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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Throughout the year since our last meeting, the country has been eminently prosperous in all its material interests...

Why is it, then, that discontent now so extensively prevails, and the Union of the States, which is the source of all these blessings, is threatened with destruction?

These a sense of security no longer exists around the family altar. This feeling of peace at home has given place to apprehensions of servile insurrection.

But let us take warning in time, and remove the cause of danger. It cannot be denied that, for five and twenty years, the agitation at the North against slavery in the South has been incessant.

They, and they alone, can do it. All that is necessary to accomplish this object, and of which the Government has the means, is to be determined to do it.

VALLEY SPIRIT.

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

VOLUME 14.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12, 1860.

NUMBER 25.

Upon their good sense and patriotic forebears I confess I still greatly rely. Without their aid, it is beyond the power of any President, no matter what may be his own political predilections, to restore peace and harmony among the States.

And this brings me to observe that the election of any one of our fellow-citizens to the office of President does not of itself afford just cause for dissolving the Union. This is more especially true if his election has been effected by a mere plurality, and not a majority, of the people, and has resulted from transient and temporary causes, which may probably never again occur.

It is said, however, that the antecedents of the President elect have been sufficient to justify the fears of the South that he will attempt to invade their constitutional rights. But are such apprehensions of contingent danger in the future sufficient to justify the immediate destruction of the noblest system of government ever devised by mortals?

It is alleged as one cause for immediate secession that the Southern States are denied equal rights with the other States in the common Territories. But by what authority are these denied? Not by Congress, which has never passed, and I believe never will pass, any act to exclude slavery from these Territories; and certainly not by the Supreme Court, which has solemnly decided that slaves are property, and, like all other property, their owners have a right to take them into the common Territories, and hold them there under the protection of the Constitution.

So far, then, as Congress is concerned, the objection is not to anything they have already done, but to what they may do hereafter. It will surely be admitted that this apprehension of future danger is no good reason for an immediate dissolution of the Union. It is true that the territorial legislature of Kansas, on the 23d of February, 1860, passed in great haste an act, over the veto of the Governor, declaring that slavery "is, and shall be, forever prohibited in this territory."

Only three days after my inauguration the Supreme Court of the United States solemnly adjudged that this power did not exist in a territorial legislature. Yet such has been the furious temper of the times that the correctness of this decision has been extensively impugned before the people, and the question has given rise to angry political passions throughout the country.

the question whether slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits. This is an act of sovereign authority, and not of subordinate territorial legislation. Were it otherwise, then indeed would the equality of the States in the Territories be destroyed, and the rights of property in slaves would depend, not upon the guarantees of the Constitution, but upon the shifting majorities of an irresponsible territorial legislature.

The most palpable violation of constitutional duty which has yet been committed consists in the acts of different State legislatures to defeat the execution of the fugitive-slave law. It ought to be remembered, however, that for these acts, neither Congress nor any President can justly be held responsible. Having been passed in violation of the Federal Constitution, they are therefore null and void. All the courts, both State and national, before whom the question has arisen, have from the beginning declared the fugitive-slave law to be constitutional. The single exception is that of a State court in Wisconsin; and this has not only been reversed by the proper appellate tribunal, but has met with such universal reprobation that there can be no danger from it as a precedent.

Without this provision it is a well known historical fact that the Constitution itself could never have been adopted by the convention. In one form or other under the acts of 1793 and 1850, both being substantially the same, the fugitive-slave law has been the law of the land from the days of Washington until the present moment. Here, then, a clear case is presented, in which it will be the duty of the next President, as it has been my own, to act with vigor in executing this supreme law against the conflicting enactments of State legislatures.

The Southern States, standing on the basis of the Constitution, have a right to demand this act of justice from the States of the North. Should it be refused, then the Constitution, to which all the States are parties, will have been wilfully violated by one portion of them in a provision essential to the domestic security and happiness of the remainder. To that extent, the injured States, after having first used all peaceful and constitutional means to obtain redress, would be justified in revolutionary resistance to the Government of the Union.

I have purposely confined my remarks to revolutionary resistance, because it has been claimed within the last few years that any State, whenever she shall be its sovereign will and pleasure, may secede from the Union, in accordance with the Constitution, and without any violation of the Constitutional rights of the other members of the Confederacy.

In order to justify secession as a constitutional remedy, it must be on the principle that the Federal Government is a mere voluntary association of States, to be dissolved at pleasure by any one of the contracting parties. If this be so, the Confederacy is a rope of sand, to be quartered and dissolved by the first adverse wave of public opinion in any of the States.

first man of the country. Its opponents contended that it conferred powers upon the Federal Government dangerous to the rights of the States, whilst its advocates maintained that under a fair construction of the instrument there was no foundation for such apprehensions. In that mighty struggle between the first intellects of this or any other country, it never occurred to any individual, either among its opponents or advocates, to assert or even to intimate, that their efforts were all vain labor, because the moment that any State felt herself aggrieved she might secede from the Union.

