WATCHMAN & OLD NORTH STATE.

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Written for the Watchman & Old North State.

I'M DREAMING.

When folded in oblivious' arms,
I dream of home—its many charms;
My thoughts run out o'er earth and sky,
While on my downy couch I lie.

Kind'ed and friends have come and gone,
They quietly rest beneath the green lawn.
Slumber on dear loved ones in quiet repose,
The Savior thus slumbered, until He arose.

I sleep a little longer and still I keep dreaming.
Haunts of my childhood come up to me teaming.
The stream and the [illegible] the moss and the sod,
Where the feet of my [illegible] and my brother have trod.

The state[illegible]mbs and its boys
It is a subject f[illegible]nd youths;
Each leaf is a [illegible]hapter,
The whole is [illegible]

The hill-[illegible]
plays
While I was a[illegible]
The soft gentle[illegible]
The casket[illegible]

I dr[illegible]
Of the [illegible]
And sig[illegible]m God now lit,
To [illegible], prepared for the

Ag[illegible]s at the couch have I
I'd meet [illegible]—and keep the precious
One other heart is left us, whose troubles we will share,
Whatever may betide, he'll find us ever near.

I dream of my mother—her gentle caressing—
Her prayer by the bed, imploring God's blessings
Upon her orphan children, who bowed at her knee,
Oh! who but a mother such emotion ever feels?

I dream of the man that shone in my heart.
It lit up the whole—not only a part:
On the wings of an angel it was wafted away,
But we'll meet again at the judgment day.

A few more links in the chain is still left us to sever,
They will bind us to home—to friends dear forever;
With stern and rudder and helm in hand,
We'll press steadily on to the promised land.

I sleep and keep dreaming of the past and the present,
Of Jesus—of reunion—Oh! this is most pleasant:
Though I wake up early; or not until seven,
When I arouse from my slumbers, let me wake up in Heaven.

LEON.

THE QUESTION OF PER DIEM.

THE COMMUNICATION OF THE PUBLIC TREASURER.

Hon. C. J. Cowles, President of the Constitutional Convention of N. C.:

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge that I have received and carefully considered the ordinance passed by your honorable body, viz:

"That the Treasurer of the State of North Carolina, upon the warrant of the President of this Convention, is hereby authorized and directed to pay the *per diem* and mileage of members and officers of this Convention."

With the greatest deference for the opinion of the convention, I much regret that my views of the law render it impossible for me to obey the mandate of this ordinance.

On the 1st day of January, 1867, I took an oath of office, not directly or indirectly to apply the public money to any other use than by law directed.

I, also, entered into bond in the penal sum of $250,000, conditioned that I would "faithfully account for all moneys and othings, which shall come into my hands by virtue of my office."

If a call is made on the Treasury, not authorized by law, it is my duty to decline compliance, as well on account of the obligations of my oath, as the pecuniary responsibilities of my bond. Under ordinary circumstances it might be incumbent on me to waive my individual opinion in deference to the superior wisdom of the Convention. But in this case the consequences of unauthorized action are of such moment to myself and others, it would be madness for me to disregard my clear conviction, notwithstanding the dignity and weight of the body whose judgment is variant from my own.

In 1865, a civil government was inaugurated in this State, with power to raise funds, by taxation, for carrying on its operations. For this purpose funds have been actually realized, and I am, at present, the agent charged with their custody and disbursement. It is true, Congress has declared this government illegal and void, but, in the first place, as long as I consent to be its servant, I cannot but acknowledge its binding effect, subject to the Constitution and laws of the United States. And, secondly, Congress has expressly allowed it to continue, subordinated to its own authority and that of the military officers appointed for the purpose So that even under these laws this government is complete in all its parts—with its own officers, Executive, Legislative and Judicial—supported out of its own Treasury.

The Convention, now in session, does not derive its existence in any manner from the present State Government or under its Constitution. It has assembled under other authority and neither claims nor desires to claim any connection with it. On the contrary, the necessary effect of the inauguration of this government, contemplated by the Convention, is to supercede and destroy the present. If there is any obligation on the existing government to supply funds for the maintenance of that proposed, this obligation must arise from some enactment of the former or else of some authority superior to both.

