawry, equivalent in political or excommunication in ecclesiastical law; and, as in the latter case, it might be carried so far as to forbid intercourse with the person or party proscribed, and to refuse him food or shelter. In the world to witness at the present day, and on this continent, the strange spectacle of a State voluntarily renouncing the benefit of the law, and foregoing the protection of a cherished institution, which can only be secured to it by the general league of which such State was a member?

The Hanseatic league rose to high political power, and in many instances it created a controlling influence over kings and princes, and could, at first, indeed down with disdain on its humble burghers. One great source of its wealth was the carrying trade with England, Flanders and all the countries on the Baltic Sea, and even with the Mediterranean. Inland, its chief cities, Hamburg, Lubeck and others, carried on a lucrative commerce through Germany, with the republics of northern Italy. There was scarcely a mart in Europe which was not drawn within its influence. It became the guardian of the North and the Baltic seas, so as to give that security to commerce which had been previously wanting on those waters. Paris in advance of the views of the sovereigns of the time, it placed commercial policy on a foundation on which have rested the subsequent relations between maritime States. In the territories over which it had direct control it constructed canals and introduced a uniform system of weights and measures.

The continued prosperity of the Hanseatic league was dependent on the ignorance and neglect of political economy on the part of the several governments in whose territories their cities were situated. With more encouragement given by the different sovereigns in whose territories their own subjects, and with their attention directed to the formation of a naval force of their own, the peculiar privileges enjoyed by the league must necessarily have been curtailed. Its power was further diminished by its maritime towns ceasing to be the masters of the Baltic, and being compelled to fall back into their original condition of integral parts of the several sovereignties of whose rule they had long been independent. The cities in the interior, in the new circumstances in which they were placed by the increased productive industry in the country around them, or routes of inland trade opened, were no longer bound by the same ties of beneficial connexion with their former maritime associates, whom they also suspected of using them for their own ends. The coolness of the cities of the interior was increased and made to take a determinate shape by the Reformation, a cause subjecting them in their immediate control. Charles V was particularly intent on this course of policy, in the expectation of improving the commerce of his possessions in the Netherlands, and probably Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp. More than all these causes of the decay of the Hanseatic league was the discovery of America, and the consequent total revolution in trade by the new channels into which it was directed.

The last diet of the league was held at Lubeck in 1630, when it was dissolved. A partial renewal of the league was effected after the general peace of 1814, and Hamburg, Lubeck and Bremen were once more united together as Hanseatic cities.

A COMPROMISE.—A telegraphic dispatch, from Washington to the Richmond (Va.) Enquirer, says that the Committee of one from each State in the Peace Congress have fixed on Mr. Guthrie's plan of adjustment, which is an embodiment of Crittenden's plan, with the slavery protecting clause omitted.

REAL ESTATE SALE, THIS DAY.—See James A. Freeman's auction advertisements and pamphlet catalogue of the sale to-day.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, February 12.

The action of the Montgomery Convention looks to "reconstruction," and as such is not acceptable to South Carolina. In limiting the experiment to one year, and in adopting the Mississippi programme, as predicated long ago under the advice of Jefferson Davis, it was intended to keep the door of reconciliation open, and to re-enter at the first favorable opportunity. South Carolina seceded to establish a permanent separate government, and nothing else. Her confederates in convention have only created a temporary and rickety affair, which, while it professedly fulfils the original lies of the disunion movement by initiating a southern confederacy, is for short of the expectation or the aims of the precipitators. Connect this half-way policy with the tariff, which is included in the organic law, and abundant reason may be discovered for the dissatisfaction which is already beginning to manifest itself in various forms. South Carolina may secede again, and set up on her own account. If Mr. Rhett, and the extremists of his school, could have their way, a new sovereignty would be advertised without delay. But the experience of two months has pretty well satisfied the people with the cost of this experiment, and they are not prepared to pursue it much further.

