LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

Session of 1860–'61.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RALEIGH, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1860.

The House met pursuant to adjournment when prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Walthrel.

After the introduction, of sundry Bills and petitions, not of very special importance

Mr. MEANS presented the proceedings of a public meeting in Martin, which were read and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Report from Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. PERSON from the joint select Committee on Federal Relations, made a majority report, with a bill providing for the call of a Convention of the State to meet on the 14th day of February 1861, the delegates to which are to be elected on the 7th day of the same month, and restricting the Convention to the consideration of matters pertaining to our Federal Relations.

Mr. MEBANE from the same Committee made a minority report, against hasty action in calling a State Convention, and generally in favor of conservative action.

The following are the reports of both Committees:

REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS.

The Joint Select Committee on Federal Relations, to whom were referred all that part of the Governor's Message upon the subject of Federal Relations and which recommends,

1. That this General Assembly invite the Southern States to a conference, or such of them as may be inclined to enter into consultation, with us, upon the present condition of the country, and in case that shall be found impracticable, then,

2. The sending of one or more delegates to our neighboring States, with the view of securing concert of action, and,

3. That a Convention of the people of the State be called to assemble immediately after the proposing consultation with the other Southern States shall have terminated, and,

4. The reorganization of the militia and the formation of a corps of ten thousand volunteers, with an organization separate from the main body of the militia, and that they be suitably armed and equipped:

And to whom was also referred sundry resolutions, some of which were introduced originally in the Senate and House of Commons, and others passed by meetings of the people in various parts of the State, and laid before the Legislature at the request of those meetings; and to whom was also referred "a bill to authorize and require the Governor of the State of North Carolina to call a Convention of the people of the State, and for other purposes therein named," respectfully

REPORT,

That they have considered the same, with a full appreciation of the momentous interests involved, and have come to the deliberate conclusion, that the present crisis in our national affairs gravely imperils the rights and equality of North Carolina in the Union, and that the sovereign people only have the right to determine the mode and measure and time of redress; and therefore the committee submit for your consideration the accompanying bill for calling a Convention of the people, and earnestly recommend its passage.

And they further report, that they are fully impressed with the belief that it is necessary to our safety that the militia should be thoroughly reorganized, and that a volunteer corps of —— thousand men should be speedily formed, and armed and equipped in the most efficient manner; and they earnestly recommend that both shall be done, and that it be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, in order that they may furnish the details of measures for that purpose.

And the Committee ask leave to report back all other matters referred to them, and to be discharged from their further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL F. SMITH, *Ch'n.*

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned, members of the Committee on Federal Relations, unable to concur in the views of the majority, submit the following report:

The Convention is proposed to be called, in the opinion of the minority, at an earlier period than the exigencies of the occasion demands. It is declared in the bill that the purpose of the Convention is to consider all grievances impairing or affecting the equality and rights of the State of North Carolina as a member of the United States, and determine the mode, measure and time of redress, and delegates are to be chosen on the 7th and assemble on the 18th of February next. As the bill and report of the majority do not indicate any specific grievance, the minority of your Committee on Federal Relations are unable to determine whether it is intended to make the impression that the Federal Government has recently assumed any unusual and menacing attitude towards North Carolina, affecting her equality and rights as one of the United States. Exercising the right of conjecture, the minority of your Committee suppose that the grievances complained of are the personal liberty laws enacted by some of the Northern States, hindering the proper execution of the Fugitive Slave Law. If the minority of your Committee be not mistaken in this conjecture, they would respectfully suggest that, inasmuch as these grievances have existed for a long time under the present and former administrations of the Federal Government, which administrations have met the approbation of a large majority of the people of this State, they cannot now constitute a very urgent reason for the present Legislature to call out the citizens upon such short notice, at an unusual and inclement season of the year, to vote for delegates to a State Convention called, as it is, for the purpose of changing the relations of the State to the Federal Government. The laws complained of are not the acts of the General Government, but of particular States, and being unconstitutional, are null and void. If, however, the grievance complained of and not disclosed is the election of Lincoln to the Presidency—an election effected by a minority vote, in consequence of divisions among his opponents—it is, in the opinion of the minority, an inadequate cause for calling a Convention so hastily, with extraordinary power, which may place North Carolina out of the Union before the 4th of March next, and before the country can be officially informed of the policy of the incoming administration. Would it not be more prudent to abide the determination of the great efforts now being made at Washington city and elsewhere by patriotic men, to compromise all difficulties, and obtain more secure guarantee against the unfriendly legislation of certain Northern States? Let the people have time to deliberate that North Carolina may not be precipitated out of the Union, and her influence as a *peace maker* between the North and South, utterly destroyed. It is further objected to the bill, as reported, that it is not in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State and the usages of the Legislature. The first section of the fourth article of the State Constitution provides that no Convention of the people of the State shall be called by the General Assembly unless by the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members of each House of the General Assembly, and the latter part of said section provides for amendments by the General Assembly. The act of 1856–'57 of the Legislature, amending the Constitution, immediately following the enacting clause, has the words, (two-thirds of the whole number of each House concurring,) and the minority of your Committee, entertaining no doubt but that a concurrence of two-thirds of all the members of each House is demanded to call a Convention of the people, recommend that these words be inserted immediately after the enacting clause of the first section of the reported bill, and in conclusion, the minority of your Committee respectfully suggest that measures be taken to procure a Convention of all the States of the Union, with a view to final settlement of all subjects in controversy between the Northern and Southern States; and if such final settlement cannot be satisfactorily made, that a peaceable separation of the States and an equitable distribution of the property of the Federal Government among all the States, may be brought about, and the minority further recommend that the bill reported by the majority do not pass.