It is not pretended that any clause in the Constitution gives countenance to such a theory. It is altogether founded upon inference, not from any language contained in the instrument itself, but from the sovereign character of the several States by which it was ratified. But is it beyond the power of a State, like an individual, to yield a portion of its sovereign rights to secure the remainder? In the language of Mr. Madison, who has been called the father of the Constitution: "It was formed by the States—that is by the people in each of the States, acting in their highest sovereign capacity; and formed consequently by the same authority which formed the State Constitutions."

"Nor is the Government of the United States, created by the Constitution, less a Government in the strict sense of the term within the sphere of its powers, than the governments created by the constitutions of the States are, within their several spheres. It is, like them, organized into legislative, executive, and judiciary departments. It operates, like them, directly on persons and things; and, like them, it has at command a physical force for executing the powers committed to it."

But that the Union was designed to be perpetual appears conclusively from the nature and extent of the powers conferred by the Constitution on the Federal Government. These powers embrace the very highest attributes of national sovereignty. They place both the sword and purse under its control. Congress has power to make war, and to make peace; to raise and support armies and navies, and to conclude treaties with foreign governments.

But the Constitution has not only conferred these high powers upon Congress, but it has adopted effectual means to restrain the States from interfering with their exercise. For that purpose it has, in strong prohibitory language, expressly declared that "no State shall enter into any treaty, alliance or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts."

peace; enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign power; or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

In order still further to secure the uninterrupted exercise of these high powers against State interposition, it is provided that this Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The solemn sanction of religion has been superadded to the obligations of official duty, and all senators and representatives of the United States, all members of State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, "both of the United States, and of the several States shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution."

In order to carry into effect these provisions, the Constitution has established a perfect Government in all its forms, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial; and this Government, to the extent of its powers, acts directly upon the individual citizens of every State, and executes its own decrees by the agency of its own officers.

This left it in the discretion of each whether to obey or to refuse, and they often declined to comply with such requisitions. It thus became necessary, for the purpose of removing this barrier, and "in order to form a more perfect Union," to establish a Government which could act directly upon the people, and execute its own laws without the intermediate agency of the States. This has been accomplished by the Constitution of the United States.

In short, the Government created by the Constitution, and deriving its authority from the sovereign people of each of the several States, has precisely the same rights to exercise its power over the people of all these States, in the enumerated cases, that each one of them possesses over subjects not delegated to the United States but "reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people."

To the extent of the delegated powers the Constitution of the United States is as much a part of the constitution of each State, and is as binding upon its people, as though it had been textually inserted therein.

This Government, therefore, is a great and powerful Government, invested with all the attributes of sovereignty over the special subjects in which its authority extends. Its framers never intended to implant in its bosom the seeds of its own destruction, nor were they at its creation guilty of the absurdity of providing for its own dissolution. It was not intended by its framers to be the useless fabric of a vain wish, at the touch of the enhancer, would vanish into thin air, but a substantial and mighty fabric, capable of resisting the slow decay of time, and of defying the storms of ages.

Indeed, well may the jealous patriots of that day have indulged fears that a government of such high powers might violate the reserved rights of the States, and wisely did they adopt the rule of a strict construction of these powers to prevent the danger! But they did not fear, nor had they any reason to imagine, that the Constitution would ever be so interpreted as to enable any State, by her own act, and without the consent of her sister States, to discharge her people from all or any of their Federal obligations.

It may be asked, then, are the people of the States without redress against the tyranny and oppression of the Federal Government? By no means. The right of resistance on the part of the governed against the oppression of their government cannot be denied. It exists independently of all constitutions, and has been exercised at all periods of the world's history. Under its old governments have been destroyed and new ones have taken their place. It is embodied in strong and express language in our own Declaration of Independence. But the distinction must ever be observed, that this is a revolution against an obsolete government, and not a voluntary secession from it by virtue of an inherent constitutional right. In short, let us look the danger fairly in the face—Secession is neither more nor less than revolution. It may or may not be a justifiable revolution, but still it is revolution.

through whose agency alone these laws can be carried into execution, have already resigned. We no longer have a district judge, a district attorney, or a marshal in South Carolina. In fact, the whole machinery of the Federal Government, necessary for the distribution of remedial justice among the people, has been done away with; and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to replace it.

The only oath of Congress on the statute-book, bearing upon this subject, are those of the 20th February, 1797, and of the 18th March, 1802, authorizing the President, after he shall have ascertained that the martial law has been proclaimed, to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in any particular case, or to nullify the writ in any particular case, and to nullify the writ in performing this service, having first by Proclamation commanded the insurgents to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within a limited time. This duty cannot be possibly performed in a State where no judicial authority exists to issue a writ, and where there is no marshal to execute it, and where, even if there were such an officer, the entire population would constitute one solid combination to resist him.

The same irreparable obstacles do not lie in the way of executing the laws for the collection of the customs. The revenue still continues to be collected, as heretofore, at the custom house in Charleston; and should the collectors be unfortunately seized, a commissioner may be appointed to perform this duty.

