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EASTERN NEWS BY MAIL.

The Saturday's mail from the east brought New York dates to the 29th of December. The latest news from Washington and Charleston is to the evening of the 27th, at which time things in general were rolling ahead with undiminished speed in the same direction they have been taking for the last few years.

Congress was doing but little, and so indifferent were many of the members towards doing anything to save the sinking ship, or for the general interest of their constituents, that they made strenuous efforts before the holidays to adjourn for a month or so, to give them an opportunity to go home to spend Christmas and New Year's with their families, friends and constituents, and, as averred, to get fresh instructions from the latter as to what they should do in relation to the great and important movements that threaten the dissolution of the nation, or in other words "the crisis." There was barely a majority against the adjournment.

The committee of thirty-three had not made much progress, and it was not generally expected that they would or could agree upon anything that would be satisfactory to all parties. It was reported on the 26th that they had agreed, with only three dissenting votes, to report an enabling act, admitting New Mexico with its present slavery, but it was not generally considered that the measure would afford any basis of settlement.

Secession continued to be the all absorbing topic, and was evidently rapidly on the increase, and where and when it would stop, and what would be its results, the wisest among the people could not predict; but fears were entertained that the "crisis" would be of longer continuance than at first anticipated, and its effects far more disastrous.

The South Carolina Secession Convention passed the ordinance declaring that State out of the Union, at a quarter past one o'clock on the afternoon of December 20th, by the unanimous vote of 169 members. A few minutes after the Ordinance of Secession had received the sanction of the Convention, the "glorious" fact was announced to the citizens by that historic piece of ordnance, the "Secession Gun," and the tumultuous cheering of the multitude that thronged the streets immediately on the announcement, is reported to have been deafening, and the wildest enthusiasm prevailed. The news was telegraphed to the members of Congress from that State at Washington immediately. The Charleston News says, the larger portion of the powder in the cartridge that first proclaimed the jubilant tidings had been preserved since the stirring times of Nullification, by one of their patriotic townswomen. Deeming the occasion worthy of the precious remnant, that lady presented it to the gentlemen of the Committee.

The Charleston correspondent of the World, in describing the signing of the secession ordinance, says:—"It may not be out of place to state here that the table on which the Declaration of Independence was signed—a table now in the possession of a lady in Charleston was ineffectually applied for by a committee of the Convention for this occasion. The lady told the committee that rather than have the ordinance of secession signed thereon, she would burn the table to ashes!"

The South Carolina members left the House at 4 o'clock on the 20th, after learning the action of the convention, but did not leave Washington till the 26th. It is reported that before leaving, the entire delegation remembered to draw full pay and took their proportion of documents; they also took seeds from the patent office, evidently wishing to get all they could from Uncle Sam before bidding him farewell.

There were great rejoicings in most of the cities and towns throughout the States infected with secession on the reception of the news

that South Carolina had passed an ordinance declaring herself out of the Union, and where they had the necessary ordnance fifteen guns at least, and in nearly all the large cities one hundred guns were fired on the "glorious" occasion. At Camden, N. C., a cannon burst, injuring many persons.

A meeting numerously attended was held at Baltimore, Dec. 22d, to consider the national crisis. Chief Justice Legrand presided, assisted by fifty vice-presidents. The Judge and others made speeches strongly seasoned with secession principles. A resolution was unanimously passed, asking the Governor to convene the Legislature immediately.

The principles of secession were on the increase in Maryland, as well as in Virginia, North Carolina, and all the southern States.

A dispatch from Richmond, on the 24th, announced that Governor Letcher had completed his message; that he was in favor of a Central Confederacy, if the cotton States should all secede, and against a State convention.

Governor Moore, of Alabama, issued a proclamation on the 24th Dec., convening the Legislature of that State on the 14th of January, to be ready for any emergency. The Convention was to be held on the 7th, the same day as the Georgia Convention, and it was generally believed, as the elections had resulted in favor of the secessionists, that those States would pass ordinances of severance on the 9th of this month.

An immense excitement was reported as prevailing at Pittsburgh on the 24th, in consequence of its having been made public that U. S. Quartermaster Taliaferro was negotiating for the shipment from the Alleghany arsenal, of seventy-eight guns to Newport, near Galveston island, Texas, and forty-six more to Ship Island, near Balize, at the mouth of the Mississippi river, the apparent object being to strip the Alleghany arsenal, and place the guns where the secessionists could get them. Major Symington, of Maryland, in command of the arsenal, declined to give the press any information on the subject. The points referred to are new forts that have never been mounted. The guns were mostly ten inch columbiads. The guns had not been sent from the Alleghany arsenal on the 26th, but the public mind was still agitated upon the subject. Strong hopes were entertained that the order would be revoked by the Secretary of War.

The Evening Post of Dec. 27th says that upon competent authority it was believed that five hundred cases of muskets had been shipped to New York City from Watervliet arsenal, opposite Troy, and been put on board the steamer Florida, for Savannah. The refusal of the President to take any step to reinforce the garrison at Fort Moultrie justified the presumption, as the Post alleges, that these muskets were not moved for the purpose of strengthening the federal government.

A secession meeting was held in New Orleans on the evening of the 24th; C. Fellows presided, and speeches were made by Charles M. Conrad, Charles Gayarre and others. The banner of the southern confederacy was raised to the tune of the Marseillaise.

