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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON,..Editors.

Chestertown:
Saturday Morning, Jan. 5, 1861.

PUBLIC MEETING.

Our readers are referred to a notice in another column, of a public meeting to be held at the Court House in Chestertown, on Tuesday next, at 10 o'clock, A.M. The meeting purports to be one of consultation, and is called without reference to party. One of the measures to be proposed, will, we presume, be a call of the Legislature of Maryland, to an extra session. We have read the replies of Gov. Hicks to Judge Handy and others; they are patriotic, sensible and prudent. He informed them that he was in correspondence with the Governors of the Southern border States, and that his action must depend, in a measure, upon the conclusions of his own mind, after all the facts and circumstances shall be developed to him, and the best interests of our country require. He advises prudence, thoughtfulness, and an avoidance of all rash and hasty measures—the great interests of our country being too momentous to be determined in haste, or under excited and angry feelings. The course of the Governor has met with our approval, because he is a true friend of our State, of Southern interests, and is in a position to view with calmness, and to deliberate with thoughtful prudence upon the impending crisis—its progress and developments. He is watching with a scrutinizing eye, and a patriot's heart, the alarming condition of our public affairs; he is anxious, as every true lover of his country is, to preserve the Union—to restore peace and harmony to the distracted sections—to bring the erring sister back to her allegiance and her good,—while he will do all that becomes him as the chief officer of the State, to preserve, protect and maintain our rights and interests.—We have not seen any where pointed out a safe course for the Legislature to pursue to relieve us from our National dilemma. Surely it is not desirable te increase the excitement, to add fuel to the flame, and to precipitate disunion! Our State is small—the Legislature can be convened in a few days, when the exigency demands its assembling, and certainly no danger exists, when time is allowed for the passions to cool—the excitement to subside, and reason to rule.

Let conservative citizens attend the meeting, let resentments and passion be left behind, and in a true spirit oi patriotism, and an ardent desire to preserve our Government,—let the people assemble, and may RIGHT prevail!

Gov. Hicks and the Legislature.

MEETING IN QUEEN ANN'S.—A meeting was held at the Court House in Centreville on Thursday, Dec. 27, at which a resolution was adopted requesting the Governor "to call an extra session of the Legislature at an early day *as practicable*, for the *purpose of calling a State Convention* to deliberate and determine what course Maryland, as one of the Confederated States, shall pursue in reference to the impending crisis." The *Citizen* says:

"We do not believe that the proceedings represent the wishes of the people of the county, but as the steady refusal of Gov. Hicks to convene the Legislature, renders the proceedings of no moment, we deem it unnecessary to give our reason for this opinion. We observed two secession cockades in the assembly, and heard one gentleman express himself as a 'South Carolina disunionist, unconditional.' What *patriotism!*"

As Governor Hicks has long since declared his intention to convene the Legislature whenever he considers it "practicable" so to do, we regard all efforts to influence his action in the premises as gratuitous and unnecessary, unless some *new* and more urgent reasons can be adduced than those which have been already presented for his consideration.

Lieut. Gen. Soott endorses the course of Gov. Hicks; and we see it stated, upon the anthority of the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *American*, that Vice President Breckinridge "openly and decidedly approves the indomitable firmness of Gov. Hicks in resisting the efforts of the secessionists to cast our State as a fagot into the flames that are crackling around the Constitution and the Union," and that the Vice President looks to Maryland to check the progress of treason.—The Hon. J. A. Pearce expresses the same sentiments. So does Senator Crittenden!

THE HON. HENRY WINTER DAVIS.—This gentleman has made a long and able address to the voters of the Fourth Congressional District, in which he takes strong Union ground; opposes the convening of the Maryland Legislature, and depicts with much force what would be the results of disunion upon our State.

☞ The Legislature of Delaware met at Dover on Tuesday last.

Maryland State Military Convention.

A Convention of the commissioned Officers of the Second Division Maryland Militia, was held at Easton, Talbot co., Md., on the 18th ult. Maj. Gen. Tench Tilghman presided, and delivered an address, in which he referred to the critical condition of the country and counseled a full organization of the Militia of Maryland, in preparation for any emergency. Among other proceedings, Col. H. E. Bateman offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the officers of the second division Maryland militia, in convention assembled, do hereby invite their brother officers throughout the State to hold a State Military Convention at the City of Annapolis, on the 1st Wednesday after the meeting of the next session of the Legislature, and respectfully recommend that said convention be composed of all the general officers in the State, and two commissioned officers from each regiment, and that said convention shall prepare a draft of a militia law and present the same to the Legislature for their consideration.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to prepare a draft of a bill, embodying the suggestions in the address of the Major General, to be submitted to the said State convention, on the part of the division.