Then in regard to the property of the United States in South Carolina. This has been purchased for a fair equivalent, "by the consent of the Legislature of the State," for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, &c., and over these the authority "to exercise legislation" has been expressly granted by the Constitution to Congress. It is not believed that any attempt will be made to force the United States to provide for the forts; but if it should prove to be necessary, the officer in command of the forts has received orders to act strictly on the defensive. In such a contingency, the responsibility for consequences would rightfully rest upon the heads of the assailants.

As to the execution of the laws, so far as this may be practicable, the Executive has an authority to employ the militia in the relations between the Federal Government and South Carolina. He has been invested with such discretion. He possesses no power to change the relations heretofore existing between them, such as to acknowledge the independence of that State. This would be to invest a mere Executive officer with the power of recognizing the dissolution of the Confederacy among our thirty-three sovereign States. It bears no resemblance to the recognition of a foreign de facto government, involving no such responsibility.

Any attempt to do this would, on its part, be a naked act of usurpation. It is, therefore, my duty to submit to Congress the whole question in all its bearings. The course of events is so rapidly changing, that it is difficult to say what course will be taken. It will be to invest a mere Executive officer with the power of recognizing the dissolution of the Confederacy among our thirty-three sovereign States. It bears no resemblance to the recognition of a foreign de facto government, involving no such responsibility.

The question fairly stated is: Has the Constitution delegated to Congress the power to secede a State into submission which is attempting to withdraw or has actually withdrawn from the Confederacy? If answered in the affirmative, it must be decided whether a secession has been conferred upon Congress to declare and make war against a State. After much serious reflection I have arrived at the conclusion that no such power has been delegated to Congress or to any other department of the Federal Government. It is manifest, upon an inspection of the Constitution, that this is not among the specific and enumerated powers granted to Congress; and it is equally apparent that its exercise is not "necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any one of these powers. So far from this power having been delegated to Congress, it is expressly denied by the Constitution which framed the Constitution.

It appears, from the proceedings of that body, that on the 31st May, 1787, the clause "authorizing an election of the forces to be raised against a State in rebellion," was proposed, and Mr. Madison opposed it in a brief but powerful speech, from which I shall extract but a single sentence. He observed: "The use of force against a State would look more like a declaration of war than an act of justice; and would probably be considered by the people as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound."

Upon his motion the clause was unanimously postponed, and was never introduced again. Seen afterwards, on the 6th of June, 1787, the clause was introduced, and Mr. Madison said: "Any Government for the United States, formed on the proposed principle of raising force against the unconstitutional proceedings of the States, would prove as visionary and fallacious as the Government of Congress," and he concluded by saying that the clause was rejected by the Convention which framed the Constitution.

Without descending to particulars, it may be safely assumed, that the power to make war against a State is at variance with the whole spirit and intent of the Constitution. Suppose such a war should result in the formation of a State, how are we to govern it afterwards? We hold it as a province, and govern it as we could not? In the nature of things we would not; by physical force, control the will of the people and compel them to elect members and representatives to Congress, and to elect all the other duties depending upon their own will, and required from the free citizens of a free State as a constituent member of the Confederacy.

preparations, and are long will, if preserved...

It is not every wrong—may it be every grievous wrong, which can justify a resort to such a fearful alternative.

Again, the Constitution was amended by the same process after the election of President Jefferson in 1803.

In this connection, I shall merely call attention to a few sentences in Mr. Madison's justly celebrated report to the Legislature of Virginia.

This is the very course which I earnestly recommend in order to obtain an explanatory amendment to the final settlement of the true construction of the Constitution.

1. An express recognition of the right of property in slaves in the States where it now exists or may hereafter exist.

2. The duty of protecting this right in all the States throughout their respective territories.

3. A like recognition of the right of the master to his slave, who has escaped from one State to another, returned and delivered to him, and so on.

It may be objected that this construction of the Constitution has already been settled by the Supreme Court of the United States.

It is not to be denied that the Supreme Court of the United States has settled the question.

When I entered upon the duties of the Presidential office, the support neither of our foreign nor domestic affairs was at all satisfactory.

A restoration of the African slave trade had numerous and powerful advocates.

In addition to these and other difficulties, we encountered a situation in necessary efforts to secure the peace and good will of our country.

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tion and balance treaty and to the right of search granted to the British government...

The dissenting construction of the Oregon and Humber treaty between the two governments, which at different periods of the discussion, bore a threatening aspect, has resulted in a final settlement entirely satisfactory to this Government.

It must be a source of sincere satisfaction to all classes of our fellow-citizens, and especially to those engaged in foreign commerce, that the claims, on the part of Great Britain, forcibly to visit and search American merchant vessels on the high seas in time of peace, have been abandoned.

The only question of any importance which still remains open is the dispute title between the United States and the island of San Juan, in the vicinity of Washington Territory.

The recent visit of the Prince of Wales, in a private character, to the people of this country, has produced a most gratifying result.

Under this convention the sum of 500,000 taels, equal to about \$700,000, was stipulated to be paid in satisfaction of the claims of American citizens.

With France, our ancient and powerful ally, our relations continue to be of the most friendly character.