It is needless to say that the Legislature of this government has not authorized such payment. The authority must come, if all, from the acts of Congress from which this Convention derives its existence.—Those acts are,

1st. "An act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States," passed March 2, 1867.

2nd. An act supplemental thereto, passed March 23, 1867.

3rd. An act supplemental to the aforesaid act, passed July, 1867.

Is there authority in these acts to justify the Convention in demanding funds of the Public Treasury to pay its officers and members? It seems to me the contrary is perfectly plain under the terms of the acts themselves.

Congress has, notwithstanding the declaration that the existing State governments are illegal and void, allowed their continuance under certain conditions.—By section 6, of the Act of March 2, 1867, it is enacted that "until the people of said rebel States shall be by law admitted to representation in Congress, any civil governments which may exist therein shall be deemed provisional only, and in all respects subject to the paramount authority of the United States, at any time to abolish, modify, control, or supercede the same."

It thus appears that Congress reserves to the United States, the power over the civil government in North Carolina, until the people shall be by law admitted to representation in Congress. In other words, no power but the United States can abolish, modify, control or supercede this government until a Constitution shall be formed, submitted to the people, adopted, and then approved by Congress; until a General Assembly shall be elected under that Constitution; until that Assembly shall adopt the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, known as Article 24, and in addition, said article shall be adopted by three-fourths of the States. Your honorable body has just entered on the course of duty prescribed.—It has not yet accomplished the first step, to wit: the formation of a Constitution.—It cannot at this time, abolish, modify, control, or supercede the present State government, because that would be interfering with the prerogative of the United States.

Now, Chief Justice Marshal lays it down in McCulloch vs. the State of Maryland, that the power to tax any subject, involves the power to destroy such subject by excessive taxation; and so the power to appropriate a portion of the funds of the State, includes the power to appropriate all, and hence to destroy or control the State government of depriving it of the means of continued existence.—It thus appears that the ordinance of the Convention, directing me to disburse money from the Treasury, infringes on a power reserved exclusively to the United States.

Again, by the 1st section of the Act of July, 1867, the continuance of the present State government is allowed and the same is declared to be subject in all respects to the Military Commander and the authority of Congress. How is this consistent with the claim by the Convention of power over the same government? The Treasury, of which I am the guardian, is necessary to the life of the very organization without which it cannot be continued in the manner allowed by the Act.

It may be said that the funds in the Treasury are sufficient for the needs of the Convention and of the State government also. As a matter of fact this is altogether uncertain, but, even if true, the principle is not at all affected. The accidental circumstance of one State not having at this time an empty Treasury, can have no bearing on the construction of acts of Congress passed long before and applying to the nine other States as well.

If the power to direct State officers be conceded, it seems to follow that power to enforce these directions, by punishment for disobedience, is likewise possessed by this Convention. The most obvious punishment of refractory officers is removal or suspension from office. Now Congress has steadily refused to confer on the Convention this right of removal. It is vested in the District Commander, who may substitute officers of the army, or others, in the place of those removed or suspended. Suppose the Commanding General should exercise this power by substituting an officer of the army. Would the Convention claim authority to direct such officer? It seems to me this claim is inconsistent with the power of the Commanding General.

The foregoing considerations would satisfy me that I am not justified by the acts of Congress, known as the Reconstruction Acts, in making payments under the ordinance of the Convention, even if the questions had not been definitely settled by express enactment. Section 8, of the Act of March 23d, 1867, shows plainly the intendment of the law-makers in this regard. That section is as follows:

"The Convention for each State shall prescribe the fees, salary and compensation to be paid all delegates and other officers and agents herein authorized, or necessary to carry into effect the purposes of this act, not herein otherwise provided for, and shall provide for the levy and collection of such taxes on the property in such State as may be necessary to pay the same."

By a previous section, provision was made for payment of the expenses incurred by the Commanding General, or by virtue of any orders issued or appointments made by him, under or by virtue of this act, out of the Treasury of the United States. The section quoted declares that the Convention must prescribe the pay of its delegates, and of all other officers appointed under its authority, and then directs in what manner these expenses must be met. The Convention must levy and collect taxes for the purpose.—And the particular kind of revenue act is indicated. The taxes must be levied on property alone, not on persons or other subjects; whereas the money in the Treasury of the existing State government was collected from persons, callings, privileges, licences, &c., as well as from property.