The emphatic vote in Tennessee against a convention, is the most important and significant feature of that election, and if appreciated properly will undoubtedly contribute to a settlement of the irritating controversy. Let us not hesitate or stand upon any false ideas in welcoming this patriotic advance, or in responding to it liberally and cordially. The Union men of Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and North Carolina, who have refused to join the conspiracy to overthrow the government, are entitled to the aid and sympathy of the free States, and to fair and liberal consideration, without the sacrifice or abandonment of principle, will satisfy the south that no hostility is intended against their rights and institutions. This much they are entitled to claim and to receive, and it would be a surrender such as has been represented. And when Mr. Lincoln shall have conferred freely with the different interests in Congress, he will be constrained, from the necessity of the case, to reach the same conclusion. The very responsibilities which he is about to assume would compel a conservative course, even if there was no disposition on his part, such as his past career and declarations announce to be entirely genuine.

Nearly all the Commissioners from Pennsylvania are inclined to a moderate and conciliatory course, and their position is much commended in the Convention. If the other States were represented in the same spirit, but little difficulty would be found in obtaining a satisfactory settlement. The eastern and north western delegates generally, of the Republican school, refuse all compromise or opposition looking to that result, and insist that none shall be made. One great cause of embarrassment is, as I have before stated, the attitude of the cotton States, and the relations of the border States to them. Should the former go off, and still decline to commit themselves to any line of policy by which the position of the seceding States, and their treatment under the Constitution, will be distinctly defined.

Dispatches here this morning report the popular majority in Tennessee against holding a convention at about 60,000. This result is even more decisive than that of Virginia, and there is a similar vote in New York which is, at the same time, one of the most brilliant and difficult compositions ever penned for the sporano voice. The famous boleros from "Les Vespres Siciliennes" are introduced in her repertoire of the evening. Signor Stigelli has composed a new ballad expressly for this occasion, and will also give his sparkling Italian arietta "Ballin," and several of those favorite airs which have made him so popular of late. Ole Bull will perform a violin solo, as well as the grand duo from "I Masenadieri," with Miss Patti, which seems to have electrified the Boston critics. Mills, the great English pianist, has also to be heard for the first time.

Signor Bultz, the pleasantest of all the tribe of ventriloquists, and professors of sleight of hand and natural magic, is now giving a series of his entertainments at the Commonwealth Building, Chesnut street, above Sixth, north side, where may be seen his learned canary birds, going through a variety of amusing performances. Things appear and disappear at his command, in the most surprising and mysterious manner, so that the laws which govern inanimate objects seem to be set at defiance, and things solid and tangible become as insubstantial as the viewless air, at his word. He can find a crop of potatoes in the vest of a gentleman, demolish your watch and restore it safe and sound, and, in short, defy the scrutiny of your senses, and convince you against your will that things are as you know they are not.

MOUNTAINS.

A NEW OPERA, called "Bella in Maschera," was produced at the New York Academy of Music on Monday evening, to a crowded house and audience, with decided success. The roles were sustained by the Colson Italian troupe. It is one of the finest compositions of Verdi. The scene is in Boston.

Summary of the Daily Intelligence.

In the U. S. Senate yesterday, the usual number of petitions, memorials and remonstrances were presented. Among the petitions was one presented by Mr. Crittenden, in favor of his compromise, and signed by 23,000 citizens of Massachusetts. A sharp debate then ensued between Messrs. Sumner and Crittenden, after which the Naval Appropriation bill was taken up. Mr. Green, of Missouri, took the floor, and spoke at some length, taking the ground that Fort Sumter is not the property of the United States, and consequently is wrongfully withheld from South Carolina.

House.—In the House a report was received from the Committee on Indian Trust Bond claims, and ordered to be printed. After some unimportant business the Senate amendments to the Pacific Railroad bill were taken up, and discussed at some length, when the House adjourned.

In the State Senate yesterday a large number of petitions, memorials and remonstrances were read, and several bills were read in place. The following acts were finally disposed of: Act providing for a division of the Twenty-second ward of this city, and for the election of additional constables; a supplement to the act incorporating the Clinton Coal Company; the incorporation act of the Phœnix Hotel Company of Wilkesbarre; the supplement to the incorporation of two additional Notaries Public for the city of Philadelphia; act authorizing the Trustees of the Second Baptist Church of this city to borrow money, for the erection of a new church edifice; act relative to the payment of costs in criminal cases in Lancaster county; act incorporating Olney Library Company, and several other unimportant bills. The Senate then adjourned.