With the Emperor of Russia, the mutual friendship and regard which has so long existed still continues to prevail.

Our relations with Spain are now of a more complicated though less dangerous character than they have been for many years.

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This offer, of course, cannot be accepted. All other claims of citizens of the United States, on the subject of the Amistad claim, were by this convention referred to a board of commissioners in the usual form.

These proceedings place our relations with Spain in an awkward and embarrassing position. It is more than probable that the final adjustment of these claims will develop upon us a new era.

With the Emperor of Austria, and the remaining continental powers of Europe, including that of the Sultan, our relations continue to be of the most friendly character.

The friendly and peaceful policy pursued by the Government of the United States towards the empire of China has produced the most satisfactory results.

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ably terminated which had become so serious at the period of my inauguration, as to require me, on the 12th April, 1857, to disengage my minister in demand his passport and return to the United States.

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Having discovered that my recommendation would not be sustained by Congress, the next day I was obliged to resign my office. It was, of course, possible, the same day, to resign my office.

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treasury had expended habits of profligacy and extravagance which could only be corrected by a more judicious and economical management. The work required both time and patience.

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extending from the beginning of August...

In his last message I gave warning that...

It is now quite evident that the financial...

As a manufacturer it may be admitted...

It is now quite evident that the financial...

Under the present system it has been often...

Under the present system it has been often...

in his report to Congress; and to recommend...

The report of the Postmaster (General...

I should do great injustice to the Attorney...

I cordially commend to your favorable...

WASHINGTON CITY, 3d December, 1860.

MISCELLANEOUS. GROVER & BAKER'S...

After trying another machine and not being...

I have had one of Grover & Baker's...

I have had one of Grover & Baker's...

STOVES, TINWARE, & CO. LARD CANS!

Lard Presses with Sheet-Iron Pans...

SOMETHING NEW--Illustrating...

Gas burning Stoves, the latest style...

Large supply of Lard Presses...

New Shrubbery Stove for heating...

The largest assortment of Cook...

Coal Stoves, Coal Shovels and Coal...

A new article of Coffee Roaster...

Large assortment of Glass Lab...

LETTER & HAMILTON, DEALERS IN...

TINWARE--I have always on hand...

COOKING STOVES--About twenty...

TIN COPPER AND SHEET IRON...

NEW FIRM. LETTER & HAMILTON.

THE undersigned, thankful for the encouragement...

J. B. MILLER'S TINWARE STORE AND...

SLATE! SLATE! SLATE!!!

PROFESSIONAL CARDS. REMOVAL--Geo. W. Brewer has...

LAW FIRM. JAMES WELLS & T. S. WELLS.

DR. JOHN MCGILVERAY.

DUNCAN & WELSH, ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

LYMAN S. CLARK, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

J. H. McCAULEY, Attorney at Law.

ROBISON & CARLLE, ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

LAW PARTNERSHIP--The undersigned...

J. W. BOLGLAS, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

HUGH J. CAMPBELL, ATTORNEY & COMMERCIAL LAW.

J. R. & T. X. ORR, ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

PHILIP MAMMON, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

H. B. DAIVISON, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

DR. W. H. BOYLE, Will attend...

A. CARD--Dr. A. P. Madden, having...

A. LEXY R. SMAW, M. D., Would inform the citizens...

W. M. McLENNAN, Surgeon Dentist.

D. W. W. & Rev. N. S. SLOSSER, SURGEONS AND DENTISTS.

DRUGS, & CO. Let there be Light!

A Lamp for 20 Cents.

Drugs, Medicine, Perfumery, Soaps...

Strengthening Plaster at 25 Cents.

Bain's Barber Soap at 25 Cents.

Castle White and Variegated Soap.

Glycerine at 25 Cents.

Lily White at 25 Cents.

Meen Fan at 25 Cents.

SPANGLER has none but the best...

Perfumes and Pompones at 25 Cents.

Hair and Cloth Brushes at 25 Cents.

Nail and Teeth Brushes at 25 Cents.

Shoulder Braces at 25 Cents.

Trusses at 25 Cents.

Supporters at 25 Cents.

Nursing Bottles at 25 Cents.

Gum Shields at 25 Cents.

MEDICAL. Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD.

St. Anthony's Fire, Rheum or Striptaine...

Leucorrhoea, Gonor or Swelled Neck...

Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

VALLEY SPIRIT.

CHAMBERSBURG, PA. Wednesday Evening, Dec. 12, 1860. G. W. H. H. P. P. Publisher and Proprietor.

News of the Week.

The discussion feeling is rapidly increasing in the South while the North is waking up to the danger and talking earnestly about concessions and compromises to avert the calamitous result. The South demands nothing more than a repeal of the Personal Liberty Bills by the States which have enacted them, and this, certainly, would not be making much of a sacrifice to save the Union.

From the spirit manifested in the debates in Congress, the past week, it is evident nothing can be expected from its deliberations that will save the country from the terrible catastrophe towards which it is hurrying. Its members are wrangling among themselves and stirring up old animosities and sect and feelings, while every spark of patriotism that should animate them in the present crisis is smothered out in all they say and do.

