

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1850.

The resolution heretofore offered by Mr. Clemens...

Mr. Smith moved to lay the resolution upon the table.

Mr. Douglass was determined, he said, that the Senate should be fully informed on the subject.

Mr. Smith stated that the information had been already laid before the Senate, every word of it, and it would be a useless expense to cause other copies to be made.

Mr. Clay suggested that it would be better to wait and see the character of the information which was before the House.

A long discussion followed, in which Messrs. Dawson, Douglass, Smith and others took part.

Mr. Clemens took occasion to state that the information, when called for, was from time to time delayed.

The Democratic Senators had voted to delay it. From the democracy of the North, the South had nothing to expect.

The North would always take such a course as would shield themselves from their constituents, on the subject of slavery.

Mr. Dickinson said he ought to be exempted from the charge, for he voted against laying the resolution on the table.

Mr. Clemens. May God deliver me from such friends as the Northern Democrats are.

Mr. Shields disclaimed for himself the imputation that he had been guided by such a motive, in voting to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Clemens said that notwithstanding the gentleman's disclaimer which was meant to be offensive, he would repeat what he had said, and would be personally responsible for it, here and elsewhere.

Messrs. Dodge of Iowa, Butler and Foote interposed, and urged upon the Senators the propriety of preserving order and avoiding personalities.

Mr. Butler said the Senator from Illinois had not, he was certain, intended anything offensive.

Mr. Shields. I do not. I did not vote to lay it on the table with the view to evade the question of slavery.

Mr. Clemens was glad that the matter was ended. There was not a free State North or West that had not passed anti-slavery resolutions.

Mr. Dodge of Iowa. You are wrong. Iowa has not.

Mr. Bright also denied the fact.

Mr. Davis, of Miss., requested the Senator from Alabama to yield for one moment.

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ed. No one knew what he had intended to say, or how far he considered the Northern Democracy unfriendly, and what proofs of it he intended to offer.

Mr. Davis, of Miss., was of the same opinion. Mr. Douglass said that, upon inquiry, he had understood that the Speaker of the House had declared that he was not aware that the information was in the House.

Mr. Clemens explained that the documents were on the Speaker's table, but not opened. He would now say, that the South could not rely upon Northern aid—either of Democrats or Whigs.

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From the Republic. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Upon the Territorial Question.

We lay before our readers, this morning, a document which, we believe, is destined to exert a more powerful and salutary influence upon the public mind, than any paper which has issued from the Executive office for many years.

Under these circumstances I thought, and still think, that it was my duty to endeavor to put it in the power of Congress, by the admission of California and New Mexico as States, to remove all occasion for the unnecessary agitation of the public mind.

It is understood that the people of the western part of California have formed a plan of a State Constitution, and will soon submit the same to the judgment of Congress, and apply for admission as a State.

The part of California not included in the proposed State of that name is believed to be uninhabited, except in a settlement of our countrymen in the vicinity of Salt Lake.

A claim has been advanced by the State of Texas to a very large portion of the most populous district of the Territory commonly designated by the name of New Mexico.

We shall have abundant occasions to refer to this message hereafter. It covers the whole ground. It submits to the safe and quiet operation of natural causes the disposition of questions which convulse and threaten the Union whenever they are sought to be disposed of by legislative interference.

WASHINGTON, January 21, 1850. To the House of Representatives of the United States.

I transmit to the House of Representatives, in answer to a resolution of that body, passed on the 31st of December last, the accompanying reports of heads of Departments, which contain all the official information in the possession of the Executive asked for by the resolution.

On coming into office I found the military commandant of the department of California exercising the functions of civil governor in that Territory; and left as I was to act under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo without the aid of any legislative provision in establishing a government in that Territory, I thought it best not to disturb that arrangement, made under my predecessor, until Congress should take some action on that subject.