Respectfully submitted,

GILES MEBANE,
NATHAN NEWBY,
DAVID OUTLAW.

On motion, it was ordered, after several ineffectual efforts to take up and amend, that the Reports be made the special order on the third of January.

On motion of Mr. McCLURE, the House adjourned.

RALEIGH, Thursday, Dec. 13.

The House met at the appointed hour, and after prayer by the Rev. Mr. Skinner

Sundry petitions and memorials were presented, together with resolutions adopted by public meetings in various sections of the State, referring to our political affairs.

Sundry bills, embracing various subjects for legislation, were read for the first time.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mecklenburg, introduced a bill to incorporate the Industrial Savings Bank of Charlotte, which was referred to the Committee on Banks and Banking.

After the introduction of sundry other bills, which were read for the first time, the House adjourned until Friday morning at the usual hour.

SENATE.

RALEIGH, Thursday, Dec. 13.

The proceedings in the Senate to-day were not of much interest.

After prayer and reading of the Journal

Mr. BARRINGER introduced a bill to incorporate the town of Davidson, in Mecklenburg county. It was referred to the Committee on Incorporations.

The hour of 12 having arrived, the resolutions of Mr. BROWN to send Commissioners to South Carolina, being the special order, were taken up.

At the request of Mr. HALL, the resolutions with the proposed amendments, were read.

Mr. BROWN addressed the Senate, stating that he had no objection to the first amendment and defending its propositions.

Mr. MOREHEAD said that he opposed this conference with South Carolina, because she did not want to confer with any State—that if she wishes to go out of the Union let her go—but when she wishes a conference with us, and she temperately asks a conference, then we will give it to her—thought that North Carolina being so alarmed about a dissolution of the Union would destroy the moral effect on the North of the secession of the State of South Carolina—took ground against the peaceable right of secession, though he acknowledged an inherent right of revolution in all men and all governments,—but that if a State did secede, there was no provision in the Constitution for forcing her into the Union, because such an event was not contemplated by the framers of that instrument—thought the Union could yet be saved—there was already a returning sense of justice in the Northern States.

Mr. BROWN addressed the Senate at length, in defence of his resolutions and of the right of secession.

Mr. MOREHEAD again addressed the Senate.

Mr. RAMSAY moved to make the resolutions the special order for 12 o'clock to-morrow.

On this motion Mr. BROWN called for the yeas and nays. The motion was lost, ayes 20, nays 22.

Mr. LANE gave notice that on to-morrow he would move to amend the Joint Rules of the Senate.

Mr. BARRINGER moved to adjourn. Carried, and the Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock Friday.

MR. RAMSAY'S RESOLUTIONS.

It will be seen by the Legislative proceedings that Mr. Ramsay's resolutions of inquiry of the Treasurer of the State as to North Carolina's financial condition at the present time, and her ability to increase her present indebtedness, were laid upon the table by the ruthless Democratic majority. Why was this disposition made of these resolutions? Were the Democracy afraid to get and publish to the world the Treasurer's opinion of the ability of the State at this time to add materially to the indebtedness of the State? We, of course, do not *know*, but we will "venture a dinkedum to a beggarly denier," that if Treasurer Courts' opinions were known, they would show that he regarded an appropriation sufficient to put this State upon a war footing at this time would be the height of madness, although he knows, as we all know, that in ordinary times the State of North Carolina is abundantly able to meet every obligation which she has incurred in the past, or may incur in the future, and that this is proved by the fact that until these late troublesome times North Carolina Stocks stood A No. 1 in the markets. Mr. Courts knows that the Stocks of the State, which have already fallen thirty-three and a third per cent., would sink much lower the moment it was ascertained that North Carolina was preparing for war. Capitalists will lend their money when it is to be employed for peaceful, conservative, and useful purposes, but they will be slow to do it, if they do it at all, for revolutionary and destructive purposes, inasmuch as revolution and destruction would annihilate the very source to which they must look for the repayment of their loan. We say we don't know Treasurer Courts' opinion, but if he is as sensible a man as we think him to be, we are very sure that we have hit the nail on the head.