The Hon. A. H. STEPHENS, of Georgia, is out in a letter on secession in which he states—"when this Union is discovered, if of necessity it must be, I see at present but little prospect of good government afterwards. At the North, I feel confident, anarchy will soon ensue."

On Wednesday last the Electoral Colleges met in the several States of the Union and cast their votes in accordance with the popular vote of the States in which they were elected. The electoral votes of the whole country are divided as follows:

- For Lincoln and Hamlin 180
For Breckinridge and Lane 72
For Bell and Everett 39
For Douglas and Johnson 12

The general complexion of money matters over the country present a most deplorable aspect. The Boston Courier says "the share market continues its retrograde movement and prices melt away steadily as ice before a July sun." The New York papers say "the feeling in financial circles is exceedingly gloomy."

ready cost the country in the loss on stocks and other public securities not less than one hundred millions of dollars. The loss on the grain crop of the United States is estimated at thirty millions of dollars. The decline in the price of cotton will involve a loss of not less than fifty millions of dollars, and that in bags is put down at twenty millions of dollars.

Two of the shoe manufacturers in Natick have recently failed, with liabilities estimated at \$125,000. Between two and three hundred shoemakers are out of employment, with little prospect of improvement in the business. The shoe business in Haverhill is about at a stand-still.

The Homestead bill which passed the House of Representatives of Thursday, Dec. 5, and is now before the Senate, provides that any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of 21 years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws, shall be entitled to enter, free of cost, one hundred and sixty acres of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a pre-emption claim, or which may be subject to pre-emption, at \$1.25 per acre.

Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has always been looked upon as a conservative State. The Republicans themselves conceded to her this character and threw SEWARD overboard at Chicago to secure her vote for their candidate for the Presidency. Yet, in spite of her good repute for political honesty and temperance, it turns out that her statute book is disgraced by a most dishonest and intemperate law tending to deprive Southern citizens of their property.

This law is one of the things that is breaking up the Union! If we want to save the Union we must repeal it. It is unconstitutional, unjust, and a violation of our duties as good neighbors. Let us do justice to our neighbors and to our own character by striking it from our statute book without unnecessary delay.

What will the representatives of Franklin county do! Messrs. McCLECK, BREWSTER and AUSTIN will not undertake to say that a citizen of Maryland ought not to be allowed to come into Pennsylvania and retake his runaway slave. And if they will not say that, they certainly will not refuse to vote for the repeal of a law which makes it hazardous for a Marylander to attempt the recapture of his slave on our soil.

A Letter from Lincoln. It is reported in Washington, Ga. Senator Davis, of Mississippi, has received a dispatch from Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, stating that Mr. Lincoln was preparing a letter for publication, defining his position upon the question now dominating the politics of the country, which will, in all, give entire satisfaction to the South.

The President's Message.

The last annual message of President BUCHANAN was read on Tuesday the 4th inst. to what will probably be the last Congress of these United States, if the wise and patriotic recommendations of the President shall not be responded to by the representatives of the people.

The message very justly attributes the present threatening aspect of national affairs to the long-continued and intemperate interference of the Northern people with the question of slavery in the Southern States. A hope is expressed that the State Legislatures will repeal their unconstitutional and obnoxious enactments obstructing the execution of the fugitive slave law, and the opinion is given that unless this shall be done without unnecessary delay, it will be impossible for any human power to save the Union.

The President does not think that the election of LINCOLN to the Presidency affords just cause for dissolving the Union. In his opinion, reason, justice, and a regard for the Constitution, according to the forms of which LINCOLN has been elected, all require that we shall wait for some overt and dangerous act on the part of the new President before resorting to such a remedy.

On the subject of the power of the government to compel a State to remain in the Union—a question which Congress will very soon have to pass upon—the President has arrived at the conclusion that no such power has been delegated to Congress or to any other department of the government. Indeed this power was expressly refused by the Convention which framed the Constitution.

It is suggested that Congress can contribute much to rescue the Union from the perils that encompass it, by proposing and recommending to the Legislatures of the several States the remedy which the Constitution has itself provided for its own preservation. This has been tried at different critical periods of our history, and always with eminent success.

The message states that our foreign relations are, in the main, in a satisfactory condition. But the San Juan dispute with Great Britain is not yet adjusted, and our relations with Spain are of a more complicated though less dangerous character than they have been for many years.

Congress is urged to pass a law appointing a day previous to the fourth of March in each year of an odd number, for the election of members of Congress throughout all the States. The design is to have a full new Congress elected before the expiration of the old Congress.

An increase of the Tariff, and the substitution of specific for ad valorem duties on certain articles, is advocated ably and earnestly. Specific duties, it is argued and proved, would not necessarily be more burdensome to consumers than ad valorem duties, at the same time that they would secure to the American manufacturer more uniform and beneficial incidental protection.