Resolved. That the Major General of the division be ex-officio chairman of said committee.

In pursuance of the motion the chairman appointed the following officers to constitute the said committee: Brig. Gen. R. Goldsboroogh, 6th brigade; Brig. Gen. A. S. Stite, 1st brigade; Brig. Gen. H. Humphreys, 10th brigade; Col. S. Hambleton, 9th regiment cavalry; Maj. J. Ll. Martin, quartermaster 12th brigade.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE SLAVERY QUESTION.—The Bishops of the M. E. Church, at a meeting at Cincinnati a few days since, passed unanimously a resolution declaring that, in their judgment, there was no action of the late General Conference which changed the terms of membership. By the discipline of the church, the bishops are the expounders of all laws passed by the Conference.

MEETING OF MARYLAND STATE SENATORS.—A meeting composed of Maryland State Senators was held Barnum's Hotel, in Baltimore, on Friday, the 28th ultimo, and adopted an address to Gov. Hicks, urging him to call an extra session of the Legislature. It is signed by eleven Senators. The name of the Senator from Kent does not appear in the list.

Letter from Georgia.

The following extract is taken from a business letter, to the Editors of the "News," from a gentleman now residing in Georgia:

"Being from Maryland, I am too much of a 'Union' man to remain in this State after she secedes, which I am now confident she will. After which I shall sell out my 'works' here and return to the Eastern Shore—it may be to Kent county. I do not wish to reside in a new Government, though on our soil, which has been started by traiterous demagogues for personal benefit, assisted by the arm of ignorance (which is strong in the cotton states,) and by those whose only aim it was to open the 'African Slave Trade.' Oh, that our crop of hemp was large, and that we might use it! But coercion will not do: it would only add fuel to the fire.

"The Eastern Shore has lost more slaves than all the Cotton States together. Yet, the concessions of the North is all Maryland asks.

"'Washingtonia' is thought an appropriate name for the new Government, by some disunionists here. For *them*, I think 'Arnoldonia' would me more appropriate, that they might bear the *true* title of Arnolds."

(*Correspondence of the Kent News.*)

LEAVENWORTH CITY,
Kansas Territory, Dec. 13, 1860.

Messrs. Editors:—Thinking a few items from this far off and ill-fated Territory would be of interest to your many readers, I concluded to "*dot* you a line or two."

The recent "Montgomery raid" is the all-absorbing topic of conversation here, and as the origin of that is probably a mystery to the citizens of Kent, I will give them an item or so in regard thereto.

Montgomery and his band have been committing depredations on the peaceable and law-abiding citizens of Southern Kansas, for the last two years, but until recently their acts and deeds have been kept in the dark, and now their actions and objects have been made public and have become so daring and outrageous, as to cause the Federal Government to send some 200 U. S. soldiers, under command of the *brave* General Harney to protect the citizens of Southern Kansas. Gen. H. and his command have just returned from a visit to that section of the country, and report everything quiet at present. They left at Fort Scott, the scene of trouble, two companies U. S. dragoons, who will remain there until farther instructions.—As soon as Montgomery heard of General Harney's departure from Fort Leavenworth he disbanded his *army*. His followers fled to different parts of the Territory and to Iowa. He himself was quartered a few days since at the house of an abolitionist near this city, but is now doubtless in Chicago or Boston.

The stories you hear in relation to *starvation* in Kansas are doubtless highly colored, yet there are many here who have been deprived of the comforts of life in consequence of the complete failure of our crops the past season.

Yours, R. J. W.

The President's Reply to Messrs. Rhett, Orr and Adams.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The President was busily engaged on Saturday, in preparing a reply to the demands of South Carolina, made through Messrs. Rhett, Orr and Adams, styling themselves Commissioners. They demanded the absolute withdrawal of Major Anderson, and a positive disapproval of his conduct, failing to receive which they threatened to return home.

On Monday the Cabinet assembled at 12 M. to consider the reply already prepared by the President. Secretary Black, Secretary Toucey, Attorney General Stanton and Postmaster General Holt sustained the President's views.