Raleigh Register.

Secession Tyranny.—We have witnessed the proceedings of many Legislatures in this State, and we can truly say that we have never seen as tyrannical a spirit as that exhibited by certain secessionists in the present Legislature. Their object seems to be to commit the State *at once* to secession. No appeals for delay by the moderate and conservative are regarded. This spirit has been exhibited especially towards Col. Brown, the Senator from Caswell; but he bears himself nobly, demanding his rights at the hands of his opponents and winning golden opinions among his friends. Those members of the Legislature who are standing up for a Constitutional Union, and opposing secession and revolution at this time, are entitled to the confidence and thanks of the people of the State.—*Hal. Standard.*

CONSTITUTIONAL UNION MEETINGS.

We publish to-day the proceedings of a Constitutional Union meeting held in Surry county. We shall publish in our next or subsequent issues the proceedings of similar meetings held in Bertie, Guilford, at Elevation, in Johnson, and in the Auburn district, Wake county. We learn that the Auburn meeting was ably addressed by Q. Busbee and D. G. Fowle, Esquires, of this City. Meetings of a similar character are to be held soon in Orange, Carteret, Person and Rowan.

A very large meeting was held in Fayetteville on the 4th instant, Hon. Jesse G. Shepherd presiding, D. McDiarmid and Jno. Williams, Esquires, Vice Presidents, and Messrs. J. C. Dobbin and J. A. Pemberton, Secretaries. Some excellent resolutions, reported by B. R. Huske, Esq., from a committee of gentlemen of both parties, were adopted. Resolutions differing in substance and tone from those adopted, were offered and rejected.—Among the rejected resolutions was one endorsing that part of the Governor's message relating to federal affairs. The resolutions adopted by the meeting no doubt embody the sentiments of a vast majority of the people of Cumberland.

The Wilmington *Journal* raises its voice against "Union meetings." Is the Editor afraid to hear the voice of the people? Is it wrong or impolitic at this time to speak out for a *Constitutional* Union? We think not. The Editor of the *Journal* is more than pleased at secession meetings, but he is tired of that word "Union." We tell him that the great body of the people of this State are *just beginning to speak.* The towns and villages have been heard from to some extent; but the great body of the people who do not live in towns, and who are not unduly excited by contact and discussions with each other, are now coming forward to record their judgments. *That record will be for the Constitution and the Union, and against present secession.* Mark the prediction.

We again say to the people without respect to party, *hold your meetings*—hold them in your Captain's districts, as well as at your county seats. Let your voices be heard. If professional politicians, under the influence of the Governor of the State, who is committed to disunion, attempt to lead *you* or dictate to *you*, tell them to stand aside and to learn that *you*, and not *they*, are the masters in North Carolina. If disunion comes, *the people* will have to bear the consequences. If soldiers are called for, *the people* will have to shoulder their muskets and march. If more money shall be wanted, *the people* will have to pay it over to the sheriffs. Let *the people*, then, decide this momentous question for themselves; and let mere agitators, and those who have nothing to lose but every thing to gain by revolution, and the two-penny orators, who speak but to inflame, and who in the day of danger, like Thersites, would do more talking than fighting, *be made to know their places.* When the lion roars let the mice and the minks retire to their holes.—*Ral. Standard.*

From the North Carolina Standard.

PUBLIC MEETING IN SURRY.

In pursuance to previous notice a portion of the people of Surry county, irrespective of party distinctions heretofore existing, met at Mount Airy, to take into consideration the measures proper to be pursued, in order to ward off "the impending crisis" and maintain our constitutional rights.

The meeting was organized by appointing Gen. S. Graves, Chairman, and Dr. Wm. O. Reid, Secretary.

On motion, a committee of five was appointed, consisting of J. F. Graves, R. S. Gilmer, R. R. Gallaway, Hugh Gwyn and James S. Hill. The committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions for the action of the meeting, retired, and during their absence the meeting was addressed by Granville H. Booker and Dr. Wm. O. Reid.

The committee reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, That all rightful government derives its power from the consent of the governed—that our Federal Union is a Union by the consent of the States which compose it.

Resolved, That while we condemn the action of the Northern States in their unfriendly legislation, we as citizens of North Carolina are still attached to the Federal Union, and are unwilling for existing causes to sever our connection with it, until all peaceful efforts have failed to redress our grievances and remove our wrongs.

Resolved, That in order to secure our rights, and obtain redress for our injuries, the Legislature ought to provide by law for a convention of the people, composed of delegates chosen on the federal basis, to be held at the Capitol at an early day, to take into consideration the proper course for the State of North Carolina to pursue—pledging ourselves, as we owe allegiance first to North Carolina to abide the determination of the Convention.