Is it conceivable that this section would have been passed, if the Convention already had power to avail itself of the funds of a government then in operation, collected under its laws? When Congress has enjoined on the Convention, for the purpose of paying its members and officers, the duty of taxation, expressly declaring on what subjects such levies shall be made, I am unable to find a plausible reason for the claim that other funds, collected by a different mode of taxation, for other purposes, by a different government, which, although pronounced illegal, is allowed on certain terms to continue until superceded or controlled by the United States, should be diverted to other objects for which provision is otherwise expressly made.

The Ordinance under discussion calls directly on the Public Treasurer. This is according to analogies heretofore prevailing in North Carolina. To authorize payments from the Treasury, the warrant of the Governor, on the certificate of the Comptroller, is generally necessary. But Legislatures, whether General Assemblies or Conventions, are usually paid on the certificate of the presiding officers. The warrant of the Governor is no protection to the Treasurer, unless authorized by law. Hence, I have felt it my duty in the present case not to ask for such warrant, but to act according to my clear convictions of duty under the law. For the views expressed in the foregoing communication, I am therefore solely responsible.

In respectfully declining to obey the order of this Convention, I beg leave to assure them that nothing but a strong sense of duty could induce me to take an antagonistic position towards them. In all cases practicable, it will give me great pleasure to co-operate with them, and to give all the aid in my power, towards furthering the best interests of the State.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully, yours,
KEMP P. BATTLE.
Public Treasurer.

From the Washington Correspondence of the New York World.

An Official Report of the Johnson Grant Affair—Statements of the President and Cabinet Officers as to the Conduct and Promises of Gen. Grant.

Washington, Jan. 22, 1868.

The question of veracity that has been raised between President Johnson and Gen. Grant in certain journals compels your correspondent to make known the following facts, which confirm his original statement to the *World*, and which not only the President himself, but four of the most prominent members of his Cabinet, will positively vouch for:

Just after the formal meeting of the Cabinet on Jan. 17, the article from the *National Intelligencer* of the 15th was read in presence of the President and the before mentioned members of the Cabinet. The statements made in that article, which were substantially those telegraphed after an interview with Mr. Johnson by the correspondent of the *World*, were agreed to by the President and all the Secretaries present; but the objection was made that they fell short of what actually occurred during the meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday the 14th instant. The first Secretary or member of the Cabinet present at the meeting on January 17, referred to, observed that 'Gen. Grant acknowledged that he (Gen. Grant) had promised either to retain the office or to tender his resignation in time to enable the President to appoint a successor. He (Gen. Grant) said his opinion at the time was, that the 'ins' must stay in until the 'outs' could get in by a due course of law."

[I make a full record of what occurred here on Tuesday.]

The second Secretary said: "The Secretary's record, then, agrees with this newspaper statement, excepting that it is more full."

Whereupon the first Secretary said: "Yes, it gives a much more detailed account of what occurred here. Speaking of his withdrawal from the War Department, Grant said that he bolted one door of the Secretary's office on the inside, locked the other and delivered the key to the Adjutant General. He did not profess to know what transpired afterwards."

The second Secretary added: "It is not at all surprising that he (Grant) did not recollect. He was evidently two much confused to remember much."

Then the third Secretary remarked: "He (Grant) said that the discussion in the papers had caused him to look over the law, and he had found trouble in the second and first sections. He (Grant) remarked that he did not wish to be subjected to imprisonment and fine; when the President replied: 'Why, I told you, General, that I would take all the imprisonment and pay all the fines that might be imposed upon you.'"

The first Secretary continued: ("He meaning Grant) admitted all and made a stammering excuse that had in it no intelligibility. He admitted that when the interview terminated Saturday he was to have seen the President on Monday upon the subject."

The second Secretary now observed: "He (Grant) admitted that if he changed his views the President was to be notified in season to enable the President to put the office in the same position as it was when he (Grant) was appointed Secretary *ad interim*."

The third Secretary then proceeded to say: "The President said to General Grant: 'I expected to see you Monday. Why did you not call?' Grant replied that he was 'too much occupied by General Sherman and many little matters.'"