HOW THE REPLY WAS RECEIVED.

On Monday afternoon the reply was addressed to the Hon s. Rhett, Orr and Adams, and delivered by the President's secretary. On its reception great mortification was evinced at the *non-recognition* of the title of Commissioners by which they had designated themselves.

THE REPLY.

The President approved the conduct of Major Anderson, on the ground that he had tangible evidence of the intention, on the part of the South Carolinians, to seize and occupy Fort Sumter. Subsequent declarations satisfied those well-informed, that such was the intention. Once in occuancy of Fort Sumter, Maj. Anderson would have been powerless and at the mercy of the Carolinians. No reinforcement at Fort Moultrie could have been made effectual for the recovery of Fort Sumter. Major Anderson being in command, took a military view, and anticipated the South Carolinians by proceeding to the stronghold they coveted, under the cover of the night. Upon these considerations the President also refused to interfere for the withdrawal of the United States forces, saying, "This I cannot do, and I will not do."

He also announced his firm determination to collect the revenues, and that the property now in the occupancy of the troops of South Carolina must be restored. The seizure of the United States Arsenal he deems a high-handed outrage.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON HARBOR.—Private accounts from Charleston state that a thousand negroes are engaged in the erection of fortifications in the harbor. The channels leading to Fort Sumter have been obstructed by sunken vessels, and the buoys have been removed! Governor Pickens, it is reported, has received offers of ten thousand volunteers without the State, and who are ready to march at a moment's warning.

South Carolina Opposition to Federal Authority—Charleston Harbor Being Fortified.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 2.—Strong fortifications are being erected in and around Charleston, to resist the reinforcement of Fort Sumter.

The Governor is daily receiving dispatches from Southern States tendering men to defend South Carolina.

It is considered certain here that before the end of January the legislative, executive and judicial functions of the proposed Southern Confederacy will be permanently organized and in full operation.

Com. Pettigrew, in charge of Castle Pinckney, has given orders that no boat be allowed to approach the wharf head without permission, and if this is violated serious consequences will ensue. The city river front is carefully guarded.

Free postal communication has been established between the forts and the city.

The Vigilant Rifles have gone on a secret mission to Morris Island.

Six companies are drilling in the city this evening.

The Palmetto Guards, 100 strong, have charge of the U. S. Arsenal, over which the Palmetto flag is now flying, the stars and stripes having been taken down.

Collector Colcock gives notice to masters of all vessels from ports outside of the State of South Carolina, that they must enter and clear at Charleston.

AFFAIRS AT FORTS MOULTRIE, SUMTER AND CASTLE PINCKNEY.—Our reporter visited the Island yesterday, and found matters at Fort Moultrie progressing quietly and satisfactorily.

The rubbish left by the Federal troops is being cleaned away, and the fortress assuming a defensive aspect. Many apprehended difficulties, of a nature we need not name, have been removed; and the volunteer companies constituting the garrison are making merry over the hardships of the soldier. Some of the guns are, it is supposed, badly injured by the burning of the carriages. Activity prevails at the garrison, and its vigilant officers are determined on the course that guides their action.

Fort Sumter, as viewed at a distance, presents an appearance of lively activity. Schooners and barges were plying between the fort and the channel during the day. Everything seems to indicate active preparation.

Castle Pinckney was reinforced in the afternoon by a detachment of the Marion Artillery from Fort Moultrie, under the command of Captain King. A detachment of the Washington Light Infantry was transferred from the former to the latter place in the forenoon, thus retaining at Fort Moultrie the same force as first occupied it.

The garrison at Castle Pinckney consists of about two hundred men. Ten twenty-four pound cannon are mounted on the ramparts, besides some fifteen pieces—a few of which are casemated—in the lower tier. The work is well provided with munitions of all kinds, and under the command of its field officers, Col. Pettigrew and Major Ellison Capers, will make itself felt, if need be, when the time comes. It is far from being the insignificant position of which it has the reputation.

Although a defective construction has impaired the power of the lower batteries to a considerable extent, it has an effective tier of rampart guns, which are capable of effective service. It is beyond the reach of the largest guns of Fort Sumter, and commands the entire line of wharves and shipping along Cooper river, and in the hands of enemy would be capable of doing vast injury to the city.—*Charleston Courier of Saturday.*

The Constitutional Remedy for Secession.