Resolved, That in the settlement of our existing difficulties, we desire the Union of all the Southern States, and to this end the State Convention ought to appoint delegates to meet delegates from the other Southern States in convention to consult upon the existing difficulties, and to settle peacably if possible.

Resolved, That if it becomes necessary to confer with the other Southern States before the meeting of the convention, then the Legislature ought to institute measures for a conference with our sister States of the South, and that such delegates as the Legislature may appoint to confer with other States, be instructed to use all peaceful means to procure a satisfactory settlement of our existing difficulties, and use their influence to prevent any State from acting precipitately and involving the whole country in irreparable injury.

The resolutions were then voted upon separately: the first and second were adopted unanimously, without alteration. The third was amended by striking out all after the word pursue, and then adopted by an almost unanimous vote, there being only a few dissenting voices. The fourth and fifth resolutions were adopted without change by a large majority—amounting almost to unanimity.

On motion, it was ordered, that the Secretary furnish our Senator and member in the Commons in the Legislature now in Session, with a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, and that we send a copy to the N. C. Standard, with the request that the Greensboro' Patriot and other papers in the State please copy.

On motion the meeting adjourned *sine die*

December 6th, 1860.

S. GRAVES, *Ch'n.*

WM. O. REID, *Sec'y.*

The Supreme Court.—The Supreme Court of North Carolina commenced its winter term in this City on Monday the 10th, all the Judges being in attendance.

Raleigh Standard.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1860.

SENATE.—The Senate agreed to continue the standing Committees of last session.

Mr. Sumner presented a memorial from Thaddeus Hyatt, asking aid for the people in Kansas.

With relation to the select committee of thirteen on the President's Message, Mr. Powell, of Ky., urged its appointment.

Mr. King, of New York, wished to amend Mr. Powell's resolution so as to read—"for the protection of persons as well as property in the United States, and inquire what legislation is necessary for the maintenance of the Federal power."

Mr. Green, of Ma., was willing to amend the Constitution, as well as give power to the Executive to enforce the laws and maintain the rights of persons and property. He advocated a Federal police along the boundary line between the free and slave States, with power to arrest and return fugitive slaves.

Mr. Powell's resolution was amended so as to strike out the portion inquiring as to the necessity of additional Federal power.

Mr. Green advocated the amendment of the Constitution, provided it was sustained by public sentiment; not otherwise. Before the good old times can be restored, the Government must intervene to protect the States, and if possible clog the wheels of dissolution until a reaction takes place.

Mr. Foster, of Conn., favored allaying public excitement. He advocated Powell's resolution.

Mr. Douglas, of Ill., was ready to act with any body or individual for the preservation of the Constitution, and urged all to lay aside their party feuds and petty grievances, and look to our country and not to party. [Applause in the galleries.]

Mr. Davis, of Miss., said the prospect presented was not a very hopeful one. If Federal coercion be used, the Union is shattered to fragments. The remedy lies in the heart of the people. The South is prepared to do justice. The repeal of the Personal Liberty bills is but of little account—the only remedy is in the hearts of the people. He would resist Federal coercion, and argued against its constitutionality.

The debate was continued at great length, and pending a motion to postpone the resolution till Monday, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Hawkins explained at length why he could not serve on the Boteler committee, and in the course of his remarks he bitterly attacked the unfair construction of the committee. He was particularly severe on Winter Davis, who, he said, did not represent the sentiment of his State. He gave fair warning that Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and S. Carolina would certainly secede, and Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas certainly follow. The selection of the members of the committee tended to disgrace and irritate the South. The time for hatching up a peace had gone by.

Messrs. Vallandigham and McClernand complained that the Democracy of the North-west were unrepresented on the Committee.

Mr. Sickles said if disunion comes, N. York city will set up for herself a free port. To settle the present question, he thought the Republicans must take the initiative, and repeal all unjust laws, as well as give the proper protection to Southern rights. If they will not respect the Constitution of our forefathers, it cannot be expected that they can amend it, guided by such men as Seward, Giddings and Sumner, so as to secure the objects sought for.

The vote was taken on Hawkin's request to be excused.

Mr. Sherman, by consent, reported a bill authorizing the issue of $10,000,000 Treasury notes, to meet the necessities, which was passed. The bill provides for six per cent. interest, and authorizes the Secretary to issue them, as required by necessity, to the highest bidders for specie, without restriction as to par value.

Adjourned.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUTHERN REPUBLIC.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The Herald's Washington correspondent says this new, important and formal programme which has been presented for the consideration of the Southern Senators, was talked over in caucus. It emanates from Lamar of Mississippi. The first object is to get the cotton States to postpone final action so as to give time for other Southern to co-operate with them. The plan is to have all the Southern States in separate Conventions at the same time, and adopt the present government of the United States at first, without any alterations; to provide for the execution of all laws and treaties, and for the general peaceable operation of all the machinery of the present government. Even after the several States had solemnly withdrawn from the Union, invite all other States to join them, with the hope that N. England will stay out.