The reports of the heads of the various Departments are alluded to, and their recommendations commended to the consideration of Congress. High praise is bestowed upon the Attorney General for his successful defense of the government against ingeniously manufactured claims to lands of immense value in California. He has saved nearly millions of dollars to the United States and a like amount to

honest individuals holding title under them.

The message concludes, as these documents usually do, by recommending that great National Poorhouse, the District of Columbia, to the favorable regard to Congress.

The Gospel According to St. Beecher.

It is in general unjustifiable to spoil a good point for the mere sake of accuracy. A joke is a joke; and the jester, be he parson or layman, must be allowed some latitude. When a minister of the gospel undertakes to quote scripture, we naturally expect him to do it correctly.

But on reflection it seemed more probable that the learned Divine had carefully prepared his lecture, and that he knew precisely what ST. PAUL did say. We are satisfied that this is the true solution of the apparent mistake. The lecturer saw that if he quoted the passage correctly it would not suit his purpose. It would produce none of the laughter or applause with which it was greeted, but would spoil the joke and possibly lead to significant silence.

What PAUL did say will be found in the following extract: "And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the board into the sea, under color, as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreboard, PAUL said to the Centurion and to the soldiers, except these abide in the ship ye cannot be saved."

PAUL made no appeal to the mariners who were leaving the ship. He saw that they were about to commit an act which might secure their own safety, but would leave the vessel at the mercy of the waves. The lives of more than two hundred persons were resting on the decision of the movement. To save them it was necessary that the few mariners should remain.

PAUL knew that it would be in vain to speak to the handful of men whom the instinct of self-preservation was driving to the boat, and therefore his language was addressed not to them, but to those whose fate depended upon their assistance. "PAUL said to the Centurion and to the soldiers, except these (shipmen) abide in the ship ye cannot be saved."

The application of this text has been made by Mr. BEECHER. Let him quote it truthfully and tell us what it means. But no—he cannot do it.—The miserable hypocrite who professes to preach the gospel of peace and yet laughs at the imminent prospect of a land flowing with fraternal blood, is not capable of interpreting that deep, mysterious meaning which this little text conveys.

It is not easy to forget the deep and heartfelt earnestness of his prayer that when that calamity should fall upon us as a nation, it might please God that he should be permitted to die. We do not know what meaning that venerable man, still living, would attach to the text which BEECHER has so maliciously distorted; but we can conceive that he would draw from it a warning against the dangers of division, and a lesson of the necessity of union.

feeling. And perhaps even now while the clouds are darkest, he would give us some ground to believe as PAUL did to those who were with him, that the God of our fathers is whispering "fear not" in the midst of the storm.

Shall We Have Civil War?

Is the country to be subjected to the horrors of civil war? We hardly see how that calamity can be averted as things are going. South Carolina is going out of the Union, and all or nearly all the other Southern States will in time follow her, if the Northern States do not repeal their aggressive laws. So far as an expression has been given to Republican sentiment, it favors a dissolution of the Union rather than the abandonment of the Republican programme of making the States "all slave or all free," which is understood to mean that they shall all be free.

The danger of a war is just as imminent if South Carolina goes out alone as if she goes in company with all the rest of the slaveholding States. Perhaps it would be nearer the mark to say that there would be less danger of war if the whole fifteen Southern States went out together, than if one of them went alone. For if all of them went together, there would be no alternative but to acknowledge their independence at once and concede them a place among the great powers of the world, and conclude a treaty of friendship with them, and surrender to them all the government forts and arsenals within their limits.

But if South Carolina were to go out by herself, there is no probability whatever that Congress would recognize her independence. What then? Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney command the harbor of Charleston.—Their full and complete possession by South Carolina is essential to her existence as an independent power. She never can call herself independent till her own troops garrison them. Nor can she get them without the effusion of blood, for it will be the duty of the President to maintain possession of them with the troops of the United States.

The horizon looks gloomy. South Carolina is in earnest. She is bent on setting up for herself before a Black Republican President shall be set up over her. It is not to be supposed that she does not take into her calculations a matter of such vital importance as the possession of the forts that command the harbor of her chief city. She will pour out her blood to get them, and we must give them up or keep them at the cannon's mouth; or else we must take some measures to win her back to the Union, and to satisfy her and all the Southern States that they can remain in it with safety and honor.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. The Senators of the slaveholding States are in conference to-day, at the Capitol with reference to the political state of the country. The meeting is without respect to party.

Extra Session of the Tennessee Legislature.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 8. The Governor of Tennessee has issued a call for an extra session of the State Legislature, to meet on the 7th of January, to consider the condition of the country.

Convicted of Murder.

HURLEY who has been on trial for the murder of Officer Loughrey of Cambridge, has been convicted of murder in the second degree.

IN DEATH THEY WERE NOT DIVIDED.—The Washington Intelligencer says:—A singular funeral, and a still more singular burial, took place up in our neighboring town of Washington, Pennsylvania, last Wednesday. Patrick Bryson and his wife were interred in the same grave. They were an old couple—he 84 and she 87 years of age. They had been married for nearly 60 years, and the corpse of both were lifted and carried in the same funeral train, to the same grave, and then committed to "the dust from whence they sprang" side by side. They had lived together, as man and wife, for sixty six years, coming from Ireland after their marriage. They had resided in the town of Washington for sixty-two years, and had reared a large family, and seen Washington rise from a wilderness to what it is now. They were plain, good, quiet, old-fashioned people, who had commenced the morning of life together, and continued through the middle to its close.