I did not hesitate to express to the people of those Territories my desire that each Territory should, if prepared to comply with the requisitions of the Constitution of the United States, form a plan of a State constitution, and submit the same to Congress, with a prayer for admission into the Union as a State; but I did not anticipate, suggest, or authorize the establishment of any such government without the assent of Congress, nor did I authorize any government agent or officer to interfere with, or exercise any influence or control over the election of delegates, or over any convention, in making or modifying their domestic institutions, or any of the provisions of their proposed constitution.

On the contrary, the instructions given by my orders were, that all measures of domestic policy adopted by the people of California must originate solely with themselves; that while the Executive of the United States was desirous to protect them in the formation of any government republican in its character, to be at the proper time submitted to Congress, yet it was to be distinctly understood that the plan of such a government must at the same time be the result of their own deliberate choice, and originate with themselves, without the interference of the Executive.

I am unable to give any information as to laws passed by any supposed government in California, or of any censuses taken in either of the Territories mentioned in the resolution, as I have no information on those subjects.

As already stated, I have not disturbed the arrangements which I found had existed under my predecessor.

In advising an early application by the people of these Territories for admission as States, I was actuated principally by an earnest desire to afford to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress the opportunity of avoiding occasions of bitter and angry discussions among the people of the United States.

Under the Constitution every State has the right of establishing, and from time to time altering, its municipal laws and domestic institutions, independently of every other State and of the General Government, subject only to the prohibitions and guarantees expressly set forth in the Constitution of the United States.

The subjects thus left exclusively to the respective States were not designed or expected to become topics of national agitation. Still, as under the Constitution Congress has power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territories of the United States, every new acquisition of Territory has led to discussions on the question whether the system of involuntary servitude which prevails in many of the States should or should not be prohibited in that Territory. The periods of excitement from this cause which have heretofore occurred have been safely passed, but during the interval of whatever

length which may elapse before the admission of the Territories ceded by Mexico as States, it appears probable that similar excitement will prevail to an undue extent.

Under these circumstances I thought, and still think, that it was my duty to endeavor to put it in the power of Congress, by the admission of California and New Mexico as States, to remove all occasion for the unnecessary agitation of the public mind.

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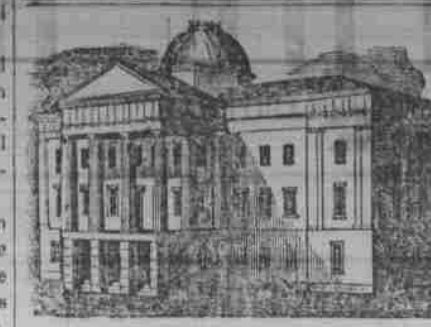
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RALEIGH, N. C.

Friday Morning, January 23, 1850.

WE invite attention to the letter of one of our friends, which may be found in to-day's paper. It was not intended for publication—but we could not resist the wish that our readers should see what appeared to us so interesting, as well as valuable. It accords in the main with our own views upon the subjects of which it treats—and we beg the pardon of the writer for the liberty we have taken.

PETERSBURG INTELLIGENCER. Our thanks are due to the Editor of this able and sterling Whig paper, JONAS W. SYMS, Esq., for his kindness in sending us his daily—not less for the value of the gift,—we prize it highly,—than for the courtesy and politeness of its bestowal.

CITY ELECTION. The Election for Intendant, Commissioners, and Constables for the City of Raleigh, took place on Monday last.

William Dallas Haywood was re-elected Intendant, without opposition, receiving 225 votes.

In the Eastern Ward, Eldridge Smith received 61 votes, and is therefore elected. The other Candidates polled as follows: P. F. Pescud 60; T. M. Oliver 60; O. L. Burch 52. There being a tie between Messrs. Pescud and Oliver, we understand the matter has been referred by the Sheriff to the Board, and we have not heard the decision.

In the Middle Ward, E. B. Freeman received 65 votes; T. R. Fentress 56; John Primrose 54; C. B. Root 20; Richard Smith 19. The three first named are elected.