The second Secretary amended as follows: "I think he was engaged in the preparations necessary to an abdication of the War Office."

The fourth member of the Cabinet present declared: "And the fact was developed that Gen. Sherman was here on Monday."

The President now pertinently said: "On Saturday, when he (Grant) referred to the tenure-of-office act, I told him that I would take all the imprisonment and pay all the fine that might be imposed upon him under its provisions. When he arose to leave the room I repeated the remark, for I wanted to know whether or not he intended to hold on to the office designing to relieve him if it was his purpose to yield it."

The fourth member of the Cabinet went on to say to the President: "On Tuesday you told him that was the object of your conversation with him on Saturday."

The second Secretary spoke: "He (referring to Grant) did what I expected he would do."

The fourth Cabinet member continued after the Secretary, and said: "I did not suppose a man occupying his position would so prevaricate."

[Your correspondent deems it best to omit the stronger terms employed by the speaker to denote his evident disgust at what he conceived to be the bad faith of Grant.]

The third Secretary said: "My idea is that he supposed that the Senate would act on Saturday, and he intended to carry over the President until Monday. The Senate not having acted then, he did not come to see the President on Monday, as he did not wish to see him until the whole thing had been consummated."

The President finished the conversation as follows: "I desired to know what he (General Grant) would do, and did not think that he could have so misunderstood the agreement."

Your correspondent having communicated not merely in substance, but literally, the dialogue upon this subject which took place at the White House on Friday last between the Chief Executive and his Cabinet advisers, has merely to observe, in conclusion, that the signatures of all who rendered the testimony would doubtless be affixed to it if it should be officially denied.

J. B. S.

MR. TEAGUE'S RESOLUTIONS.

Our report of the Convention proceedings erred, on yesterday, in attributing the following resolutions to Mr. Tourgee. They were presented by Mr. Teague, of Forsythe, and we put them on record, that it may go down to posterity, as a proof of his bitter feeling and his readiness to place North Carolina entirely and irrecoverably under negro supremacy.—Read the resolutions:

Be it ordained, &c., That the County registering boards shall have power to disfranchise all and every person, that aided and abetted, gave comfort and their influence with intent to dissolve or break up the United States government, before or in time of or since the rebellion, or have been or are throwing obstructions in the way of reconstruction.

Be it further ordained, That said board shall consist of three loyal men, who can take test-oath, (iron-clad,) to be elected as other County officers are, and shall hold their offices — months, or until their successors are elected.

Be it further ordained, That said board shall meet twenty days previous to any elections that may be held under this Constitution, first giving ten days' notice of the place or places of meeting, and shall proceed to register such person or persons as may be entitled to vote under this ordinance; and for their services shall receive such compensation as may be allowed by the General Assembly.

Be it further ordained, That this ordinance shall be in force from and after its ratification

We did not suppose that any white man in North Carolina was so running over with bile against his own people.—The Convention, of course, will not show so little sense as either to adopt the ordinance or to incorporate it in the Constitution. To confer such extraordinary powers upon the Boards of Registration, who must generally be an ignorant class of whites and blacks, would be monstrous. We are aware that the "black and tan" Radical paper in this City urges upon the Convention the adoption of the Alabama Constitution, which counsel, we hope, the Convention will adopt, but it will hardly gratify Mr. Teague's low malice so far, as to place the power of disfranchising our citizens in the hands of ignorant Boards of Registration. We have no choice, hower, in the matter. The more violent, the meaner and the more outrageously the Convention acts, the better. No decent man in North Carolina can certainly have any desire to take part in the conduct of such a government as the *Standard* and Mr. Teague would have in would have in this State.—*Ral. Sentinel.*

A farmer in Northern Georgia, who never made any money in raising cotton, has cleared three thousand dollars this year on a crop of wheat and corn.

From the Raleigh Sentinel.

THE LATE PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

No man,—no one, certainly, who possessed so few traits of eminence,—was ever more idolized by a party, while living, than Mr. Lincoln, nor venerated and mourned more when dead. The extravagances of his friends, at least for a time, secured from the negroes of the South a reverence for him due only to Diety.