REMOVED BY DYSPEPSIA TO A NEAR SKELTON.—Cured by Barber's Holland Balm.—Mr. A. H. H. H., a trader probably as well known as any man in Western Pennsylvania, writes as follows: "I was with a farmer in Armstrong county who was reduced by Dyspepsia to a mere skeleton. I persuaded him to buy a bottle of Barber's Holland Balm, following it would cure him. Heeding his own advice, he took a whole bottle, and he is now as well as ever, and has 200 pounds, and that this wonderful cure was produced by Barber's Holland Balm, which he attributed solely his restoration."

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—In the U. S. Senate yesterday, an animated but brief discussion took place between Messrs. Hale, Livermore, Wright, and Davis of Mississippi, on the reference of the President's message Mr. Livermore proclaimed the fixed purpose of five Southern States to go out of the Union before the 4th of March, and that nothing could prevent it. In the House, the Military Academy and Invalid Pension Appropriation bills were introduced from the Ways and Means Committee, and passed. The Homestead bill of the last session came up on a motion to reconsider its reference, and was finally passed by a vote of 132 to 70. The Speaker of the House will not announce the committee on that portion of the message relative to the secession troubles, until Monday next. The Committee of Ways and Means have under consideration the issue of ten millions of Treasury notes, to relieve the financial embarrassments of the Government.

TUESDAY.—In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, a memorial from the New Francisco Chamber of Commerce was presented, asking for a Daily Overland Mail. Mr. Powell's motion to refer that portion of the message relating to the condition of the country, to a special Committee of thirteen, was not acted on, and the Senate adjourned till Monday. In the House, the Senate bill of last session, abolishing the Franchising Privilege, was reported with amendments. A bill passed, constraining the "minimum price" in the sale of public lands. The Committee of one from each State, on that portion of the President's message relating to the secession difficulty, was announced. Mr. Hawkins, of Florida, is asking to be excused from service on the Committee, expressed the view that the time for compromise had passed forever. Mr. Cochrane, of New York, followed in a strong Union speech, appealing to Mr. Hawkins to withdraw his request. The House finally adjourned till Monday, without coming to a vote.

Soot and Ashes.

Save the soot for the grass land. Like gypsum, or plaster, if applied just before a rain in spring, it will increase the product largely; especially is it recommended for lawns in England and Scotland, where chimney sweeping is a trade, soot is highly prized, not only for grass lands, but for wheat and potatoes. We have even it recorded as having been applied to the wheat crop at the rate of twenty and twenty-five bushels per acre; and as frequently used on grass lands at the rate of fifteen and twenty bushels per acre. We have no knowledge of its having been applied to Indian corn, but doubt not the effect would be as satisfactory as we know a dressing of gypsum or ashes to be. Ad talking of ashes, we hope no one is so ignorant as to suppose that useless—even on our inexhaustible ash-heaps soils—for you know it is current fact that our prairie soil is composed mostly of the inorganic remains of plants—ashes. If so, and our soil is inexhaustible, it establishes at once the value of both ash and soot. Seriously ashes are worth saving, and mixing with manure of our soils.

One important object we have in introducing this object of soot and ashes, is to call attention to the importance of establishing a habit of saving—husbanding the resources—not only soot and ashes, but of all substances convertible in the compost heap into available food for plants—a portion of your stock in trade—your capital. It bears the same relation to your business that wool does to the woolen manufacturer. It is the raw material out of which nature, with your instrumentality, weaves wonderful webs of fine and beautiful texture.—Prairie Farmer

Stick This Up.

As the following table of the number of pounds to the bushel, may be of interest to the farmer and dealer, we re-publish it, and would advise them to set it out and stick it up in some prominent place for reference:

Table with 2 columns: Item and weight per bushel. Includes wheat, shelled-corn, corn on the cob, rye, barley, potatoes, beans, bran, cloverseed, timothyseed, rye, buckwheat, bluegrass seed, clover hay, dried peas, dried apples, oats.

DISCHARGE OF WORKERS.—We regret to say that on Saturday last, W. O. HICKS discharged twenty seven men. Willard & Brother, agricultural implement manufacturers, in State street, discharged a planter, and a number were also discharged from the HARRINGTON City Foundry. A great many articles manufactured by these establishments for a Southern market, but all orders from that direction having ceased, the employers have been compelled to reduce their working force.





COMMISSION HOUSES.

DISOLUTION.—The firm of Hahn & Hahn, Commission Merchants, has been dissolved...

THE PRODUCE COMMISSIONERS... The undersigned have been appointed...

WUNDERLICH, HANDEL AND COMPANY... At the terminal of the C. & P. Railroad, Chambersburg, Pa.

