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TO OUR READERS.

In these times of political strife, contention, anarchy and confusion, when the nation is being broken up by secession, rebellion and the operations of partisan warfare, few, if any, can be so indifferent about what is transpiring as not to be anxious to some considerable extent, to be made acquainted, at the earliest possible date, with what is taking place in the United States, that was, and in other parts of the world, in fulfillment of the words of the prophets, and especially in fulfillment of the words of the prophet Joseph.

In this city during the last few months an intense anxiety has been manifested among all classes of people, sojourners as well as permanent citizens, to hear the latest news by "pony,"—an institution that is highly prized by all, in the absence of wires on which to waft intelligence with lightning speed across the continent, and that solicitude is daily increasing as the revolutionary movements progress, and events are becoming more interesting.

We have done, thus far, as much as was possible under the circumstances to furnish our patrons and readers with the latest news items each week, but have not succeeded to the extent desired. Arrangements have recently been entered into, by which, so long as the "pony" continues in operation, which we hope may be the case till the contemplated wires are stretched over the intervening space between Fort Kearney and Fort Churchill, we expect to be able to publish in each number the very latest news from the east.

This arrangement cannot fail to be acceptable to our subscribers both in the city and in other parts of the Territory, and we confidently expect their appreciation of our efforts to please them will be manifested by the punctual payment of all dues according to stipulations, before the close of the current volume, that all liabilities of the office may be discharged to the satisfaction of parties concerned. It should be especially borne in mind that the "latest news" cannot be supplied without cash, and, if you want it weekly, manifest it by your works.

A Cold Occurrence.

In consequence of the deep snows, the mail for some weeks past has been carried between Salt creek and Fillmore on pack animals. On Monday week, the weather being exceedingly cold and the road so very bad, the carrier thought proper, as a matter of safety, to take another man with him on leaving Fillmore with the mail for this city. Some five miles the other side of Chicken creek they were met by the snow storm which extended all over this part of the Territory, and which, their animals refused to face. The carrier and his companion, after repeated efforts to make headway, against the storm, were compelled to turn back, and concluded they would return to the Sevier, where some teams were encamped as they came up, and wait till the storm subsided.

The snow was falling so fast, accompanied by a high wind, that they soon lost their way, being unable to see the road, and wandered about in the storm, all night. At day-break next morning, they were some distance up the Sevier, above the bridge, to which point they steered, and then came through to Salt creek as quickly as possible. Mr. Robbins, the carrier, was considerably frost bitten, and the man who was with him, had his hands and feet badly frozen. Under the circumstances, it was fortunate, that they were not both frozen to death.

SIGNS OF SPRING.—On Saturday last, the weather became more mild, and it has been thawing more or less every day since, tho' not very fast, but the indications are that spring time is not far distant.

EASTERN NEWS BY MAIL.

The mail stage from the east arrived on Saturday evening, but unfortunately, by some new arrangement by which the mail hereafter on that route is to be carried only twice a month each way, there was no letter mail and only one sack of papers that ought to have been brought through last week, came to hand. Fortunately, among the dozen papers we received, there were two or three of a later date than those received previously, by which we are enabled to bring up the record of passing events to the 31st of December.

The excitement which had previously been great in Washington became intense on the reception of the news that Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney had been taken possession of by, and were in the occupancy of, the South Carolina Militia, and several collisions took place between secessionists and anti-revolutionists, growing out of discussions in relation to passing events. All business was laid aside to give place for the exciting topic of revolution. It is reported that the President had some serious misgivings touching his power for the prevention of bloodshed and the horrors of civil war, but there is no mention made of his determination to put down the rebellion of South Carolina, "cost what it might." A cabinet council was held forthwith, and none of the heads of departments were in their offices during the day. The session lasted six hours. Secretary Floyd stated to the President in writing, that unless Major Anderson was withdrawn from Fort Sumpter, he could not remain in the cabinet. Secretaries Thompson and Thomas were understood to be of the same opinion, but the events of that day changed their minds some little. The President determined, after a lengthy consultation and due deliberation, not to withdraw the troops, and Floyd resigned.

In the afternoon of the 28th a dispatch was received from Lieut. Foster, commanding the slaver Bonita, which was carried into Charleston, stating that his prisoner, the captain of the slaver, had been taken before a state judge by writ of habeas corpus; that the judge remanded the prisoner to his custody on the ground that he had no jurisdiction, and that on his way to the Bonita with his prisoner he had been taken by force from his custody by a mob.