Perhaps, one of the best and highest traits of Mr. Lincoln's character was his simple honesty. His convictions were honestly formed and as honestly expressed. He understood the negro character, having been reared among them in Kentucky, and the opinions he formed of them, in early life, remained with him to his death. He was opposed to slavery, believing the institution prejudicial to both races, and especially to the white race; but he desired that slavery should extinguished by proper means. But as to negro *equality* with the white race, no public man in the country has borne a more decided testimony against it, than he.

In the memorable canvass between himself and Judge Douglas, in Illinois, he was emphatic in his declarations. At Ottowa, he said, "I, as well as Judge Douglas, am in favor of the race, to which I belong, having the superior position." At another time, in a speech delivered at Columbus, he used the following language:

"I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races; I am not, and never have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes; nor qualifying them to hold office, or intermarry with the white people; and I will say, in addition to this, that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social or political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together must be the position of superior and inferior, and I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having the superior position assigned the white race."

There is no evidence that he ever changed these views. They accord with the views of every honest white man, who has any correct knowledge of the two races, who has not become a fanatic, and who is not blinded by partizan ambition or interest.

Such views, we hold, are not unfriendly to the true and best interests of the colored race. Mr. Lincoln was a friend of that race. He would not enslave the negro. He would give him his freedom, and protect him fully in all civil rights. These are identically our views. But he was not in favor of giving social and political equality to the black race. He was opposed to making voters or jurors, of negroes, or of giving social and political equality to the black race. He was opposed to making voters or jurors, of negroes, or of giving them office, and to their intermarrying with the whites. So are we. But the Radicals claim that Mr. Lincoln was a friend to the negro, but see, who hold the same views, precisely, are called his enemies.

THE RAILROAD.

It will be seen, by advertisement elsewhere, signed by the principal business men of Winston and Salem, that a railroad meeting is called to be held in the court-house, at Winston, on Saturday, 1st day of February next, to "take into consideration the best means of securing the location and building the Railroad to Salem, under the charter granted by the late Legislature," it being the extension of the Coalfield Railroad westward. We hope the meeting will be well attended, as it is one of the most important movements ever made to benefit this section of country, cut off as it is, at present, from all direct communication by railroad, which always has been a great drawback upon its growth and general prosperity

No doubt speakers will be present, who will fully explain the object of the meeting and impress upon the minds of the people the great utility of a railroad through this section of the country. Railroads have always been a blessing to communities, wherever located, for proof of which we need only refer to the flourishing Northern and Western States, which, in some localities, present, as it were, a network of railroads. Time, it is true, are not very favorable to enterprises this kind in the South just now; but a brighter day is in store for us, and we should not let the present opportunity for securing a Railroad pass, without improving it, as another opportunity may not be afforded us shortly. This railroad might, perchance, be located so as not to materially benefit this immediate community, and therefore our best effort should now be put forth to secure the location.

We notice that a series of Railroad meetings, having in view the extension of the Fayetteville & Coalfield road via Greensboro, are being held, which commenced at Kernersville, in this county, on Monday last, to close at Mt. Vernon, in Chatham county, on the 11 proximo.

There is no time to be lost for those who favor another route, via High Point, to press their claims, in the proper spirit.

Salem Press.

Louisiana planters are improving upon the contract system by giving their laborers tickets each day, good for the pay of so many hours as each may have worked, lazy or industrious.

The Fayetteville *News* chronicles no less than four fires in that place, occurring in the space of four days, also the explosion of a solime lamp.

REPORT OF THE MINORITY OF OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE, IN CONVENTION JAN 30, 1868.

The undersigned, a minority of the Committee on "Suffrage and Eligibility to Office," regretting that they have been unable to agree with the majority of the Committee, beg leave to submit the following report:

We cannot view, without serious apprehension, the admission to all the highest rights and privileges of citizenship, of a race, consisting almost entirely of those recently emerged from slavery and unfitted by previous education and habit of thought and self-reliance, for the intelligent discharge of the duties and responsibilities which would devolve upon them. We do not regard the right to vote a natural or inherent, but conventional merely—to be regulated in such way as will best promote the welfare of the whole community. Upon this principle women and minors have been excluded. Is there any reason why the negro should be advanced to a higher position?