Gov. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, has addressed the following letter to the editors of the Louisville *Democrat:*

* * * * * I have little hope that any good will result from the committees now organized in Congress to consult, and adopt some plan that will give quiet to a distracted country, and save the Union from immediate dissolution.

Many distinguished men, under the influence of a noble patriotism, have presented projects and plans of adjustment and compromise. Some recommend amendments to the Constitution. The country is in a bad condition for constitutional amendments. My hope for quiet was placed in a firm and determined avowal by the President in his annual message to preserve the Union. Such an avowal, seconded by the Congress of the United States, would have been hailed by the Union-loving men everywhere.

It is still in the power of the United States government, by a firm but temperate exercise of its legitimate powers, to preserve the Union, and that without the shedding of blood or the "declaration of war against a State."

I agree with the President, in the opinion expressed in his annual message, that a state has no right to secede from the Union; that secession is revolution or rebellion; that South Carolina has no cause of rebellion against the Constitution and laws of the United States. I am of opinion that she, nor no other State, has any just or sufficient cause for rebellion—no right to break up this government, thereby to endanger the peace, lives and harmony of the citizens of other States. The President admits his obligation to see that the laws are faithfully executed, but he says he has no power provided to enable him to do so; that the judge, officers and marshal of the federal court of South Carolina have resigned. He can find no power in the Constitution of the United States which authorizes Congress to declare war against a State. True, he did not find it, because it was not placed there by the men who made the Constitution, for good reasons. If the power existed no one would want it exercised. Not finding the power to declare war against a State, he declares to the nation he cannot prevent the secession or check the rebellion of South Carolina.

What mean the following clauses of the Constitution of the United States, in that article delegating powers to Congress?

"Congress shall provide power for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions.

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasions," &c.

Do not understand me as advocating a resort to military force by the United States, or the declaration of war against South Carolina, or any other State. My object is to suggest a remedy for the evil of secession or revolution of South Carolina or any other State.

"Congress has power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States—to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises."

In the exercise of these powers she has established ports of entry and delivery, built custom houses and enacted laws for the collection of revenue. No vessel can enter or depart, into or from, any of these ports, without complying with those statutes of Congress. Congress has power to abolish those ports of entry and delivery in any State, whenever the necessity for so doing is apparently necessary. If a State, by resolution or ordinance of a convention, or by legislative enactment, or military force, shall undertake to declare the powers of Congress at an end upon these subjects within her borders, it then becomes the duty of Congress to apply the proper remedy; and if a remedy can be found which will check the evil, without using military violence or force upon the citizens of the State, it should be adopted.

That remedy will be found in the repeal of the law establishing their ports of entry and delivery, and a vigilant execution of the revenue laws of the United States, by the means already in existence, to permit no vessel, foreign or domestic, to enter or depart with merchandise from their waters.

Congress has no power to establish judicial tribunals in the States or the collection districts, and if South Carolina possesses this power, and her citizens refuse to fill the offices of judge and marshal, abolish the district by law, and attach the territory to some other neighboring judicial district. If South Carolina desires no postal facilities of the United States, abolish the post-offices, and withdraw the same.

If she will send no Senators or representatives to Congress, let her alone; the Government can get along without their services in Congress. Apply these same remedies to each seceding State. This is making no war upon a State or upon citizens; it necessarily does not involve the shedding of human blood.

If measures of this kind be adopted by the Congress of the United States, it will give time for reflection and better counsels, North and South, and all grievances, in due time, may be healed, and fraternal feeling restored.

I will not pursue the subject further. I have given my thoughts for what they are worth. I am anxious that Kentucky, my native State, shall not, by evil counsels, or by hasty actions, surrender her proud position in this Union. I know her citizens are devoted to it, and I trust will so remain; and if under the providence of God or wickedness of man it shall be destroyed, let Kentucky's devotion and attachment to it be recorded on the historic page which shall perpetuate the folly and wickedness which has destroyed the best government made by man for man, that the sun of heaven ever blessed with its light.

C. A. WICKLIFFE.

The Eighth Census.

The total population of the United States as indicated by full returns of the Eighth Census, is *thirty-one millions* of inhabitants, being an increase of nearly nine millions since the census of 1850. The new ratio of representation in the House of Representatives, which this increase of population will establish for the next ten years, will be about one member to every 133,000 inhabitants.