In the Western Ward, S. W. Whiting received 52 votes; Silas Dumas 45; W. W. Holden 32; W. F. Collins 14.

Messrs. Whiting and Burns are therefore elected. Constables.—Hinton Franklin and Wm. H. Putney re-elected.

SOUTHERN CONVENTION. Our readers will bear us witness, that one of our chief objections to the proposed Southern Convention was the indefinite manner in which its purposes appear before the public, as set forth by its different advocates—so that it is difficult to tell what that Convention may or may not accomplish.

Our article of last week has called forth comments from the Editors of the Star and Standard; and, passing by, for the present, all else they may contain, we propose to examine their articles, briefly, in order to discover, if we can, the purpose they deem will be served by this Convention, which they consider so important for the salvation of the Southern States.

We premise that we are in favor of awaiting the action of Congress at the present session, in which body our State already has her Representatives, deputed to speak for her—in the hope that some compromise may be effected, by which, while Southern rights are maintained and respected, harmony may be restored, and the Union preserved.

When the Nashville Convention was proposed, we may be pardoned for supposing that something new and more salutary was to be effected by it—some great good to be attained. What, then, is the Nashville Convention going to do?—that it is so important that North Carolina should be represented therein. What is the impending, imminent danger?—so pressing as to invoke the Governor of the State to call the Legislature together—or his Council—or, "at least issue his Proclamation to the People." Wherefore is "authoritative State action" so speedily necessary?

We have examined the last Standard carefully—but we have failed to discover any change even indicated in the posture of our affairs—any reason assigned for the hot haste with which Delegates are to be appointed to the Nashville Convention—or any detailed information respecting the great and important work which that Convention is to accomplish. If we were worthy of any notice from the Editor at all, we prefer—as he has apparently abused us to his heart's content,—that he should have given us some information on these heads.

For light we asked—we wanted to know what this Convention was for; what it is going to do? We are answered with invective; with personalities which we have neither the time nor inclination to notice. The Editor is on his tripod; his responses are oracular; ominous; alarming; his shoe latches are evidently rattling with emotion, not to say frenzy; while his troubled knees are (figuratively) smiting each other with alarm; but what it's all for, he does not vouchsafe to let us know—he utters a despairing, heart-rending appeal to Gov. Manly, full of "gorgons, hydras and chimera dire,"—then seals his white and quivering lips, and we can know no more.

We are compelled to seek the shrine of another oracle in quest of knowledge.

It is proper to remark, in passing, that both the Star and Standard quote, with approbation, the views of the Richmond Times upon this subject. Well, that paper is in favor of passing more resolutions—reiterating, in the word—giving assurance to Congress that "Virginia, with the other Southern States will regard the passage of the measures in question, (Proviso, abolition in the District, &c.) as tantamount to a dissolution of the Union," in other words, more threats are to be thrown out; more resolutions are to be passed; in the hope of

impressing the "majority" with "the necessity of Southern resolution," &c. More full, at least.

And the Star quotes this passage, and says it is precisely the ground taken by the Star last week:

"We concur in the propriety of the Legislature's now repeating this warning, not because we really apprehend that the occasion will shortly arise for its application; but because we cherish the hope that it may tend to postpone that occasion forever, by persuading the Northern majority in Congress to desist from efforts to enact obnoxious laws. And should the stand unflinchingly taken by the Southern States, fail to impress that majority with the sincerity of the Southern resolution, it would powerfully strengthen the hands of the President in applying his negative (as we doubt not he will), to measures which, if sanctioned by his approval, would unquestionably be fatal to the Union."

The Editors then go on to say, after quoting from other papers to strengthen their position:

"The voice of the press, the resolutions of the Legislatures, the assurances of the Southern members of Congress, are regarded at the North as all talk! What else then can be done? Why it does appear to us that a Southern Convention, speaking calmly, temperately and firmly the sentiments of the South, would be heard and believed at the North—and it is the only voice that would be believed there. This, spoken before the fatal blow is struck, will save the Union; unless it is done, all who know the temper of the North, must believe that blow will be given; and then, alas! it will be too late."

