

THE PATRIOT.

EDITED BY M. S. SHERWOOD. JAMES A. LONG.

GREENSBORO, N. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1861.

NOTICE.—Desiring to devote myself exclusively to my profession, I offer for sale my interest in the half-interest in the Greensboro Patriot.

The materials of the office consist of a new Power Press, a good Washington Press, a small Job Press, an excellent Proof Press, and a Dry Press, together with a very large assortment of new paper and job types of the newest styles.

The other half of the Patriot belongs to M. S. Sherwood, who has been connected with the paper, both as Editor and Proprietor, for more than twenty years.

For further particulars apply to the subscriber, or to M. S. Sherwood, Greensboro, N. C.

JAMES A. LONG

Exciting News from Washington.

We refer our readers to telegraphic dispatches in an other column for important news from Washington City.

The Hon. John B. Floyd resigned the office of Secretary of War on Saturday, and his resignation was accepted by the President.

From present indications, there will be a collision between U. S. soldiers and South Carolina volunteers in less than a fortnight.

The Federal Treasury is empty, though on last Saturday it is reported that an offer was made for the whole of the five million loan at 12 per cent.

HON JOHN A. GILMER.

Mr. Gilmer spent the Christmas holidays at home in Greensboro with his family and friends, he returned again on Monday the 31st to Washington City.

There is a matter of deep regret, that we have not more members in our National councils, actuated by that spirit of moderation, and devoted to the Union which characterizes Mr. Gilmer.

We call attention to his most admirable letter, which we publish in this week's Patriot.

There is no doubt, as Mr. Gilmer says, that it is the honest industrious masses who have made us the great Nation that we are, and if they could be reached, and their voice heard, that they would very soon settle all matters in dispute, and peace and quiet would be again restored to the country.

A Leap in the Dark.

South Carolina, in her great haste to get out of the Union, seems to have taken a fearful leap in the dark.

The Debates in the Convention, which took place after the passage of the Ordinance of Secession, show that hardly two delegates could agree on any line of policy for putting into practical working their governmental machinery for the new "Nation."

Mr. Calhoun, a member of the Convention said: "We have pulled down a temple which has been built for three-quarters of a century. We must now clear away the rubbish, and reconstruct another. We are now houseless and homeless, and we must secure ourselves from approaching storm."

We have no doubt many of the people of South Carolina begin to feel that they are, literally houseless and homeless, and "breadless" too.

It will be a miracle if they do not find themselves in the situation of a young lark who became so desperately in love, that he neglected entirely his work and let his business go to destruction; when at last he succeeded in marrying his adorable dulcinea.

Said he, "before I was married, I thought I needed nothing in this world but Nance Hunt; but after I got married I soon learned that I needed everything but Nance Hunt."

Before South Carolina seceded, her people thought they needed nothing but secession; they may soon feel that they need everything else but secession.

Fire in Louisiana.

The Raleigh Register of yesterday says that a most disastrous conflagration occurred in Louisiana in this State on last Friday night, destroying the principal portion of the village.

We have not heard of the names of the sufferers, but we learn that twenty houses were destroyed. The fire was accidental. We regret to learn that a very young man (name not ascertained) was killed during the conflagration by the accidental discharge of a gun.

The gun was lying on some goods which had been saved from the fire and becoming heated by the intense heat, went off, and the whole load lodged in the body of the young man referred to.

In addition to the above, we copy the following postscript of a letter from a gentleman of Franklin to a friend in Greensboro: "I have just learned upon reliable authority that nearly the whole of Louisiana is burnt up; from Mineure's coach shop clear round to Mrs. Shaw's, every house, both Hotels, Ballard's store, Walkers, &c. Worst of all, poor Billy Brown, son of Peyton L. Brown, was killed by the firing off of a gun during the conflagration."

Death of T. J. Holton.

Thomas J. Holton, Editor of the Charlotte Whig, died in Charlotte on the afternoon of December 27, 1860, after a long and very painful affliction, caused by injuries sustained from being thrown from his buggy.

Mr. Holton was one of the oldest Editors in the State, always sustaining the character of a Christian gentleman.

Councillors of State.

The following gentlemen have been elected Councillors of State for the next two years, viz: Council Wooten, of Lenoir county; John W. Cunningham, of Person; W. A. Ferguson, of Currituck; J. F. Graves, of Surry; David Murphy, of Cumberland; J. J. Long, of Northampton, and W. L. Hilliard, of Buncombe. They are all Democrats, though a majority are said to be Union men.