While we do not deny that there are individuals of that class who might be expected to express their own convictions at the ballot box, still the great mass of them are so ignorant and prejudiced, that they easily become the dupes of designing adventurers and demagogues, and, through secret leagues and associations, introduced from Northern States, merely follow the instructions and reflect the views of those who control them.

We believe that the blessings we have derived from our government, have been due to the virtue, intelligence and independence of those invested with the right of suffrage, and we tremble for the safety of Republican Institutions when it shall be determined to confer this trust upon those who mentally and morally are unfit to administer it,—to "confide the power of making laws to those who have no property to protect, and to bestow the right to levy taxes on those who have no taxes to pay."

But it is said that the proposed alteration is demanded by Congress and is necessary to restore our State to Constitutional relations with the Federal Government. It is certainly a singular demand, that we should extend the elective franchise to those who are so inexperienced and little prepared for the ordinary business of life, that the government deems it necessary, through the Freedmen's Bureau, to exercise supervision and tutelage over them. But we deny the power of Congress to prescribe to North Carolina, who shall or who shall not vote.

This has always been recognized as one of those great rights reserved to the States, and in fact it is their privilege to prescribe who shall vote for members of Congress—as the Constitution of the U. S., Art. I. Sec. II. provides:

"The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States; and the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature."

Congress certainly recognized North Carolina as a State in proper constitutional relations, when the ratification of the XIII amendment by our Legislature of 1865-'6 was accepted, and also when the proposed XIV amendment was submitted to our Legislature of 1866-'7 for ratification.

We can, then, only regard the present measures as a punishment for our conduct on the latter occasion. Such legislation strikes us as *ex post facto*, tyrannical and unjust. We cannot consent that our State should be degraded to an inferior position to her sisters—that she shall expunge from her Constitution clauses, excluding the negro from voting or holding office, which other States have indignantly refused to strike from their own. We refer, especially, to the Constitutions of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York and Illinois. We do think that the requirement would come with much better grace, if these and other States had altered their Constitutions, or if it was proposed to so amend the Constitution of the United States, as to make the application universal.

Viewing the matter in ever light that presents itself, and willing to extend to the negro population every right that would legitimately result from the late war, or that is necessary to their security and happiness—we yet think the welfare of both races is best promoted by retaining our present Constitution.

We consider the whole scheme as intended to advance party purposes, and to secure the next Presidential election—in the expectation that the States of the South, being Africanized and Radicalized, may more than counterbalance the loss of electoral votes that will occur in other sections of the Union. We advise that North Carolina shall refuse to alter her Constitution, under dictation from a Congress composed of members who have ceased to represent their constituents, and who, in defiance of the voice of the people as expressed in recent elections, still harden their hearts and devise new tasks for us. Let us rather trust to a returning sense of justice, on the part of the Northern people, and that spirit of magnanimity which will revolt at the idea of "forcing the South to accept in a huge mass that which the North rejects in minute quantities."

Let us act upon our own conscientious convictions of what is best for North Carolina, and, while submitting patiently to the present military rule, not forget that free-down of opinion which is our birthright. If then, negro suffrage and negro equality are forced upon us, we will not have consented to our own humiliation, and will at least have preserved our honor and self-respect.

JOHN W. GRAHAM,
P. DURHAM.

A new system of telegraphing, claiming to obviate many of the defects of the Morse system, was tried on the Western Union Company's wires at Portland the other day, and was reported to be quite successful.

The Newark inventor of the steam man promises to invent a steam horse that will plough or run over a race course. Good bye Dexter.

From Washington.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The Attorney General's opinion, regarding the sale of Dismal Swamp stock, is, in effect, that the United States are simply Stockholders, and the sale would be a transfer of personal property. The Attorney General is at a loss to know how the stock can be sold, with guarantee from purchasers that the canal shall be kept open. The sale under the recent acts of Congress, is therefore postponed.

The Ways and Means Committee have agreed to the Senate amendments to the whiskey metre bill, and it will doubtless pass the House.

This morning's 'World' has the following.

