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Wednesday.....January 9, 1861.

EASTERN NEWS BY MAIL.

The papers received from the States, by last mail, were filled with news items in relation to the secession movements, and the actions of congress in reference to existing difficulties, which together with other things that were transpiring in connection with the dissolution of the Union, rendered them quite interesting; but from our limited space we are unable to give very lengthy extracts from our exchanges, neither can we, in this number, refer to many things that would interest the people of Utah, who seem of late, to have considerable solicitude about what is going on in the world, especially in the States of North America.

The members of Congress seemed to have some realizing sense of the magnitude of the work before them, but no measure had been proposed that would be likely to result favorably to the settlement of existing difficulties and prevent the secession of the Southern States. Amendments to the Constitution would doubtless be proposed by the conciliatory committee; but many of those in favor of secession had boldly asserted, that it was too late, to talk about compromises, or amendments to the Constitution which they hated and contemned.

The spirit of disunion was manifested every where and among all grades of the community; even in South Carolina and other States favoring secession, statesmen, politicians and the commonality were not as united as would be natural to suppose they would be under existing circumstances. They seemed very generally in favor of secession, but otherwise there did not appear to be much unanimity in their proceedings and actions. The Legislature of South Carolina, after three unsuccessful balloting for governor, postponed the election for one week; Pickens, Johnson, Jamison and Rhett were the opposing candidates. Other instances are reported, where official positions were sought after and contended for by prominent secession leaders with great earnestness.

A late dispatch from Charleston announced, that four hundred men were engaged in strengthening the fortifications at Fort Moultrie. The heavy guns were being placed in position, and Castle Pinckney was being set in order. Strangers were not admitted into Fort Moultrie, and the work was conducted with much quietness. The movement was viewed suspiciously by the Carolinians.

A mass State convention was held at Trenton New Jersey, on the 11th of December, to adopt conciliatory measures towards the South, and Commodore Stockton read a speech. From the report of the proceedings, they were not of the most quiet and conciliatory nature, and the convention broke up in a row.

A spontaneous meeting of some three hundred of the most substantial citizens of Buffalo, was held December 11th, at the United States court room, in that city, for the purpose of requesting Hon. Millard Fillmore to proceed to the State of South Carolina as a messenger of peace. A committee was appointed, who waited upon Mr. Fillmore for that purpose. He expressed the warmest sympathy with the object of the meeting, but said that he had been invited to attend a meeting upon national subjects of prominent conservative men soon to be held, and that he should feel bound to await the action of that meeting.

The latest reports from Kansas, represented that Gen. Frost had determined to station three companies of cavalry and a battery of artillery at two points, opposite Bourbon and Linn counties Kansas, to protect the border. The residue of this brigade were to start for home.

The Governor of Tennessee had called an extra session of the Legislature of that State, to meet on the 7th of January, to consider the condition of the country.

Advices from Texas state that Mr. Stewart, member of the Legislature of Texas, from Gonzales, had issued a circular, in accordance with the resolutions of a meeting held in that place, inviting the Legislature to be in Austin on the third Monday in December, for the purpose of holding an extra session, and to take the necessary steps for calling a State Convention.

Governor Houston had promised to resign if the people of the State demanded the convoking of the Legislature.

The extra session of the Legislature of Louisiana convened on the 10th of December. The Governor, in his message, recommended coolness and deliberation. He also recommended the calling of a convention, and said, Louisiana ought not to refuse to meet her sister slave-holding States in council, to demand of the North the repeal of her obnoxious legislation, and guarantee against future similar measures. He said, these questions should be met before the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, because the self-respect and honor of the State did not comport with her remaining under a Black Republican President.

A resolution was offered, recommending the erection of a military board, and an appropriation of half a million for the purchase of arms for volunteer companies. The members were not disposed to act hastily, but were in favor of preparing for any emergency.

The session adjourned without day, on the evening of the 12th, having passed a convention bill, providing for the election of delegates to a convention, to be held at Baton Rouge, on the 23d of January. In the House a strong effort was made to put the question, convention or no convention, before the people. The military bill passed both houses, appropriating \$500,000; providing for the appointment of a military commission and military bureau, also for the organization of volunteer companies, and arming the same, and for establishing military depots. The military board would be convened immediately, and some one sent to purchase arms.

In the Nebraska Legislature, the House of Representatives, on December 11th, passed a bill to prohibit slavery in that Territory, with but two dissenting votes. It was expected that the council would concur, with nearly the same unanimity.

A bill to incorporate the Missouri and Western and Pacific Telegraph Companies had been introduced in the House, and would doubtless become a law.

Supreme Court.