The committee of the House of Representatives appointed to inquire into the robbery and abstraction of the missing bonds, had taken a vast amount of testimony, and a report was anticipated as voluminous as Covode's. Mr. Kelly, the chief clerk, who had previously been sent to New York in search of the stolen bonds, had returned to Washington without having been able to recover any of them. More or less of the bonds had been sold and resold in Wall street before the appearance of the official notice cautioning against dealing in them, after which they suddenly disappeared, and Kelly could not discover their whereabouts. The department claimed the sole proprietorship of the bonds, and intended to dispute all other titles, by whomsoever held. Mr. Russell had made some progress in obtaining bail, but had not succeeded in obtaining the full amount, and was yet in jail on the last day of the year.

General Wool, commanding the department of the east, had written a letter to the *Troy Arena*, in answer to an inquiry as to what he knew about the muskets that were taken from the Watervliet arsenal, and shipped south, disclaiming any complicity in the matter—stating that the arsenal was under the immediate and sole control of Secretary Floyd, and that on the 9th of Dec. ten thousand muskets of the old pattern were, by order of the Secretary of War, sold to B. S. Lamar, of Savannah, Ga., for the sum of two and a half dollars each, and were shipped on the 14th, as previously reported. Under the circumstances, the disposal of the muskets was viewed by many as a treasonable act.

The steamer Kangaroo from Liverpool on Dec. 19, passed Cape Race on the evening of Dec. 27th, but a heavy gale that had been blowing for a week prevented the news yacht of the Associated Press getting out to obtain the news dispatch. The next day, a steamer, supposed to have been the Australian from Liverpool on the 22d of Dec., passed St. John's, but a gale which had been blowing there for two days, without any prospect of its abating, prevented the obtaining of the news, as the news boat could not get out to sea.

From the 22d to the 27th, the sum of \$5,945,-

218 in gold was received at New York, of which \$1,000,000 was from California. The Europa brought \$540,000; the Etna, \$330,000; the Atlantic, \$850,000; the Persia, \$3,100,000 and other vessels the balance. The Yorkers called the influx "the golden shower."

On the 28th of December, the Senate committee of thirteen had before them Mr. Douglas' proposition as presented on the 24th, also one presented by Mr. Bigler proposing the establishment of 36.30, with the organization of eight territorial governments north and four south of that line; and when each Territory should have sufficient population for a representative in Congress, to be admitted as a State, by proclamation of the President, without the action of Congress—slavery to be interdicted north and permitted south of that line. Mr. Rice also proposed the same line, with all the Territories north to be made one State, named Washington, to be admitted without slavery, and all south to be admitted as a State, to be called Jefferson, in which slavery might exist. All of these propositions were rejected.

The House committee considered the proposition of Mr. Adams for an amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting Congress from passing a law interfering with slavery in the States where it exists. It was agreed to, nearly unanimously, but some dissented, considering that the Constitution already gave that security.

About seventy-five border State Congressmen had a caucus in the evening, at which Mr. Crittenden presided. The following propositions, according to report, were offered:

By Mr. Barrett—Eleven amendments to the Constitution on the slavery question.

By Mr. Pryor—That any attempt to preserve the union between the States of the confederacy by force would be equally unconstitutional, impolitic and destructive of republican liberty.

By Mr. Vallandigham—The Crittenden resolutions.

By Mr. Colfax—That the laws of the Union should be enforced, and the union of the States maintained; and that it is the duty of the Executive to protect the property of the United States, with all the power placed in his hands, by the Constitution.

After a desultory debate, in which Messrs. Cox, Pryor, Smith, of Virginia, Clemens, Sherman, Stanton, Colfax, Noel, Hickman, Montgomery, McClelland, Harris, of Virginia, and Harris, of Maryland, participated, all the propositions were, on motion of the latter gentleman, referred to a committee of one from each of the fourteen States represented, to report at a future meeting to be called by them, if they agreed.

The Secretary of the Treasury had refused to accept of any of the bids for the five million loan which demanded more than twelve per cent. interest, consequently less than two millions were accepted.

A large convention of mechanics and working men was held at Louisville on the 27th of December, at which strong resolutions were passed favoring a call for a national working men's convention, and discountenancing ultra politicians north and south.