The first feature in the programme is to have all the Southern States in separate Conventions at the same time, and have such a perfect understanding that they should on the same day adopt the same ordinances, verbatim et literatim.

Second, that such ordinances, whilst severing in a solemn way the bonds which unite said States to the United States of North America, shall provide that the laws of the United States shall remain in full force and effect amongst the seceding States, and that the present Constitution shall be their Constitution and compact.

Third, that laws and decisions of Courts which are now of force in the Republic of the United States of North America, under the authority of the government thereof, shall be adopted as a body of laws for the Federal Government of this, the United States of the South.

Fourth, that the people of the United States of the South hereby bind themselves to observe and sacredly carry out the stipulations of all treaties, subsisting between the United States of North America and foreign governments anterior to the date of this ordinance, until such treaties are changed or altered or disregarded by such action with this government.

Fifth, that the following persons are hereby appointed electors for the State of ——, and hereby authorized and empowered to cast the vote of this State, on such day as may be agreed upon, for President and Vice President of the United States of the South, and such persons as may receive the highest number of votes, according to the Constitution which has been re-adopted, shall be elected, inaugurated and invested with the powers conferred by the same Constitution upon the Executive, on the twentieth day after the adoption of this ordinance.

Sixth, that the Conventions are to provide for the immediate convention of a Congress of the United States of the South, either appointed by themselves, or authorise their present Representatives to act; and that all officers, staff contractors, Marshals and Judges shall retain their offices until otherwise ordered.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The impression prevails here that the border States are about to advise the cotton States, in case they secede, to submit temporarily to the existing tariff and postal laws, and to send Commissioners to Washington to treat with the Federal Government, and thus avoid collision and bloodshed; recognize the Commissioners, or the negotiations fail to be consummated, then the border States will follow their sister Southern States in Secession.

The Herald's rumor that Lincoln has addressed conciliatory letter to Jeff. Davis, is discredited here.

Messrs. Miles, McQueen and Boyce, of S. C., had an interview with the President to-day.—Result unknown.

Secretary Cobb has certainly resigned, and will return home on Tuesday.

The President, to-day, was assured from authentic sources that South Carolina will not oppose the collection of the revenue, nor the Federal retention of the forts during the remainder of his administration.

What Western men say—Gen. Scott in Washington—The President says he will collect the Customs—Replenishing the Federal Purse—Congressional Doings, etc., etc.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.

The Democrats from the Northwest have had several conferences relative to the present condition of political affairs. They generally take the position set forth in McClernand's and Vallandigham's speeches on yesterday, namely; that *the Union cannot be dissolved peaceably*; that the Northwest will, under no circumstances, consent to be cut off from the Gulf of Mexico, or from the city of New York; and that the Federal Government, notwithstanding its faults, is of inestimable value. Their leading idea is that of a Central Government, embracing the Middle, Western, and Border Slave States, but depending on future circumstances for its consummation.

Secretary Cobb leaves Washington to-morrow for home. He has prepared the people of Georgia to secede, calling upon them to arouse all their manhood, so as, on the 4th of March, to announce and maintain their independence out of the Union, saying that they can never again expect equality and justice in it. He entertains no doubt either of their right or duty to secede.

Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott will arrive here to-morrow.

The President stated, in a recent conversation with gentlemen, that he intended to collect the revenue at Charleston, and in case the present Collector resigned, he will send an officer there for that purpose, and if resisted in the performance of the duties, the present law of Congress gave him ample power to enforce their collection; which doubtless means that he will place a revenue officer on board a man-of-war, and collect them under Fort Moultrie. The President, however, does not anticipate any such necessity on his part.

It is stated to be an understanding here with Senators and Representatives from the five States that are early to secede from the Union, that the ordinances of secession are to declare that all laws and treaties of the United States shall stand until all efforts or plans for a re-union of the States shall have failed.

Besides the South Carolina Senators, there are still absent from the city Senator Johnson, of Alabama, Mallory, of Florida, and Toombs, of Georgia.

ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE THIRTY-THREE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The House Committee of Thirty-Three to-day took the following action on that portion of the Message referring to the pending difficulties relative to the South.

Mr. Rusk, of Arkansas, offered the following:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Committee the existing discontent among the Southern people, and growing hostility among them to the Federal Government, is generally to be regretted, and whether this discontent and hostility are without just cause or not, any reasonable, proper, and constitutional remedies and effectual guaranties of their peculiar interests, as recognized by the Constitution, necessary and proper to the peace of the country and prosperity of the Union, should be promptly and cheerfully granted.