In the House the private calendar was taken up, and a number of bills prepared for second reading. After some very unimportant proceedings, a large number of bills were introduced, including the following: An act to incorporate the American Submarine and Salvage Company; incorporation act of the Philadelphia Turners' Society; supplement to the incorporation act of the Harrisburg Female Seminary; an act providing for the copying of drafts and other papers in Surveyor's office of Schuylkill county; an act relative to evidence in action in the city of Philadelphia. The House then adjourned.

In consequence of a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Sherman yesterday made an ineffectual effort to introduce the following bill into the Senate, and requested its reference—"Be it enacted, &c., that the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept from any State a guarantee of any stock of the United States, which may be hereafter issued, to the amount of the stock held by such State on deposit for safe keeping, under the provisions of the act entitled 'An act to regulate the deposit of public money, approved the 23d of June, 1836.' Provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect the provisions of the act entitled 'an Act to postpone the fourth instalment of deposits with the States,' approved October 2, 1837, requiring the three previous instalments to remain with the States until otherwise directed by Congress; and provided, further, that such guarantee shall in no event be construed or enforced as imposing any obligation to repay said deposits beyond the obligations now existing by law."

The President has issued a proclamation declaring that an extraordinary occasion requires the Senate to convene, for the transaction of business, on the 4th of March, at noon, namely, to receive and act upon such communications as may be made to it on the part of the Executive. This proclamation is in accordance with usage, and to enable the incoming President to nominate, for confirmation, the members of his Cabinet.

The Kentucky Legislature, without doing anything of a national character, adjourned on Monday, at noon. No rumors to that effect which have been rife for some time past were confirmed yesterday. In the south the gone unfeedly for Breckinridge, or the election had been thrown into the House as the third party desired, there is little doubt that the conspirators would have attempted the movement just inaugurated at Montgomery upon a much larger scale here. The knowledge of this fact doubtless induced the impression that the purpose was still entertained, which, operating upon weak minds, caused the positive belief that a combination including Gov. Wise, some opportunities of knowledge on this subject, and after much and careful inquiry, I have never been able to appreciate the fears that have prevailed in some quarters.

The Navy bill obstructs the consideration of the Tariff and other important bills in the Senate, and the amendment which led to the debate yesterday, involving the question of seven sheep-feet or a cloven-footed class, will probably be withdrawn and offered as a separate bill, in order to avoid the delay and discussion which would otherwise be inevitable. The turn which the debate took yesterday was one to be regretted on many accounts. It only served to increase the irritation, and to provoke expressions on both sides which had far better have been avoided.

The committee of conference on the Pacific Railroad bill was in session last night, and some of the members were willing to accept the compromise which he suggested between the opposing interests, as it contained the best features of the bills to ninety days instead of thirty, as first proposed, and twelve months instead of six for warehousing merchandise intended for re-exportation. The committee, however, could not finally agree to the amendment, but, of course, will endeavor to get the best terms they can. Mr. Seward is willing to support any proposition to which his New York friends will consent. The amendment to the county tax act offered by Robert J. Walker only contemplated one year for storing goods. It has gradually expanded into three' under the manipulation of the agents of foreign manufacturers, and will be surrender such as has been represented. And when Mr. Lincoln shall have conferred freely with the different interests in Congress, he will be constrained, from the necessity of the case, to reach the same conclusion. The very responsibilities which he is about to assume would compel a conservative course, even if there was no disposition on his part, such as his past career and declarations announce to be entirely genuine.

Nearly all the Commissioners from Pennsylvania are inclined to a moderate and conciliatory course, and their position is much commended in the Convention. If the other States were represented in the same spirit, but little difficulty would be found in obtaining a satisfactory settlement. The eastern and north western delegates generally, of the Republican school, refuse all compromise or opposition looking to that result, and insist that none shall be made. One great cause of embarrassment is, as I have before stated, the attitude of the cotton States, and the relations of the border States to them. Should the former go off, and still decline to commit themselves to any line of policy by which the position of the seceding States, and their treatment under the Constitution, will be distinctly defined.