Lincoln's Cabinet.

Telegraphic dispatches say that Mr. Lincoln has tendered the post of Secretary of the Interior to the Hon. Edward Bates, of Missouri, and that he will probably accept the appointment. Mr. B. is an able lawyer, with a Free-Soil proclivity.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Since our last issue, great and important events have transpired. The South Carolina Convention assembled on the 17th in Columbia, organized and then adjourned to Charleston. On the 20th, without a dissenting voice, the following ordinance was adopted:

"An Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and the other States united with her under the compact entitled 'The Constitution of the United States of America.'"

"We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, that the Ordinance adopted by us in convention, on the 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified; and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State, and amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed, and that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and the other States, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved."

South Carolina is therefore, so far as her own action can make it so, no longer a member of the Union, but a separate and independent State. In other words, she has given up all interest she had in the Government of the United States, and has set up for herself that South Carolina has seen fit to take this step we sincerely regret, and we have little doubt that she will yet come to the conclusion that the act was not only hasty but unwise and impolitic.

Since the act of secession, the Convention has been in session, endeavoring to reconstruct a temple, in place of that which they have so inconsiderately destroyed. As far as we have been able to gather from the proceedings of the Convention, every thing seems to be in confusion and every body at sea. No two can agree upon any thing, and there seems to be no leading spirit in the body, who has the ability, or the influence to bring order out of confusion.

Messrs. Barnwell, Orr, and Adams, have been sent as Commissioners to Washington City to treat with the General Government in relation to Forts Moultrie and Sumter, and also in regard to postal arrangements.

We give the following summary of the news so far as it relates to South Carolina.

From the South Carolinian Extra.

Evacuation of Fort Moultrie.—The U. S. Troops gone to Fort Sumter.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 27.—Fort Moultrie was evacuated last night by the United States Troops and the guns spiked.

The cartridges are now being slowly demolished by fire.

Only four Soldiers were left in charge, the balance of the Troops having been conveyed to Fort Sumter.

Intense excitement is manifested in this city. The Convention is now in secret session.

STILL LATER.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—12 P. M.—Major Anderson states that he evacuated Fort Moultrie in order to allay discussion about that Fort, and at the same time to strengthen his own position.

LATEST.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 27.—1 P. M.—It is reported that a train has been laid to blow up Fort Moultrie, but this is doubted.

The excitement and indignation are increasing.

The State Convention.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 26.—In the Convention to-day, a resolution was offered, requesting the Governor to communicate to the Convention all information in his possession in reference to the condition of forts, the number of guns, soldiers, workmen, and all other matters and incidents; and whether the forts have, or are expected to be, reinforced; and what means he has adopted with reference to the defence of the State.

A resolution was tabled for secret session.

A resolution was offered, declaring the citizens of the United States, residing in South Carolina, on the 20th December, citizens of South Carolina and entitled to all privileges, and subject to all liabilities. The mover said he did not contemplate making involuntary citizens of those temporarily in the State on the twentieth December.

The resolution was appropriately referred. A resolution, offering to be reported the eighth of January, was tabled.

Mr. Rhett offered an ordinance providing for a Convention of the seceding slave States to form a Southern Confederacy, Montgomery, Alabama, is the place of meeting designated; and recommending the same number of delegates as the present Congressmen. Also, that the vote on the adoption of the Constitution be by States. The Constitution of the United States was advised as a suitable basis for the Southern Confederacy; and recommend that South Carolina appoint eight delegates to said Convention; and also, a Commissioner to each slaveholding or seceding State.

The Convention then went into secret session.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 30, 12 M.—The Convention met in secret session to-day.

The Charleston Evening News, of Saturday says that the guns at Fort Moultrie are now in good condition.

The metal pins that the United States officers were kind enough to leave in the touch holes being removed.

A gentleman who came up this morning says that the garrison at Fort Sumter had sent in for wood and water, which Governor Pickens has not been able to send.

The Governor said the ladies might come into Charleston city and would be hospitably entertained.

Some eighty mechanics and laborers reached the city from Fort Sumter on Saturday morning. They went North in the afternoon. They report that some forty or fifty laborers and seventy soldiers are still there.

The News says they have an abundant supply of food, shell and provision, to last for months.

The largest guns are not yet in position and the number of cannon only amounts to enough to fill its armament.

Important Conventions.