After voting upon several amendments proposed,

The proposition of Mr. Rusk was then adopted, by the following vote:

AYES.—Messrs. Corwin, Milson, Winslow, Campbell, Love, Davis of Md., Stratton, Bristow, Nelson, Dunn, Taylor, Kellogg, Houston, Phelps, Rusk, Howard, Hamilton, Curtis, Burch, Wyndham and Stout—21.

NAYS.—Messrs. Adams, Ferry, Humphrey, Robinson, Tappan, Morrill, Morse and Washburn—8.

Mr. Davis of Miss., declined to vote.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The immense edition (three hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and fifty copies) of the Agricultural Report of the Patent Office, ordered by Congress at the last session, was completed early last week by the Senate Printer, and will be shortly in the hands of members of Congress.

A dispatch from Columbia, South Carolina, says: "In reference to the proposition to send commissioners from Virginia, Kentucky, and other border States to the South Carolina convention, the Guardian says it is a useless measure—that the convention will not listen to persuasion from any quarter." All the members thus far known to be elected to the convention appear to be in favor of prompt secession.

A Charleston dispatch says: "The convention election returns from districts which went for co-operation in 1852 show a great revolution in public opinion, the vote in favor of separate secession being twenty to one against it.

A Washington dispatch to the Baltimore Sun, dated yesterday, says: "The President has just been assured, from an authentic source, that the authorities of South Carolina will make no resistance either to the collection of duties or to the Federal possession of the forts guarding Charleston harbor during the remainder of his Administration.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has written a long letter favoring secession.

The Boston municipal election took place yesterday for Mayor and City Councils. The candidates for Mayor were Joseph M. Weightman, Democrat and Unionist, and Moses Kimball, Republican. The vote stood: Weightman, 8,768, and Kimball, 5,681. The Unionists also carried the City Council by a large majority.

The Mayor of Philadelphia issued the following proclamation on the 11th, calling a Union meeting at noon the 13th, at the State House:

CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA:—At a time when the continuance of our National Union is in peril, and the breaking up of our Confederacy appears to be imminent, it is proper that a loyal people, casting off the spirit of party should in a special manner avow their undying devotion to the Union and their abiding fidelity to its Constitution and Laws.

To this end, by advice of the Councils of Philadelphia, I earnestly invite you, laying aside your several callings, to assemble at the State House, at noon of Thursday next, that with an honest sense of your responsibility as American citizens you may counsel together to avert the danger which threatens our country, and that, relying upon the favor of Almighty God, you may seek to perpetuate for yourselves and your children the blessings of constitutional liberty.

Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Philadelphia, this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

(L. S.)

ALEXANDER HENRY,
Mayor of Philadelphia.

There was a disturbance in Music Hall, Boston, on Sunday, on the occasion of a lecture by Fred. Douglass.

The overland express mail from California arrived yesterday at Fort Kearny. The vote of the State for President was as follows: Lincoln, 38,702; Douglas, 32,060; Breckinridge, 3,400. The census just taken shows the population of the State to be 400,000.

The weekly report of the New York banks shows an increase of loans of $676,904. Increase of specie $20,981. Increase of circulation, $150,250. Increase of deposits, $11,361,448.

The water is to be drawn out of the New York canals to-morrow.

Hon. Herschel V. Johnson, of Georgia, late a candidate for Vice President of the United States, has written a letter to A. Belmont, Esq., of New York, on the present aspect of affairs. He thinks that South Carolina will be out of the Union before the new year comes in. She will be sustained, if not followed, by Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.—Something must be done to gain time for reflection. The people of the South will remain in the Union, if permitted to do so and enjoy their constitutional rights. Mr. Johnson sums up southern grievances, and thinks the South has been remarkably patient in its relations with the North. The North, he says, must act promptly and decidedly, or the Union is gone.

In consequence of the violent action of the vigilance committees, the Mayor of Savannah, Georgia, has offered a reward of $100 for the apprehension and conviction of persons implicated in their outrages.

The New York Tribune says: "Commodore Shubrick, who has been fifty years in the Navy, has prepared his letter of resignation, to be tendered when South Carolina shall secede. It is said to be conceived in the most touching terms. Captain Ingraham, who has gone to the Mediterranean, is understood to have left his in view of the same contingency.—They are esteemed among the best officers in the service."

The Baltimore Sun says that Senator Clay, of Alabama, has tendered to Governor Moore his resignation as Senator from Alabama, to take effect on the 4th of March, unless the State should sooner secede.

A circular has been addressed, by the Governor of Texas, to the Governors of the other southern States, inclosing resolutions adopted by the Texas Legislature, last winter, in favor of a convention of the southern States, whenever a majority of said States deem it necessary. In transmitting the resolutions, Governor Houston expresses the hope that such an assembly may "restore harmony between the two sections of the Union."