Dispatches here this morning report the popular majority in Tennessee against holding a convention at about 60,000. This result is even more decisive than that of Virginia, and there is a similar vote in New York which is, at the same time, one of the most brilliant and difficult compositions ever penned for the sporano voice. The famous boleros from "Les Vespres Siciliennes" are introduced in her repertoire of the evening. Signor Stigelli has composed a new ballad expressly for this occasion, and will also give his sparkling Italian arietta "Ballin," and several of those favorite airs which have made him so popular of late. Ole Bull will perform a violin solo, as well as the grand duo from "I Masenadieri," with Miss Patti, which seems to have electrified the Boston critics. Mills, the great English pianist, has also to be heard for the first time.

Signor Bultz, the pleasantest of all the tribe of ventriloquists, and professors of sleight of hand and natural magic, is now giving a series of his entertainments at the Commonwealth Building, Chesnut street, above Sixth, north side, where may be seen his learned canary birds, going through a variety of amusing performances. Things appear and disappear at his command, in the most surprising and mysterious manner, so that the laws which govern inanimate objects seem to be set at defiance, and things solid and tangible become as insubstantial as the viewless air, at his word. He can find a crop of potatoes in the vest of a gentleman, demolish your watch and restore it safe and sound, and, in short, defy the scrutiny of your senses, and convince you against your will that things are as you know they are not.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the N. Amer. & U. S. Gaz.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 12.

Mr. Laurence (Senate) read in place a bill authorizing the commissioners of Washington county to compromise with the bondholders of the Hempfield Railroad, and to facilitate the collection of taxes in said county.

Whereas, A majority of the people of Washington county believe that the bonds issued in the name of said county, by the commissioners thereof, to aid in the building of the Hempfield Railroad, were not drawn in accordance with the will of the people; and the sheets of men and the waving of flags and handkerchiefs by the ladies, to the Burnett House, where it arrived at a quarter past five o'clock. Mr. Lincoin entered the Hotel, the band playing "Hail, Columbia," and the "Star-spangled banner."

After a few moments' rest, Mr. Lincoln made his appearance on the balcony, and was introduced by Mayor Bishop, who made a short speech as follows:

"I have pleasure in the name of this, in Cincinnati. That was a year previous to the late Presidential election. On that occasion, in a playful manner, but with sincere feeling, I announced much of what I said to the Kentuckians. I gave my opinion that we, as Republicans, would ultimately beat them as democrats, but that they could prolong the contest no longer by nominating Senator Douglas for the Presidency than they could in any other way. They did not, in any other way, and they did so nominate Mr. Douglas, and the result has come, certainly as soon as ever I expected.

"I also predicted how I expected they would be treated after they should have been beaten, and I now wish to call their attention to that. I then said: 'We shall have a long and angry time, but the good will come out of it.' Slavery is dead, or perhaps wants to know what we will do with you. I will tell you, as far as I am authorized to speak for the people, what we mean to do with you. We mean to treat you, as near as we possibly can, as Washington, Jefferson, and Madison treated you. We mean to leave you alone, and in no way to interfere with your institutions—to abide by all and every compromise of the Constitution. In a word, coming back to the original destination of affairs as you, so far as degenerate men—if we have degenerated—may, according to the noble example of those noble fathers. Let us have patience and confidence, We mean to remember that you are as good as we; that there is no difference between us other than the difference of circumstances. We ask you to recognize and bear in mind always that you have as good hearts in your bosoms as other people, or as we can in ours, and treat you accordingly.

"Fellow-citizens of Kentucky, friends, brethren—May I call you such?—in my new position of power occasion may arise to inconvenience or extract a word of this. If it shall not be made good, be assured that the fault shall not be mine."

These remarks were received with great enthusiasm.

In passing to his room, those that could rushed at Mr. Lincoln, throwing their arms around him and patting him on the back, and almost wringing his arms off.

Politicians are numerous; among them George N. Sanders and others are noticed.

This evening the President elect will receive the people generally, in the grand hall of the Burnett House, which has been decorated for the occasion. Mr. Lincoln remains over night at the Burnett.

The whole arrangements thus far have been under the charge of W. S. Wood, and have been admirable. Nothing has occurred to mar the pleasure of the journey.

Mr. Lincoln's Visit to Albany.

Albany, N. Y., Monday, Feb. 11.—The following letter, received by Gov. Morgan, was laid before the Legislature last evening:

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 4.