Fort Moultrie was evacuated by Major Anderson on the night of the 26th of December, and the troops conveyed to Fort Sumpter, excepting four soldiers left in charge under command of Capt. Foster. As previously reported, the guns were spiked and the carriages were burned. The next morning the smoke of the burning carriages produced great excitement in Charleston, as the people thought the Fort was being demolished by fire. The military were ordered out to protect the magazines and arsenals in and about the city.

Monied matters seemed a little more easy in the Eastern and Middle States, and gold was being brought from England by every steamer, in large sums.

Messrs. Barnwell, Orr and Adams, Commissioners from South Carolina, were expected at Washington on the 25th, but they stopped that night at Richmond to hold a conference, and their arrival was not reported on the 26th. It was understood that the President would not receive them in their official character, but would have an informal social interview with them in the presence of others, and that he would send a special message to Congress, briefly stating the object of the Commissioners; but the President's line of policy in relation to the matter was so devious, that public men were greatly perplexed.

Hon. Caleb Cushing made a visit to Charles-

ton on the 21st. The object of his mission there was not known to those who were watching the progress of events. He remained there but five hours and then went to Washington.

Edward M. Stanton had been appointed Attorney General in place of Black, promoted to the office of Secretary of State.

Ned McGowan, Delegate to the lobby of Congress from Arizona, had arrived in Washington.

Ex-Governor McDonald of Georgia died at his residence at Marietta on the 17th of December.

The resignation of Governor Medary of Kansas was announced on the 20th.

A secession pole, 100 feet high, with the palmetto flag, was hoisted on the most prominent street in Petersburg, Va., on the 20th, amid the cheers from a large crowd. The pole was sawed down the next morning just before the dawn of day, by an unknown party, and the flag carried off. Great excitement prevailed, and a collision was feared.

A factory and several adjoining buildings were destroyed by fire in that city the next day in the afternoon. Loss estimated at \$30,000.

Late advices from Texas state that Gov. Houston will convene an extra session of the Texas legislature on the 21st of January, to consider the present crisis.

Ralph Farnham, the last survivor of the battle of Bunker Hill, died on the morning of December 26th, at the residence of his son, in Acton, Me. His age was 104 years, 5 months and 29 days.

Three hundred men were sent, on Dec. 25th, from the Charlestown Navy Yard by special train, to join the ship of war Macedonia at Portsmouth.

Gen. Frost, of St. Louis, fought a duel with E. R. Sayers, a few days after his return from the Kansas campaign. It was bloodless as reported.

A fire at Oswego, N. Y., Dec. 22d, destroyed property to the amount of several thousand dollars. At Adams, on the 20th, there was a similar destruction of property to the amount of \$50,000. A portion of the Zinc Works at Newark, N. J., was destroyed on the 22d.—Loss, 8,000.

At New Haven, Ct., on the 21st, a fire occurred in a tenement house owned by John A. Devenport, and occupied by twenty-six families. An entire family, consisting of Michael Colbert, his wife and four children, were burnt to death.

The Lawrence Hotel, Raleigh, N. C., purchased by the government for a court house and post office, was destroyed by fire on the 2d. The Fourth Ward school-building, Oswego, N. Y., was burned down on the 19th.—Loss, 15,000.

A seven story building, in Frankfort street, N. Y., was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of the 19th. Loss, \$100,000. At Zanesville, Ohio, December 21st, the car shops of the Central Ohio railroad were destroyed by fire. Loss, \$15,000. At Saratoga, on the 22d, there was a heavy fire, destroying property to the amount of \$10,000.

The Glendow Oil Mills and the old Glendow Iron Works, in East Boston, were destroyed by fire on the morning of the 24th. Loss, about \$40,000.

The City Hall, New London, Ct., and Lumsden & Co.'s tannery at Nashville, Tenn., were destroyed by fire on the same day. Loss in the latter instance, \$100,000.

At Lane, Ill., December 27, a fire destroyed ten buildings, and damaged several others. Loss, 22,000. Oliver & Little's plow factory, and Pierce's cabinet factory were burned at South Bend, Dec. 22d. Loss, \$13,000.

The latest news from Mexico is to the 22d December. General Miramon had surprised the Liberals at Forfuca, capturing 1,200 men and 12 cannon, and taking Generals Degollado, Bernazabel, Trenio and others prisoners.

ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES AT LIVERPOOL.—From the Millennial Star of December 22d, we learn that Elders John P. R. Johnson, David H. Cannon, Thomas Jeremy, George Halliday, Joseph Bull, John L. Smith, George J. Taylor, William C. Moody, George G. Bywater, John Skerry, Thomas O. King, William W. Cluff, Jesse N. Smith, John T. Gerber and Richard Bently arrived at Liverpool per steamship, City of Baltimore, on the 12th ult., all in good health.

SUPREME COURT.—The business before the Supreme Court has not been fully disposed of.

Meeting of the Bishops and Members of the Legislature.

The city Bishops, those from the settlements then here, and the members of the legislature, were invited by Bishop Hunter, to meet him at President Young's new school house, on Monday 14th inst., for the purpose of having a conversation over the measures contemplated for the guidance of the future emigration from the Missouri river to this city. Presidents Young and Kimball, and several of the Twelve were present.

The meeting was opened by singing the hymn

"Come all ye sons of God" etc., and prayer by Elder John Taylor.