The report of the Kansas relief committee for the week ending Dec. 26th, states that 209,184 pounds of wheat, flour, corn and beans had been received from various States, besides several boxes of clothing. About 158,000 pounds had been distributed during that time to the inhabitants of twenty-one counties.

The Empire Mills, at Milwaukee, were destroyed by fire on Christmas morning. Loss, \$70,000.

There were two fires in New York City on the morning of the 29th, one of which destroyed the store of Booth, Peck & Barlow, in Wall street; loss, \$50,000. Other buildings were burned or injured, to the amount of several thousand dollars.

There was an extensive fire in Boston on the morning of the 30th ult.

Movements of the Secessionists.

Messrs. Barnwell, Orr and Adams visited the President for the first time, after their arrival in Washington, as commissioners from South Carolina, on the 28th of December, but were not received in an official manner. The President intimated to them that the whole question of the difficulties would soon be laid before Congress in a special message. It was reported that the commissioners told Mr. Buchanan that Major Anderson must be ordered back to Fort Moultrie, and that if he

was allowed to remain at Fort Sumpter, South Carolina would consider it an act of war, and would govern herself accordingly; and they, the commissioners, would have no further communication with the Government of the United States, but would return home.

Castle Pinckney was taken possession of by the militia of the State, on the afternoon, and Fort Moultrie on the night of the 27th of December. Governor Pickens telegraphed to Washington that he ordered the military to take possession of the Forts, to prevent the public property from falling into the hands of the mob. The Palmetto Flag had been hoisted over the Custom House and post office in the afternoon of that day. It was reported on the 29th, that troops were marching to Charleston from various sections of the south. The taking of the forts, from the half dozen men on duty, was the subject of great rejoicing in the cities of the south. The secessionists considered that the overt act had been committed, and they were anxious to commence the fight and ready to go to the assistance of South Carolina at a moments warning.

After Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney were taken possession of by the Carolinians, the United States arsenal, west of, and near the city, was also taken in charge. It is reported to have contained seventy thousand stands of arms and large quantities of military stores. Volunteers had been tendered by several southern States, among them officers of the army, of West Point graduates. Captain S. M. Morgan, of Tennessee, had offered his services and been accepted. Military preparations were being made on an extensive scale in all the seceding States.

A large, and it is reported, the most intelligent, and influential meeting ever held in Richmond, assembled there on the evening of the 27th of December, in the African church, to give an expression on the state of affairs. Several speeches were made, some for immediate secession, others in favor of a resort to negotiations first; but all decidedly southern, in tone and sentiment, and indicating the secession feeling in Richmond was far in advance of what had been anticipated. Every secession sentiment was loudly applauded.

Resolutions were adopted, approving of a call for a convention, to adopt measures to secure the rights of the State, in the confederacy or out of it, and in the event of dissolution to provide for her assuming her just share of the debts, and obligations, and for securing her share of the property, privileges and munitions, of the United States; deprecating the seizing of any forts by a seceding State, before the formation of a new confederacy, unless essential to safety. The general opinion seemed to be from the manifestations, that Virginia would secede before the 4th of March next.

The abandonment and reported burning of Fort Moultrie, created great excitement in Baltimore, and paralyzed business the next day. More approved of the measure, than condemned it. A large union meeting of citizens convened at night, in the Law Buildings, and resolved to call a universal town meeting next week. Archibald Sterling was president. Several speeches were made. The meeting was composed of all parties, and there was intense enthusiasm.

Another large meeting was also held at Barnum's, to consider the propriety of calling the legislature together, independent of the governor, but nothing definite was agreed upon. Governor Hicks remained firm in his determination not to convene the legislature. He had a letter from Gov. Letcher, of Virginia, and another from Governor Magoffin, of Kentucky, both of which were highly important and conservative, breathing unbending devotion to the Union, and hopes of its preservation.

The feeling was rapidly strengthening there, as reported, favoring a central confederacy of the northern and southern border States, if the Union cannot be eventually saved.

An immense and enthusiastic meeting was held at Memphis, Dec. 28, which was addressed by Hon. N. S. Brown, and others. Resolutions were passed opposing separate State secession; against coercion and favoring a convention of the southern States to demand their rights, and if refused, to take immediate action.

A large meeting was held at Norfolk, Va., on the 27th, at which disunion speeches were made by Col. Grover and Gen. Tyler. Gen. Tyler concluded with the expression of "let the Union go to hell," which was received with loud and repeated cheers.