"Washington, Jan. 31.—President Johnson is to declare to Great Britain the American *ultimatum*. The forgiveness of Secretary Seward is of avail no more. Another and higher authority has determined upon the course which is to be pursued in respect to the claim of the United States upon Great Britain. I am authorized to state, most confidently and decisively, that the legitimate demands which have been too meekly urged by the Secretary of State upon the British Cabinet, are to be enforced at whatever hazard. The new British Minister, Mr. Thornton, will probably be presented to President Johnson on Tuesday.

Although the addresses which are to be exchanged between the President and Trustees, may be guarded and serene, the fact yet remains that a speedy and satisfactory response must be made by the British government to the *ultimatum* of the Executive of the United States, or else a declaration of war against Great Britian must inevitably ensue."

Congress.

Washington, Feb. 1, P. M.—Senate:—No session.

House:—The President was asked whether he had appointed certain special agents as postmasters, who had been rejected by the Senate, and under what law such appointments were made.

John Young Brown's case was resumed—Beck advocating his admission. He denied that the House had a right to extend enquiries beyond the Constitution's perscriptions. If the member elected took the oath he had a right to a seat, and charges of disloyalty should come up afterwards, when, if guilty, two-thirds can expel him.

No action was taken, postponed to Monday. Adjourned.

Virginia Convention.

Richmond, Feb. 1.—The Committee on Internal Improvements reported a clause, directing the Legislature to provide for the exchange of State interest in internal improvements for bonds of the State.

The Committee on Banks reported in favor of prohibiting the Legislature granting charters to corporations who discount paper at unlawful rates of interest. Also prohibiting persons, who do so, from holding State offices.

At Vicksburg, Mississippi, fires are becoming so frequent that the insurance companies are cancelling their policies. The City Council has passed an ordinance enrolling all ablebodied citizens in a body to be known as a special city police, to look after incendiaries and otherwise preserve order.

A correspondent travelling in Utah says that the waters of Great Salt Lake rose last year three feet above their former level, and are still slowly but surely rising. The lake drains an immense district, and has no visible outlet. Perhaps the modern Sodom will be submerged as was the old one.

The President, it is stated, in Washington dispatches, has had a notification sent to Mr. Hale, the Minister to Spain, that his resignation will be accepted. Some correspondence has ensued, but Mr. Hale has not yet availed himself of the opportunity to resign. The President's reason's for wishing him to retire is not yet known.

The World's Mexican correspondence says that the 'Legion of Honor,' consisting of forty-five American soldiers, who accompanied Juarez from the North to the capital, has been ordered to disband immediately and go home. Nothing is said of paying them their dues, and there will be difficulty with them. They have been shamefully treated by the government to which they have rendered such material services.

Mrs. James Gordon Bennett wears one hundred thousand dollars worth of diamonds to the opera.

DIED:

In this town, on Wednesday night, January 29th, HENRY ALLEN, eldest son of John A. and Augusta M. Holt, aged 12 years 3 months and 4 days.

So brief was the illness which proved fatal to this dear boy, that the first tidings which many received of his sickness, was accompanied by the announcement of his death. And so brief had been the term of life allotted to him, that it was scarcely to be expected that this event should cause any particular regret, except the natural sympathy always felt for a family bereaved. But the case was far otherwise. Though so young, the deceased had already gained a place in the love and esteem of all who knew him—such as few even in riper years are privileged to attain.

With a high spirit and self-possession most unusual at his age were united a courteousness of address and propriety of manner, which were the subject of general remark and admiration, even among casual observers. And among those who saw him daily, his sweet temper and affectionate disposition rendered him a general favorite—and one frequently spoken of by fond parents as an example to be imitated by their children.

But no regrets can be felt more lasting and sincere, than those of his associates and playmates, among whom he was always the choicest and most welcome companion. Even little ones of a difficult temper would play peaceably and merrily with him—quite sure that all would go on pleasantly in sports in which he took a part.

Many a bounding step was instantly checked, and sadness stole over youthful faces, when the first expressed dread of his danger reached their ears. And when all was over, the slow and hesitating tread, and the tears which filled their young eyes, as they stood by the corpse to take the last look at the face of him whom they had loved so fondly—gave true tokens of the sorrow which was felt for his loss. And while his relatives will grieve that so beloved a child is taken away, there will still be a mournful satisfaction in the consciousness that the memory of many, both young and old, will enshrine the name of HENRY ALLEN HOLT.