SHAPIRO, WUNDERLICH & CO... Commission Merchants, Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW FORWARDING AND COMMISSION BUSINESS... We have secured the services of...

CHAMBERSBURG VALLEY WAREHOUSE... We have secured the services of...

HATCH & CO., SHIP AGENTS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS... 128 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

EDUCATIONAL. CHAMBERSBURG FEMALE SEMINARY... The Fall Session will commence...

MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS... The undersigned, having purchased the stock...

THE LATEST MODE PUBLISHED... The undersigned has just received...

FURS! FURS!!! Ladies' Fur Emporium... 215 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

FARRIS & THOMPSON... Old Stand No. 512 MARKET STREET, above 5th St.

TOYS, BASKETS AND FANCY GOODS... JOHN DODD, No. 128 North Second Street.

W. W. STANLEY ALL THURSDAY... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

PALMER & CO. MANUFACTURERS OF... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

K. H. BROWN & CO. COAL OIL... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

AYER'S CATHARTIC PILL... Sold by all druggists.

WATCHES & JEWELRY.

REMOVAL. REMOVAL. E. ARNOLD... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

W. W. STANLEY... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

W. W. STANLEY... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—The undersigned...

LIVERY AND EXCHANGE STABLES... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

MILLER & GRENKAWALT... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS! CALL AT HUTZ & KEFFNER'S... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

THE PARIS MANTILLA EMPORIUM... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

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AYER'S CATHARTIC PILL... Sold by all druggists.

AGRICULTURAL.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

HARDWARE. BUILDING HARDWARE.—Persons who want...

ENGREEN, ROSES, & CO.—The undersigned...

GREAT PREMIUM ATTRACTION. INVITING LIFE OF WASHINGTON... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

LECTIC MACHINE FOR 1861. George F. Parsons, Sec. of the Fabrics of Lingerie...

LADIES' WINTER COSTUME. ALL GOODS WARRANTED... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

FURS! FURS!!! Ladies' Fur Emporium... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

NEW LIVERY STABLE. The undersigned has opened a new livery stable...

NOTICE.—All persons indebted to F. FELDMAN... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

VALLEY SPIRIT JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

THE 'VALLEY SPIRIT' JOB OFFICE... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

OLD DR. HEATH'S BOOK OF CO... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

L-D-S ONE PRICE FANCY FUR STORE... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

W. W. STANLEY ALL THURSDAY... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

PALMER & CO. MANUFACTURERS OF... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

AYER'S CATHARTIC PILL... Sold by all druggists.

PUBLICATION.

THE DOWRY POST... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

NEW PREMIUMS. A TIME DELICIOUS PENNSYLVANIAN... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA REFERENCERS... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

Great Bargains from New York... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES.

THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

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RAILROAD COMPANIES.

CENTRAL RAILROAD... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING... 128 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia.

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JOHN KEANEY'S KEY-LIGHT ANDROTYPE AND DAGUERRIAN ROOMS, Cor. of the Chesapeake and G. & P. BISHOP'S Androtype and Daguerrian Rooms

READY-MADE CLOTHING PEOPLE OF FASHION J. WHELAN

PENNSYLVANIA LANDS VALUABLE TOWN PROPERTY AT

MISCELLANEOUS THE PEOPLE'S COOK BOOK

MISCELLANEOUS THE ASSASSINATION OF HAYES

MEDICAL DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC

THE BEAVER WAS ILLUMINATED ON THE evening of August 20, 1859, by the most splendid and colorful light seen in the history of the world

FALL AND WINTER READY-MADE CLOTHING

PRIVATE SALE - I will sell at private sale a tract of land in West Virginia

THE ONLY PREPARATION THAT HAS STOPPED THE TYPHOID FEVER

THE ASSASSINATION OF HAYES

DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC

TO FARMERS - Virginia Lands. The undersigned is now prepared to receive applications for land in the State of Virginia

APPEALS! APPEALS!! - NOTICE

A PROPERTY FOR SALE - The undersigned offers at private sale a tract of land in West Virginia

THE ONLY PREPARATION THAT HAS STOPPED THE TYPHOID FEVER

THE ASSASSINATION OF HAYES

DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC

FOR RENT - The subscriber has a good stable with carriage house and outhouse

NOTICE - A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley Spirit

VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE FARM FOR SALE

THE ONLY PREPARATION THAT HAS STOPPED THE TYPHOID FEVER

THE ASSASSINATION OF HAYES

DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC

ROBERTS' BRACIAL CALCULATOR

PHOTOGRAPHY in all its branches

VALUABLE PROPERTY in West Virginia

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS

THE ASSASSINATION OF HAYES

DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC

IMPORTANT TO MOTHERS

COAL! COAL!! COAL!!!

VIRGINIA FARM, containing about 800 acres

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS

THE ASSASSINATION OF HAYES

DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC

DEADLY NOTICE - All persons on

COAL! COAL!! COAL!!!

VIRGINIA FARM, containing about 800 acres

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS

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DR. JOSEPH W. WELLS' ANAEMIC TONIC, DIURETIC AND ANTIDYSPEPTIC