SIR: Your letter of the 30th ult., inviting me, on behalf of the Legislature of the State of New York, and that State on my way to Washington, and tendering me the hospitalities of the Executive and people, has been duly received. With feelings of deep gratitude to you and them for this testimonial of regard and esteem, I am constrained to say to them that I accept the invitation so kindly tendered.

Your obedient servant, A. LINCOLN.

P. S.—Please let the ceremonies be only such as to me personally become peculiar.

His Excellency E. D. Morgan, Governor of New York.

Gov. Morgan, in communicating the letter, stated that Mr. Lincoln would be in Albany next Monday, and he had detailed a portion of his staff to meet him in Buffalo and escort him to the capitol.

The Electoral Vote.

Project of a National Convention.—Movements of the Peace Conference—The Canadian Fugitive Slave Case.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The report which has been current here to the effect that part of the returns of the electoral vote had been stolen, is authoritatively contradicted. The Vice-President elect is sorry that he will declare the vote to-morrow. He says that all the States, including Oregon, have been heard from.

The Peace Conference adjourned from yesterday until to-morrow, when Guthrie's committee will report their plan of adjustment. It is likely to produce long discussion, and the session of the Convention will probably be thus prolonged till the end of this month.

The project for calling a national convention to amend the Constitution appears to be the only plan which is likely to obtain support. It shows that the government of Great Britain will adhere inflexibly to the position it has assumed.—*N. Y. Post.*

The Peace Convention—Knauss to be Represented—Project for Convention.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The Peace Convention is not in session to-day. The Committee, it is hoped, will be ready to report to-morrow or Thursday. There has been done yesterday indicated a better state of feeling and favorable action.

It is given out that the Committee on Adjustment will recommend, in favor of the restoration of the Missouri compromise line, with restrictions upon the acquisition of new territory.

Mr. Tyler left to-day, he must return to Virginia this week and take his seat as a member of the Virginia Convention, to which he was elected. He hopes he says, to make a favorable report to his State from the Washington Convention.

Gov. Guthrie, of Kentucky, accomplished that Kansas will send a delegation to the Peace Congress.

Montgomery Blair is named as the possible Secretary of War in the event of Gen. Scott's being appointed at West Point, though for many years a lawyer.

The large vote on making the Oregon war debt bill a special order for the 12th, indicates its passage. The whole claim is $6,000,000. The Commissioner reported favorably on $3,500,000, and Mr. Stanton, from the House Military Committee, rezazes it to a fifty rising $2,000,000.

The Tennessee Election.

Fifty Thousand Majority for the Union—No Convention to be Held.

Nashville, Feb. 12.—The returns are still meagre, but the indications are that the Union candidates have an aggregate majority of over 50,000, and that the question of a convention is negatived by probably 20,000 majority.

As far as heard from, only two secessionists have been elected.

Texas.

Adjournment of the State Convention—the Revenue Sutter Condemned as Unsavorthy—No Confidence placed in Governor Houston.

New Orleans, Feb. 12.—The Texas Convention adjourned on the 4th inst. to the 2d March. A committee of safety was appointed to remain at Austin to the meeting.

The Convention adopted a resolution thanking Senators Wigfall and Hemphill, and Representative Reagan, for their Congressional course, and censuring Representative Hamilton.

The revenue cutter at Galveston, was condemned as unseaworthy, and her armament, ammunition and tunneled over to the Coast Survey of Harbors.

There was not much disposition shown either by the convention or the Legislature to be loud to Gen. Houston.

The Legislature was engaged in the discussion of financial matters. There were much opposition to the stay law, but it will doubtless be passed.

New Jersey Legislature.

Trenton Feb. 12.—The Princeton and Millstone Railroad bill was introduced in the Legislature, and the Hunterdon, Somerset and Delaware Railroad was reported in the House. The railroad fight will begin during the week.

Governor Olden has vetoed the Vincentown branch of the Burlington Railroad to-day, on the ground of extraordinary and unusual privileges, interfering with the faith of the State to other companies.

The House has concurred in the Senate resolutions appointing a committee to make arrangements for the reception of the President elect, and appointed Messrs. Tuttle, Randolph, Wheeler, Schenck, and Mulford, on the part of the House.

The North Carolina Legislature.