The Supreme court commenced its session in the county court house, in this city on Monday, the 7th inst., at 12 o'clock, m. There were on the bench, Chief Justice Kinney, and Associate Justice Crosby.

On motion of Hosea Stout, Esq., Wm. H. Broadhead, John C. James, Stephen De Wolf, and W. J. McCormick, Esqrs., were admitted members of the bar of said court.

The docket was then called, after which the case of Atchison & Winters, vs. Hughes, all of Carson county, was called up, and the hearing set for to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, to which hour the court adjourned.

TUESDAY, 7th.

The court appointed Wm. H. Broadhead, United States District Attorney, pro tem, for this Territory. James H. Ralston, Esq., was admitted to the bar, on the recommendation of Mr. Broadhead.

The case of Winters & Atchison, vs. Hughes, was called, and Mr. Ralston, who appeared for the defense, filed a motion to dismiss. The case was continued till to-morrow at 12 m.

W. I. Appleby, Esq., was appointed clerk of the court, and Charles H. Ewing, Bailiff, after which the court adjourned till Wednesday at 12 o'clock.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Capt. David R. Evans, formerly from Wales, died very suddenly at his residence in Brigham City, Box Elder county, on Thursday evening last. He had been doing business about town during the day and retired to bed at about ten o'clock, in his usual good health. In a minute or two after lying down, he turned over in his bed and expired. He was a man of integrity and worth and was respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

INFORMATION WANTED of Dr. WILLIAM TAIT, late of Fairfield, by his friends, John Featherstone, Frank Stephens and Henry Burstow, residing at that place. He mysteriously disappeared on the 20th of December last.

INTERESTING FROM THE EAST.

BY PONY EXPRESS.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE "NEWS."

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25, 1860.

Every day is adding to the interest and excitement on the position of affairs here. However well informed may be the inhabitants of Utah on matters and things here, by the information they derive from newspapers, correspondence and telegraph; yet, I am satisfied in my own mind that neither the journalist, the correspondent or the electric wires can do anything like picture facts as they are, and give a true picture of the increasing apprehension on the minds of the people—truly the Prophet's words are being realized with a vengeance—"men's hearts failing them for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth."

A time like the present has never been witnessed before in this country, and, I much doubt if anything like it has ever been experienced elsewhere. There have been times of panic, plague, and war, with all their trains of evil, and gaunt poverty has stalked the streets in menacing attitude, and the wealthy of today have fallen into the ranks of the poor of the morrow; all these things have been time and again, but the recuperative faculties and powers of our country and institutions have again sprung into new life, and almost defaced from memory the trying ordeals of the past; but the present position of the country outstrips all that has been, and beggars description. There can be no comparison between the present and any past in our history.

The evils that have before time desolated the country were measurably local, and the unattacked and well-provided could come to the rescue of the afflicted, tried and destitute; but the evils of to-day are universal and the good man's words are literally fulfilled. "There is no soundness in them." There is no hope of a speedy remedy, and North, South, East and West are all affected. In short, the passions of men have been let loose, and discarding all authority, but selfishness, personal interest and the gratification of *amour propre* the States are arrayed as men for the tug of war. In former times of affliction and trial, the enduring sentiment of the republic's life and vivacity sustained the drooping spirits and pointed to a better future; but, alas! this heart-cheer is now no more, and that which formerly was the day-star of confidence itself exists but in name, dead, powerless and corrupt from one end to the other. But this I must cease and hastily give the news of the week.

Congress has done but little during the past week, save the passing of a few appropriation bills, and the Pacific Railroad bill by the House.

The committee of 33 of the House, and the committee of 13 of the Senate have been laboring hard on the various propositions offered as amendments to be made to the Constitution, with the view of removing the cause of trouble between the two great sections of the Union; but their labors are evidently tending in an opposite direction and making bad, worse. The two extremes battle continually and the conservatives, who really take anything like the grounds that might conciliate, if that were possible, are hardly listened to.

The North seems determined to adhere to the Chicago platform, on the slavery question, and the organ of the President elect, the *Springfield Journal*, has, very recently, made things more hopeless than before, where any chance of modification was hoped for. The South or secessionist party are claiming concessions and modifications that would place the institution of slavery on surer grounds than ever before, and recognizing emphatically slaves as property, by constitutional enactments, in the Territories, in the District of Columbia, in the navy yards, etc. This the North will never agree to. They cannot, without their acquiescence being considered a total abandonment of every principle for which the Republican party has contended from its organization, and the very issue on which they gained the election of Abraham Lincoln, to the highest Executive office in the nation.