By the act of Congress of May 23, 1850, the number of Representatives in the lower House of Congress is fixed at 233. Upon the admission of new States into the Union, Representatives will be *temporarily* assigned to them, upon the above basis of representation, in addition to the limited number of 233; but such excess will only continue until the apportionment of the succeeding census. It will therefore be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior, when the entire population is correctly known, to divide the whole number of free persons in all the States, (excluding Indians,) together with three-fifths of the slaves, and divide the aggregate by 233; the quotient, rejecting fractions, will be the ratio of representation. The Secretary shall then divide the population of each State, including the free and three-fifths of the slaves by the ratio of representation, and the result, rejecting fractions, will give the apportionment of Representatives for each State. The loss by fractions will amount to several members, and this is compensated for by assigning one representative to each of those States having the largest fractions, as may be necessary to make up the whole number of 233.

Under this ratio, it is more than probable Maryland will only be entitled to five Representatives in Congress. So that, when the apportionment is made, (and it is thought this cannot be done until the next Congress meets in 1861,) an act of the General Assembly of Maryland will become necessary, in order to re-divide the State into five, instead of six Congressional districts. The act of Congress of 1842, requires each Congressional district to consist of contiguous territory, containing a population equal to the ratio of representation.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON DISUNION.—*La Presse*, of Paris, has a long editorial on our Southern secession movements. We quote from it as follows:

France, who abolished slavery herself, cannot even *seem* to protect it in other countries. Such an idea even would do her a serious injury. The Americans of South Carolina, must, then, be persuaded that if they ever obtain from the French government the moral support that they demand, it will not be as proprietors, but in spite of their being proprietors of slaves, and by virtue of the principle, acknowlegded for thirty years, that all governments *de facto* shall be recognized by the governments of Europe and America. France cannot even lend such consent as silence may afford; her duty is to labor with all her power to prevent a dissolution. There ought not to be for us, on the other side of the Atlantic, either Southern Americans or Northern Americans, but States whose union is important in the equilibrium of the world. The American marine is not less necessary to France than the Russian, Spanish and Italian navies, to prevent a single power from seizing the empire of the seas.

France was the first ally of the United States—we hope she will now be their counsellor, and expose the abyss into which they are hurrying—an abyss in which will be buried forever a past most glorious and a future most hopeful. For the American Union separation is suicide; it is the murder of a great nation and a great principle. France cannot lend a hand to this suicide and this murder She has helped to make this people—she will never help to destroy them. Such are, we are convinced, the sentiments of our government.

IMPORTANT TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE.—We find the following very important telegraphic correspondence in the Washington Union:

"ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 26, 1860.

"Hon. S. A. DOUGLAS or
Hon. J. J. Crittenden:

"Toombs' despatch of 22d unsettled conservatives here. Is there any hope for Southern rights in the Union? We are for the Union of our fathers, if Southern rights can be preserved on this principle! You are looked to in this emergency. Give us your views by despatch, and oblige,

WILLIAM EZZARD,
ROBERT W. SIMS,
JAS. P HAMBLETON,
THOMAS S. POWELL,
and others.

Reply.

"WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1860.

"In reply to your inquiry, we have hopes that the rights of the South, and of every State and section, may be protected within the Union. Don't give up the ship. Don't despair of the Republic.

J. J. CRITTENDEN,
S. A. DOUGLAS.

Georgia Convention Election.

The returns of the election in Georgia, for members of the State Convention, indicate that Georgia has gone for immediate secession.

The State troops of Georgia now occupy Forts Pulaski and Jackson, and the United States arsenal at Savannah.

THE VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—Queen Victoria is said to have written an autograph letter to the President, through Lord Lyons, expressing in the strongest terms her grateful acknowledgment of the cordial manner in which the Prince of Wales was received by the people of the United States.

A NEW SWINDLE—The Albany Journal describes an expert swindle, which is to scatter "Counterfeit Detectors" through the West, describing as good begus money and then passing it off for wheat and pork. This has been done on a pretty large scale recently.