Raleigh, Feb. 12.—The Senate to-day rejected the bill to abolish the poll tax, and to increase *ad valorem* taxation. The vote was reconsidered.

The House acted on the Railroad bill.

To-morrow evening Hon. Samuel Hall, Commissioner from Georgia, will have a formal reception.

The excitement about Federal matters has quieted completely.

DEPARTURE OF THE BOHEMIAN—*Portland, Feb.* 12—The steamer Bohemian sailed for Liverpool this morning.

The Demands on the Treasury.

Letter from Secretary Dix.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The following communication has been addressed by the Secretary of the Treasury to Mr. Sherman, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means:

SIR—I deem it my duty to call your attention to the pressing demands on the Treasury, and to suggest the only mode of meeting them without seriously impairing the public credit. The liabilities due, and to fall due before the 4th of March next, are as follows: For the State Department, $116,868; for the Interior Department, $1,802,327; for the War Department, $1,821,136; for the Navy Department, $1,060,000; for the Post-office Department, $700,000; requisitions for the War and Navy not complied with, $1,353,000. Treasury notes falling due before the 4th of March, $1,503,000 for the Treasury debt, $501,423 for the Light-house Board, $78,220 for fishing bounties, estimated at $465,522.

The above are the round numbers, making a total of $9,901,118. The accruing revenue will, it is estimated, not about $1,900,000 of the amount, leaving about $8,000,000 to be borrowed. There is in the Treasury, subject to the draft of the Treasurer of the United States, but little more than half a million, and there are requisitions in the Treasury Department amounting to nearly $10,000,000 unanswered. In the present condition of the country it would be impossible to borrow the money needed to meet the wants of the treasury unless at a discount so large as to seriously impair the public credit, without some pledge in addition to that of the faith of the government. Under the constitution of the United States, no appropriation can be made except in pursuance of law, and no duty, be the demand ever so pressing, can be performed by the Secretary of the Treasury unless authorized by law. Under the circumstances, I respectfully suggest the propriety of authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow, on the credit of the duties on imports, the amount required to meet the liabilities due, and to fall due before the 4th of March, can be obtained on terms which will be satisfactory to the country. If such a loan cannot be procured on terms which would be exceedingly disadvantageous to the government, and then we are to be determined to stop credit. I should not venture to ask for a loan exceeding $2,000,000, and nearly the whole of this amount would be required to meet the redemption of the Treasury notes to fall due before the 4th of March. There would be due on that day about six millions of dollars in the Treasury. These demands I could not remain unsatisfied without subjecting them to most serious inconveniences, and in some cases to great losses. I have discharged my duty to them and to the country by making this exhibit of the public wants, and in pointing out the only mode by which they can be met. The credit is ample without the most serious consequences to the interests of the government and the individuals to whom it is indebted. The short time to elapse before the close of the present session of Congress renders it indispensable that I should advertise for a loan on the 25th or 26th inst. at the furthest.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DIX, Secretary of the Treasury.

The following is the letter which Mr. Sherman ineffectually endeavored to introduce:

Be it enacted, &c., That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept from any State a guaranty of any stock of the United States, which may be hereafter issued, to the amount of the stock held by such State for safe keeping, under the provisions of the act entitled "An act to regulate the deposit of public money, approved the 23d of June, 1836." Provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect the provisions of the act entitled 'an Act to postpone the fourth instalment of deposits with the States,' approved October 2, 1837, requiring the three previous instalments to remain with the States until otherwise directed by Congress; and provided, further, that such guarantee shall in no event be construed or enforced as imposing any obligation to repay said deposits beyond the obligations now existing by law."

From Washington.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The resignation of Capt. Rossean, of Louisiana, has been accepted by the Secretary of the Navy.

Commodore Semmes has been transferred from duty as Secretary of the Lighthouse Board, and appointed a member of the Board, and Commander Tilton, deceased, and Commander Jenkins has been appointed Secretary of the Board.

In consequence of the closure of the arsenals in the southern States with the ordnance stores therein, including the gunpowder intended for the service of the navy, the Secretary of the Navy, on the advice of the Ordnance Bureau, through the Secretary of War, has asked the House for an additional appropriation. It is proposed to purchase the powder, including the purchase of gunpowder, of $100,000, and for ordnance and ordnance supplies an equal amount.