We gather, then, that this Convention is to speak "calmly, temperately and firmly, the sentiments of the South!"—to pile "Pelion upon Ossa"—to superadd one more agony of deprecation to all that have gone before. If that's all, then we are called to a work of supererogation—and the paramount sovereignty of the State is to be entrusted to eleven men's hands, in order that they may meet other men at Nashville, and "speak calmly," &c.

The Editors of the Star are not disunionists. They go on to say:

"We would not disregard the authority, nor change the form of our Government. But we would resist a palpably unconstitutional and outrageously oppressive act of a bare majority of Congress, stripping one-half the sovereign States of this confederacy of their constitutional rights, robbing them of their honor, and clothing their citizens in poverty and disgrace. We would tell our Northern brethren so, in a language they can understand, and by an authority they would believe. This is all we would have a Southern Convention to do."

What ponderous, immense, it may be dangerous, machinery is to be put in motion, with the hope of accomplishing only this result!

We declare, we think all this has been done over and over enough, in language solemn and serious as language can be—so plain, that if misunderstood by the Northern people, nothing that we can say will ever be understood—enforced by the authority of the State Legislatures, speaking the united sentiments of the people—And yet a Southern Convention must be called to speak it over again: "This is all we would have a Southern Convention to do!"

If this don't try the patience of the Southern people, we know not what will. We are to speak daggers, it appears, but use none; and speak them forever, in all sorts of ways, and by all sorts of means, to make the North believe in "the sincerity of Southern resolutions." Why this mode of unloosing the Gordian knot may last forever—let's cut it at once—let's prate and threaten no more! If resolving and warning and threatening will do any good, we have done enough of it. If not, we have done too much—for God's sake let's have no Southern Convention to do any more.

So far the purposes of the Convention as revealed by the Star; and this is the hopeful and bright side of the picture. We hinted that it might be mischievous—but of that hereafter.

IF we assure the Editors of the Star—who show rather more feeling, we think, than the occasion warrants—that we had no intention of imputing to them any discreditable collusion in the identity of the two plans of the Star and Standard for getting up Delegates to the Nashville Convention. The construction is strained a little, perhaps, to make it so seem. The child, it appears now, had two distinct fathers,—we thought it looked a little too curious to be the offspring of lawful wedlock. The Star is not the only Whig paper, however whose views are identical with those of the Standard upon this subject—but our difference with them is not as to the rights of the South, and the duty of maintaining them. It is as to the mode of performing it. The South has always asserted her rights; we think her next step should be atrocious—prompt, vigorous, decisive action, when the crisis demands it; when the means we have heretofore tried have failed; when our constitutional rights are palpably and tyrannically invaded; when the Union of the States can no longer be preserved.

But Congress is in session; our Representatives are there; Genl Taylor, the choice of North Carolina, is President. Is it possible that nothing can be done for us? They have promised to do all they can. Let them avert the crisis, if they can let them heal the breach; let them quiet the sections; settle agitation, and restore harmony. If they cannot; if aggressions continue; if our rights are disregarded, or taken from us; if Slavery abolished where it now exists; would you want Southern Convention, for the purpose of talking "our Northern brethren a language they can understand, and by an authority they would believe? No, indeed! The people of North Carolina would then rise up in one mighty mass Convention, and maintain their rights at all hazards!

But we have no fear that any Convention is necessary. This Union will be saved—we pray God it may stand forever!

We purposely avoid all recrimination with neighbors of the Star. Our feelings are kind towards them, and we trust may ever be. We differ—that cannot be helped, perhaps—but need not quarrel. It shall be, however, as they may elect.

A Washington correspondent of the Alexandria Gazette, writing under date of January 18, says "Mr. Calhoun has been detained from the Sen for several days by indisposition, and I am sorry to learn, this morning, quite ill with pneumonia, attended with fever. The attack is said to be more serious than that which he had last year."