PUBLIC CREDIT.—*What is the Government coming to, or, rather, what has it come to?*—The bids for the new five million loan, to be taken in 6 per cent. Treasury notes, were opened last week at the Treasury, when it was found that only two and a half millions were bid for, and this at a rate of discount of from *seven* to *thirty six per cent.* This was worse than public credit was in the darkest days of the war of 1812-15; and the country but the other day, as it were, in a state of prosperity, unequalled in the history of any other nation of the world. Only a year or two ago the Government was so rich that it bought up its own funded debt at a premium of sixteen per cent., and already, under the paralysis which has suddenly stricken the country by the rash act of one of the States of the Union, this same Government has to submit to a "shave" of twenty per cent., and even at that enormous usury, can borrow only half the amount for which it asked. With how wise a forethought did the founders of our Government, enjoin upon their descendants to cherish their National Union as the corner stone of their country's strength and prosperity!—*Nat. Intelligencer.*

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.—The Legislature of this State met Jan. 1st. In the Senate a series of resolutions were offered declaring that Pennsylvania is willing to pass laws necessary to redress the real grievances of any sister State, if they should be found to exist; proclaiming an ardent desire to cultivate friendly relation with sister States; averring adhesion to the doctrines of Jackson's proclamation against the South Carolina nullifiers of 1832, and resolving that the State will contribute men and money, if necessary, for the preservation of the Union. The resolutions were referred.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 2.—Governor Packer's Message to the Pennsylvania Legislature, to be delivered at noon to-day, takes strong Union ground. He terms secession to be rebellion, but at the same time urges that the statute books of the State be purged of all acts that can justly be charged with violating the rights of sister States.

He recommends the revival of the act of 1826, allowing slave claimants the right to choose their remedy in the state or National law; also that the masters have the right to retain the services of slaves while sojourning in or passing through the State

He also recommends the re-enactment of the Missouri line by an amendment to the Constitution, to be ratified by State Conventions. If Congress fails to provide a remedy, let it emanate from the people. He closes by expressing the devotion of Pennsylvania to the Union, saying that her citizens will defend it through every peril.

MR. BRECKINRIDGE'S ADVICE.—This distinguished gentleman is understood to have drawn up an address to the border slave-holding States, calling for a convention representing them, to be held in Baltimore, in February, for the consideration of their duty to themselves, and how to preserve the Confederacy in the current crisis. It is said to have been signed already by all of the Senators from those States, and will doubtless be signed to-day by all their Representatives in the lower House. This call leaves it to the authorities of the said States how to appoint their representatives to the proposed convention. This important and now apparently so pressingly needed call will very soon be published, we apprehend.—*Washington Star.*

A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY.—One Captain N. S. Coste, a South Carolinian, late of the Revenue Service, has basely surrendered the Revenue cutter, Wm. Aiken, stationed at the port of Charleston, to the local authorities, and resigned his commission. He will scarcely profit by his baseness, for however much the Secessionists may love his treason, they must despise the traitor. It is also a satisfaction to know, that the cutter can be of no service to South Carolina, so long as Major Anderson holds fort Sumter; and it is also probable, that Congress with promptly pass an act declaring Charleston no longer a port of entry, when the law will be enforced by a strict blockade. If Coste is caught he will probably be hung.

FROM WASHINGTON.—Many persons found it impossible to obtain admittance to the Senate galleries on Wednesday, they being crowded as early as 10 o'clock in the morning. In addition to the oratorical attraction, it was thought the President would transmit the anticipated message relative to the State of affairs in South Carolina. This, however, has necessarily been delayed, owing to certain pending questions.

Instead of the message, however, the President sent an important nomination for collecter of the revenue in the neighborhood of Charleston Harbor!

GENERAL WOOL ON THE CRISIS.—TROY, Dec. 31.—The Troy Daily Times this afternoon contains two letters from General Wool, taking strong ground in favor of the Union and in favor of sustaining Anderson in his position at Fort Sumter, and earnestly urging that a firm ground be adopted to put down rebellion.

He declares that if Fort Sumter be surrendered to the Secessionists, in twenty days two hundred thousand men would be in readiness to take vengeance on all who would betray the Union into the hands of its enemies.

GOV. HICKS AND THE DISUNIONISTS.—The Disunionists are pressing Governer Hicks to call the Legislature of this State together, with the secret purpose of passing a bill declaring the Union to be no longer binding, and demanding back the District of Columbia. If this purpose is accomplished, they propose to take possession of the capital and prevent Lincoln's inauguration. "Old Cæsar," we feel certain, will prove too much of an "Old Roman" for these Union breakers.—*Worcester, (Md.) Shield.*