The Select Committee of Five dispatched two of its members yesterday after Governor Hicks, to testify as to his power to seize the capital, but while they were on the way to Annapolis the Governor was on the train for Washington. He will be examined to-day or to-morrow.

The Senate confirmed, to-day, the nomination of Horatio King as Postmaster General, together with a number of deputy postmasters and other minor appointments.

The Southern Congress.

A Settlement of the Difficulties with the United States Proposed—Commissioners Appointed.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 12.—The Standing Committees were announced.

The President read a dispatch which he had received from the Louisiana State Convention, cordially approving of the election of Davis and Stephens.

The design for the seal and flag of the confederacy were referred.

A resolution was offered that until otherwise provided for, the several officers of the customs shall be continued in office. Referred.

A resolution was offered and referred, requesting the Secretary of State on Foreign Affairs to inquire into the propriety and necessity of sending Commissioners to the government of the United States, as soon as the provisional government is inaugurated.

The Convention then went into secret session, during which the following resolution was adopted. The injunction of secrecy was removed.

Resolved, That this government takes under its charge the questions of the difficulties now existing between the sovereign States of this confederacy and the government of the United States relating to the occupation of forts, arsenals, navy yards and other public establishments. And the President of this Congress is directed to communicate this resolution to the Governors of the several States.

Kentucky Legislature.

Louisville, Feb. 12.—The Kentucky Legislature, without doing anything of a national character, adjourned yesterday, at noon, till the 20th of March, at least the action of the Peace Commissioners at Washington.

THE TARIFF—THE BOARD OF TRADE COMMITTEE AT WASHINGTON.—*Washington, Feb.* 12.—The committee appointed by the Philadelphia Board of Trade to confer with the Committee of Ways and Means, arrived here this morning, and have already entered actively on their labors of promoting the passage of the Tariff bill, which is expected to be taken up in the Senate on Monday.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—*Norfolk, Feb.* 12.—Last night an engine, with three empty cars, were thrown into the southern branch of the Elizabeth river. The draw-bridge was open, and the engineer was deceived by the signal. No one was seriously hurt.

The Latest Domestic Markets.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 12—Flour active, at a decline of 25c; Howard street $5 12½. Wheat dull, at $1 25@1 30 for prime to choice red, and $1 32@1 35 for white. Corn active, at 60@60c for white. Provisions steady, and unchanged. Whisky dull, at 21½c.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 12—Cotton—Sales of 16,000 bales at 10½c@11c for middlings. Sales of three days at 60,000 bales. Receipts of the week 30,000 bales, and last year. Receipts since last mail 7,000 bales. Receipts at all the ports since last mail 37,000 bales. Sugar steady at 4½@5½c. Molasses 26@27c. Flour quiet at $5 75@6 00. Corn, 60c. Whisky 21½c.

COLLECTING DEBTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—A large commercial house in New York some time since sent to their agent, a lawyer in South Carolina, a number of notes to collect, and among them one for $1800, which were about to mature, to be collected. They received no intelligence from the legal gentleman aforesaid until a few days ago, when the notes were all returned, having been kept by him until they were sixty days over due. Accompanying the notes was a letter from the agent stating that he considered himself an honest man, but he would not collect debts against the citizens of South Carolina, whose property was pledged for the payment of the debts. He forged judgments upon good men in the county, and sold them to capitalists at a discount of seventy per cent., at the same time agreeing to collect them without charge. He was engaged for several weeks in selling these fictitious judgments. Shortly thereafter he left he bore rowed money from several parties.

FROM HAYTI—EMIGRANTS FROM LOUISIANA.—By the arrival of the brig War Eagle, from Port au Prince, we are placed in possession of Hayti papers to the 15th inst.

The festival of the 15th of January, the second anniversary of the revolution of 1858, was celebrated at Port au Prince with much pomp and ceremony. The city was illuminated in the evening.

There have been further arrivals of emigrants from Louisiana, principally of the mechanical and mechanical implements, and have settled with the other Louisianians at St. Marc.—*N. Y. Post.*

Finance, Trade and Commerce.

NEW YORK MARKET.

Correspondence of the North American & U. S. Gazette.