The Toronto Globe says that the convulsions in American trade, resulting from political troubles, have affected Canada very seriously.

The Baltimore Sun says that Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, will, in a day or two, publish a letter taking direct issue with the President on the subject of secession, and that he proposes on Thursday next to repair to Georgia, where he is a candidate for the State convention to assemble on the 7th proximo.

The New York shipping and commercial list says: "Our accounts from the South and West, as regards trade, indicate but little change for the better.—The pressure is severe at New Orleans; but the banks there, it is believed, will weather the storm. Several heavy mercantile failures have been announced in the course of the week. Suspensions are common, likewise, in nearly all the other great cities. The New England manufacturing interests are suffering severely, and but for the liberal policy adopted by New York there is reason to fear nearly all their banks would be forced into suspension. From the West the reports are equally discouraging, though the financial writers, for the most part, preserve a cheerful tone."

The Nashville Banner is authorized to state that the rumors in circulation as to the offer of a place to the Hon. John Bell in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, are without the slightest foundation. No intimation of such intention has been communicated to Mr. Bell, either by Mr. Lincoln himself or through any of his friends.

Notwithstanding the cordial and kind reception of the Japanese Embassy in the United States, there has been no favorable change in the conduct of the Japanese Government toward Americans. The export trade of the country, it is said, is almost entirely under the control of the Government, and so successful has it been in checking its normal and legitimate growth, by interferences and restrictions in direct violation of its treaty obligations, that our merchants have been doing less and less, till now a great majority are doing nothing at all, and business is in a worse and more unsatisfactory state, if possible, than ever before.

Judge Douglas is still lame in consequence of the accident that happened to him on the steamboat at Montgomery, Alabama.

A naval exploring party, in command of Lieutenant North, of the Navy, left Norfolk on Wednesday in the steamer Calypso, for Albemarle sound.

LOW PRICES.—It is estimated that two hundred millions of dollars would not cover the loss occasioned by the present fall of prices of all kinds of produce, property, and stocks. We rather place the sum at two thousand millions. In the first place, the slave property of the Southern States has been valued at four thousand millions, and that has fallen at least one third. Cotton has fallen 25 per cent, stocks as much, real estate nearly as much, and so on.

The naval store business in this part of North Carolina is depressed to an unparalleled extent. Who ever heard of Spirits Turpentine at 24 cents a gallon? And as for Rosin, the common qualities will not bear moving at all.

The only things that keep up here are Satables. They too must fall, and that soon.

Wool has declined at the North as much as cotton, say 25 per cent.

Fayetteville Observer.

North Carolina Conference,

Appointments for Preachers.

The Conference adjourned at a late hour on Tuesday night, 11th of Dec. instant, after one week's laborous session. The following appointments were announced at the close, to wit:

RALEIGH DISTRICT—W Hammond, P. E.

Raleigh City Mission, S D Pooler.
" Colored Mission, W H Pell.
" Circuit, R C Hayward.
Tar River, J B Martin, J Reid.
Henderson, Lemon Shell.
Person, Paul J Carraway.
Louisburg, Alfred Norman.
Granville, Theophilus W Moore.
Chapel Hill, J A Cunningham.
Hillsboro', R F Guthrie.
Louisburg, M C Thomas.
Nashville, R T N Stevenson.
Hillsboro' Circuit, J W Tunis.
Rufus T Heflin, Editor of N C Ch. Advocate, and W E Pell, Assistant Editor.
J P Moore, Ag't for Amer. Bible Society.

GREENSBORO' DISTRICT—N F Reid, P. E.

Greensboro' Station, L L Hendren.
{ Guilford, Chas H Phillips.
{ South Guilford, R S Webb.
Davidson, J W Lewis.
Forsythe, D W Dunn.
Stokes, W H Richardson.
Winston, James E Mann.
High Point, O J Brent and J H Alford.
Wentworth, D R Breton.
Alamance, C M Pepper.
Yanceyville, T P Hicard.
Frankfinville, Geo E Wyche.
Trinity College, B Craven.
Ashboro', Jeff H Robbins.
H Craven, Pres't and N H D Wilson, Ag't Trinity College.

SALISBURY DISTRICT—W H Bobbitt, P. E.

Salisbury Station, A W Mangum.
Rowan, R A Willis.
East Rowan, F M Wood.
Mocksville, W C Gannon and W Albea.
Iredell, J W Floyd and T B Rooks.
South Iredell, W D Meachem.
Alexander, T L Triplett.
Jonesville, J T Keerans.
Wilkes, W M Robey.
{ Surry, James F Bennett.
{ Sauratown Mission, S H Helmbold.
Blue Ridge Mission, J W Avent.
Fisher's River Mission, J M Gunn.

WASHINGTON DISTRICT—J T Wynne, P. E.