Conventions will meet in the following six Cotton States to take into consideration their position in relation to the political troubles that are upon us as a nation, viz: Florida Convention meets January 3; Alabama and Mississippi Jan. 7; Texas January 8; Georgia Jan. 9; Louisiana January 23. What will be the result of the deliberations of these Conventions, no one can tell. Special sessions of the Legislature of Virginia and Tennessee, in reference to the same troubles, will meet on the 7th of January.

Lincoln's Cabinet.

Telegraphic dispatches say that Mr. Lincoln has tendered the post of Secretary of the Interior to the Hon. Edward Bates, of Missouri, and that he will probably accept the appointment. Mr. B. is an able lawyer, with a Free-Soil proclivity.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT.

By reference to a notice at the head of our editorial column, it will be seen that we, (the Junior) offer for sale our interest in the Greensboro Patriot. This, we know, will be a matter of no importance to many, and that they will not give it a moment's consideration, yet there are others who either from the interest they may feel in our welfare, or from mere curiosity, will be disposed to ask the question, why we are disposed to take such a step. For the benefit of such, then, we proceed to state how it came about, and how we became connected with the Patriot.

In the first place then, we chose the law as a profession, selecting Lexington as our home. In the summer of 1855, at the solicitation of many friends who were anxious to have a paper in their midst, we were induced to become the editor, not the proprietor of the "Lexington Flag." Before one year had expired, from circumstances not necessary to mention, but to save ourselves from loss, it became necessary for us to become the proprietor as well as the editor of the "Flag." We soon discovered that to edit a paper and to attend to all the financial concerns, would require all our time, and that we must either abandon our profession or the paper. In view of the case, therefore, we proposed to Mr. Sherwood to join the Patriot and the Flag. After a four years' trial, I find that I must either give up the paper or my profession, my health not being sufficient to enable me to attend to both. I prefer to sever my connection with the paper. It trust to be pardoned for this brief statement of a matter entirely personal.

The position of an editor is not only one of great responsibility, but it is also honorable, and when accompanied with energy and ability, affords an opportunity to win fame and distinction. To any one desirous of assuming the responsible and honorable position of an editor, I can freely and conscientiously say, that the Patriot affords as fair and good an opportunity as can be met with in the State. The Patriot circulates throughout the entire South, and has an extensive circulation in the State. Mr. Sherwood who owns one-half of the establishment, has been connected with the paper for many years—has, indeed, grown up with it—he is a perfect gentleman; has the confidence not only of this community, but of all who know him. My associations with him for four years, and my business connections with him, enables me to say with confidence, that he will be found to be an agreeable partner. The town of Greensboro, in which the paper is published, is one of the prettiest and most flourishing towns in the State, famous for its schools, and noted for the morality of its citizens.

Until I dispose of my interest, I shall continue to edit the Patriot as heretofore, and shall devote my time and energies to make its columns interesting. These are stirring times, and now is the time to subscribe for a good and reliable paper. Then, we say to all, send us your names. The Patriot is not going to stop—its list of subscribers is fast increasing, and should I step aside, some one of equal, and I hope, more ability will take my place.

Political Preachers.

The South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at its late session, among other resolutions on Federal affairs, adopted the following:

Resolved, That while we deplore the necessity that exists for a separation from the Federal Union, yet, in view of all the history of the past, the perils of the present, and the threatened wrongs of the future, we feel bound, by honor and duty, to move in harmony with the South in resisting Northern domination.

We deeply regret that a body of so intelligent ministers of the Gospel should forget their sacred calling, and following the example of Henry Ward Beecher and other abolition preachers, devote themselves to political wrangling. Such a course must necessarily demoralize the Ministry, and greatly neutralize their influence in propagating the principles of religion. The Ministers life should be a living example in favor of peace on earth and good will to man, ready to preach the Gospel to saint and sinner, bond and free.

We should have no disposition to criticise the conduct of the South Carolina Conference, were its bounds confined to the "Nation" of South Carolina; but unfortunately for the peace of our own State, the South Carolina Conference embraces within its bounds a large portion of North Carolina. And it may be that the appointments for North Carolina have been made more in view of political missionary work, to sow the seeds of Disunion among our people, than to their spiritual welfare. At least the political resolutions passed by the South Carolina Conference, are well calculated to create such a suspicion.