NEW YORK, February 12.

Ashes—There is more inquiry for both kinds and the market is firmer. Pots are held at $5 25 and pearls at $5 25 for Pearls.

Flour, &c.—The inquiry for Western and State Flour is moderate, and the low grades of the former are easier, while the higher grades are unchanged. The sales at the close; the arrivals are not large, but there is still much difficulty in drawing off the stocks. The sales of the day at the chief cause of the inactivity that prevails; the better grades of the latter are unchanged. The sales of 10,000 bbls at $5 20@5 30 for fine Western; $5 05@5 15 for superfine Western; $5 30@5 35 for common to medium extra Western; $5 20@5 25 for extra State; $5 30@5 35 for choice do; $5 45@5 50 for common to medium extra round hoop Ohio; $5 50@$7 00 for trade brands do.

Southern—The sales are limited and quiet; the sales are 200 bbls at $5 15@$7 25 for extras. Southern Flour is in better demand, and prices are firmer, while the sales of lower rates are accepted; the arrivals are limited; sales of 300 bbls at $5 20@$5 70 for mixed to good and fancy Baltimore, &c., and $5 30@$7 25 for good brands. Rye flour is steady at $4 20@$4 25 for fine and $4 for low. Corn meal is dull and heavy at $3 30@$4 10. Corn meal is dull and heavy at $3 10@$3 20 for Jersey and Brandywine, and $3 20@$3 30 for Brandywine.

Grain—Wheat continues to be in moderate request, but with few sellers at our inside figures; the demand is confined to small lots for export; but as the sales are 2000 bushels No. 2 Chicago spring, reported at $1 14½; 2000 bushels white Canada, club at $1 27½; 1200 bushels red western, in bags, at the railroad depot, at $1 29@$1 30; 1000 bushels white Ohio, at $1 30; 2000 bushels white Ohio and Michigan at $1 40@$1 45; and 600 bushels white Indiana at $1 40. Rye is dull and 1c lower; more active, the demand is chiefly in Philadelphia and Canada east. Barley mall is steady; sales of 2000 bush, at 62@63c for two rowed State; and 65@67c for State, and 70@72c for Canada east. Barley malt is steady; sales of 2000 bush, at 82@85c. Oats are dull and 1c lower; sales of 4500 bush at 32@33c for western and Canada, and 36½@37c for State, and 38@39c for Jersey. Corn is rather lower, but with more inquiry for export; sales of 40,000 bush at 62@63c for mixed western, in bags, at the railroad depot, and 63@64c for white Ohio and Michigan at $1 40@$1 45; and 600 bushels white Indiana at $1 40. Rye is dull and 1c lower; sales of 2000 bush, at 90c@$1 00 for Canada east. Barley malt is steady; sales of 2000 bush, at 82@85c. Barley is dull and 1c lower; sales of 4500 bush at 62@63c for western and Canada, and 36½@37c for State, and 38@39c for Jersey. Corn is rather lower, but with more inquiry for export; sales of 40,000 bush at 62@63c for mixed western, in bags, at the railroad depot, at $1 29@$1 30; 1000 bushels white Ohio and Michigan at $1 40@$1 45; and 600 bushels white Indiana at $1 40. Rye is dull and 1c lower; sales of 2000 bush, at 90c@$1 00 for Canada east. Barley malt is steady; sales of 2000 bush, at 82@85c. Barley is dull and 1c lower; sales of 4500 bush at 62@63c for western, and 36½@37c for State, and 38@39c for Jersey. Corn is rather lower, but with more inquiry for export; sales of 40,000 bush at 62@63c for mixed western, in bags, at the railroad depot, at $1 29@$1 30; 1000 bushels white Ohio and Michigan at $1 40@$1 45; and 600 bushels white Indiana at $1 40. Rye is dull and 1c lower; sales of 2000 bush, at 90c@$1 00 for Canada east. Barley malt is steady; sales of 2000 bush, at 82@85c. Barley is dull and 1c lower; sales of 4500 bush at 62@63c for western, and 36½@37c for State, and 38@39c for Jersey. Corn is rather lower, but with more inquiry for export; sales of 40,000 bush at 62@63c for mixed western, in bags, at the railroad depot, at $1 29@