{ Washington Station, C P Jones.
{ Avent Chapel, to be supplied.
Roanoke, J L Fisher and T B Kingsbury.
Warren, J H Wheeler and J W Jenkins.
Plymouth, Joseph Wheeler.
Williamston, W S Chaffin.
Greenville, R P Bibb.
Columbia, B B Culbreth.
Mattamuskeet, W M Walsh and W A Smith.
Bath, W H Moore.
{ Neuse, W J Clegg.
{ Swift Creek Mission, J H Hill.
Portsmouth and Occracoke, A R Royal.
Cape Hatteras Mission, M M Taylor.
Roanoke Col'd Mission, M J Hunt.
Tarborough, J B Hobbitt.
Tar River Col'd Mission, M H Hight.

NEWBERN DISTRICT—Wm. Closs, P. E.

Newbern Station—Centenary, J S Long.
Andrew Chapel Mission, N A Hocker.
Newbern Circuit, J J Hines.
Snow Hill, Geo W Deems.
Wilson, H T Hudson, N A H Goddin.
Centenary Mission, C W King.
Smithfield, Carson Parker.
Johnston Mission, J R Brooks.
Goldsboro', R S Morris.
Everetsville, B F Long.
Jones, F J Eatman.
Trent, E A Wilson, F W Tarrell.
Beaufort—Ann street, E G Barrett.
Purvis Chapel, John Jones.
Straits, T L Troy.
Edgecombe, W H Barnes.
Morehead City, E A Yates.
Cape Lookout Mission, to be supplied.
Wayne Female College, S M Frost, President.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT—C F Deane, P. E.

Wilmington—Front street, T W Guthrie.
Fifth street, Jas W Wheeler.
Seaman's Bethel, Jno N Andrews.
Topsail, J B Bailey.
Duplin, J B Williams.
Magnolia, D B Nicholson.
Onslow, Dougan C Johnson.
Sampson, H H Gibbons, L W Martin, Sup.
{ Bladen, W Harris.
{ South River Mission, D Culbreth.
Elizabeth, J P Simpson.
Whiteville, T J Gattis.
Smithville, A D Betts.
Cape Fear Mission, W M D Moore.
North East, John C Brent.

FAYETTEVILLE DIST.—Peter Doub, P. E.

Fayetteville Station, L S Burkhead.
Evans' Chapel, Jno L Newby.
Fayetteville Circuit, J C Thomas.
Cape Fear, G Parker.
Haw River, S D Adams.
Pittsboro', P H Scovell.
Deep River, C M Anderson.
Montgomery, Z Rush.
Rockingham, J Tillett, W H Wheeler.
Cheraw, J C Moses.
Robeson, W M Jordan, one to be supplied.
Missionary to China, Marcus L Wood.

THE SECESSION MOVEMENT.

AUGUSTA, GA., Dec. 12.—Thomas R. Cobb is out with a recommendation to the seceding States to fix the time of their ordinances of secession to take effect from the 15th or 20th of February. In the meantime the Commissioners of the seceding States may meet and consult about the propriety of stepping out of the old Union into another, based on the constitution of the United States.

BATON ROUGE, LA., Dec. 12.—The Senate has passed the Convention bill.

The Mississippi Commissioners having announced the action of that State, asking the co-operation of Louisiana, a resolution was adopted by the Senate requesting the Government to communicate its action to the other slave States.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 12.—The "Courier" of to-day says it believes compromise impossible.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 12.—The Senate to-day adopted a report appropriating $500,000 for any exigencies which secession may create.

AUGUSTA, GA., Dec. 12.—Large secession meetings were held last night at Savannah, Columbus and Atlanta. So far the meetings are generally more conservative than heretofore—all, however, favor resistance in some form.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., Dec. 12.—The Montgomery "Advertiser" of yesterday publishes a presentment of the Grand Jury of the District Federal Court, declaring the Federal Government worthless, impotent and a nuisance for permitting violations of the Constitution in the States—nullifying the Fugitive Slave laws, and for other causes.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The Putnam Phalanx, a visiting company from New Hampshire, visited the President to-day, and were courteously received.—They were reviewed by Messrs. Floyd and Toucey. They visited the tomb of Washington yesterday. They left for home this afternoon.

There is a better feeling to-day among the Congressmen. It is believed a strong movement is being initiated out-side of Congress for a Southern Convention as foreshadowed by the National Intelligencer.

The President has given assurance that he will not reinforce the forts of Charleston harbor. Maj. Anderson, at Fort Moultrie, has not asked for more troops. The best feeling prevails between the garrison and the citizens.

All the members of the select committee of 33 will serve except Boyce and Hawkins. Hamilton, of Texas, has not yet arrived.

GEN. WALKER'S REMAINS.

MOBILE, Dec. 7.—Capt. West, who went to Truxillo after G