Let it not be inferred that we are casting any reflections on the accomplished Bishop who presided over the Conference; and who has, nominally, the appointment of the Preachers. As all know, who are familiar with the subject, the appointments are virtually made by the Presiding Elder, who constitute the Bishops council, and on whose recommendation the Bishop acts, exercising his authority only in case of disagreement in the council.

These resolutions are directly in opposition to the position taken by the General Conference, when it abolished the Rule on Slavery in the old Discipline, on the ground that the Church, as an organized religious Society, had nothing to do with the political affairs of the country, holding itself ready to administer the consolations of the Bible to all, without reference to their political or social condition.

Meeting in Caldwell.

We have received the proceedings of a public meeting in Caldwell one of the counties composing Mr. Avery's district. The meeting was large, and was irrespective of parties.—Resolutions were passed against secession, so long as we could remain in the Union honorably, and on equal footing with other States. A resolution favoring the call of a Convention was voted down. What says Mr. Avery to that? The gentleman sending us the proceedings, says that Mr. Avery does not represent the sentiments of eight tenths of his constituents of that county. Proceedings next week.

MR. CANTWELL.

A short time since, we published a communication reflecting on the official conduct of Mr. Cantwell, Clerk of the House of Commons of the North Carolina General Assembly. At the request of Mr. Cantwell we publish the following letters:

Morganon, N. C., Dec. 18, 1860.

My Dear Sir: Your favor of the 10th inst., is to hand and contents noted. In reply, I have to state that I introduced the bill to which you allude, of my own free will and accord, without consultation or advice from any quarter, and without reference to the persons who were then Clerks in either branch of the General Assembly; well knowing that if the bill became a law it could not go into operation until the next (the present session) of the Legislature. I had intended, when I was a member of the Senate in 1850, to introduce a similar bill, but neglected to do so until it was too late. I never could understand why Judges, Governors, Magistrates, members of the Legislature, &c., &c., should be required to take the oath of office, and the Clerks of the Legislature holding as responsible places as they do, should be exempt from a like obligation. I could not see that the men from whom Clerks were chosen, were any more upright and honest than those of whom Judges, Governors, Magistrates, members of the Legislature were made. If I mistake not, I introduced my bill during the second week of the session, and I feel sure that no one knew that I intended or contemplated any such move, the conversation to which you allude took place between you and me, occurred after the introduction of the bill and not before.

It is due to you for me to state that I was not prompted to introduce the bill for the fact that you were the Clerk of the House, nor should I have refrained from doing it if I had known for a certainty that you were to remain Clerk for all time to come. I had no cause to know of your resignation, and I feel as faithfully as any other man without the obligations of an oath resting upon you; nor had I any reason to know or believe that your successor, whoever he might be, would be less honest and as upright as yourself.

In a word then, the bill was introduced by you, you were not compelled by it to take the oath, but it was aimed at every man who might be elected Clerk of either House after the year 1860, whether Whig or Democrat. Nothing having occurred between you and me, occurred after the introduction of the bill and not before.

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The Occupation of the Forts.

From the Charleston Courier, Dec. 28.

THE EMBARKATION.—The embarkation for their respective posts, of our gallant volunteers throughout the day, in obedience to the order of Excellency Governor Pickens, was conducted in the most quiet and orderly manner. The scene was of an unusual and impressive character, and was witnessed by dense crowds of citizens who collected at the different points of departure. The fixed determination and enthusiasm exhibited in the contentances of both officers and privates, left no doubt upon our minds or what the result would be should a struggle be forced upon us.

The first detachment under the command of Col. J. J. Pettigrew and Major Ellison Capers, was composed of three Companies of the Regiment of Rifles as follows: Washington Light Infantry Capt. C. H. Simonton, Carolina Light Infantry, Capt. B. G. Pinckney, Major Guards, Capt. Edward McCrackey, Jr.

The above, armed and equipped, took passage on board the steamer Nina, Captain Davis, and proceeded at half-past four towards Castle Pinckney, to garrison that post.—Upon their arrival they were compelled to scale the walls, in order to effect an entrance. This was speedily accomplished, and the Palmetto flag, kindly loaned by Capt. Davis, hoisted, amid the cheers of the troops.

At seven o'clock in the evening, the detachment of Artillery, which had previously formed on Citadel Square, embarked, a portion on board the steamer General Clinch, Capt. C. J. Relyea, and a portion on the steamer Nina, Captain Davis, for Fort Moultrie. The detachment was under the command of the following officers:

Lieut. Col. W. G. DeSaussure, Commanding.