Mr. Toombs, one of the committee of 13, telegraphed yesterday to Georgia that all hopes of compromise had passed, and should be abandoned, and but one thing was left for them to do—to prepare to speak with a voice of thunder through the ballot box for secession by the 4th of March.

South Carolina passed her ordinance of secession on the 20th, and her Representatives in Congress tendered their withdrawal to the Speaker of the House on the following day. She has appointed Barnwell, Adams and Orr as commissioners to repair to Washington to try and settle upon terms for the division of property. That is certainly very cool and refreshing.

It is stated that General Scott has turned off old Buck, as perfectly incurable, and handed him over to the buffetings of Satan. The General could not prevail upon him to strengthen the forts of South Carolina, and says that in less than a month, the forts will have fallen into the hands of the secessionists, never to be retaken.

I would not be astonished should the House make an attempt to impeachment of the President.

Senator Davis has received a dispatch from Charleston, to the effect that if the revenue cutter, then just arrived in the harbor, was

not ordered away within 48 hours, that the forces of the State of South Carolina, would proceed to take the forts.

The Senate military committee, have been in session, and the Utah war debt was up, but met with no favorable action. There is evidently a disposition to avoid all money bills. The members, of course, taking every occasion to deliver windy speeches on the crisis, as if they were terribly afraid of the Union breaking up, without their names and existence being recorded with the last agonizing throes of the glorious republic.

The secession excitement for the last few hours, has been eclipsed by the sudden development of a stupendous fraud perpetrated upon the vaults of the Indian department, by fraudulently using shares of State stocks, amounting to nearly a million of dollars.—The transaction has been made public within the last 48 hours. The government, through the Indian department, is trustee for various tribes of Indians, in a fund which the government invested in State stocks to the amount of three millions. These bonds were in the hands of a Mr. Bailey, (as custodian,) Mr. B. being a prominent and influential clerk in the department of the Interior. Mr. B. is also a particular friend of Col. W. H. Russell, and the Col. a particular friend of Secretary Floyd. Col. Russell gets embarrassed, had large liabilities to meet, when he obtains of the Secretary of war, his official and conditional acceptances for nearly a million of dollars. These drafts were predicated upon money due or to become due, to Col. Russell. The Col. not being able to negotiate these drafts, induces custodian Bailey to loan him a large amount of the trust bonds, on depositing the Secretary of war's acceptances in lieu thereof. Owing to the present crisis, money became hard to obtain. Government indebtedness got questioned, State stocks receded, and the bank of the republic, which held the half million of State bonds, hypothecated by Russell, wanted further security. A further amount of \$370,000, was abstracted by Mr. Bailey, and turned over to the bank of the republic. Mr. B. perceiving that Col. Russell could not extricate him from the dilemma in which he had been placed, wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, by the hands of a friend, a Senator, confessing the act, and giving the details, of which the foregoing is a summary—so says the press. Bailey was arrested in Washington, and Col. Russell was arrested in New York; doubtless both will find bail and be released. VERITE.

The Holidays.

Seldom if ever have we witnessed a more quiet, peaceable time during those memorable days in the Christian calendar known as Christmas and New Year's, than was seen and observed in this city this winter. The contrast between the scenes of the present and the two previous seasons of annual festive rejoicings on the return of the winter holidays, has been so great that hopes are entertained that not many more years will pass away before drunkenness and rowdiness on such occasions will be unknown in the land, and that those who wish to spend those days in mirth and festive amusements, can do so without being molested by the unhallowed yells and disgusting performances of reckless beings reveling in dissipation and debauchery, as has often been the case during the last three years, while the religious world, aided by the strong arm of the nation, has been making powerful exertions to improve the moral and social condition of the Saints, by teaching them the religion and practices of the so-called Christians of these latter days.

It is true there were some disgraceful performances seen and heard during the late festive season, but in comparison with the doings of many of the civilizers sojourning here, together with some of their disciples on former occasions, they were but few, and not of such a malignant and virulent character as some of the demonstrations have been during the period to which we allude.

So far as reported, there have been only eight or ten persons required to appear before the proper tribunals, to answer for offences against municipal rules and regulations, within the last two weeks. Of that number, one judge was fined \$10.00; another high official and a "descendant" \$25.00; one merchant \$15.00; one ditto, \$10.00; one clerk, connected with the Indian department, \$15.00; one attorney \$10.00; one professional rowdy, \$50.00; and one youthful aspirant for distinction, \$5.00.

Some of the foregoing fines were assessed for furious driving, some for drunkenness, fighting and rioting, and one for running a horse over a lady in the street; and our reporter informs us that the fines have all been paid or amply secured. Considering what has been heretofore, this is certainly not a very black record, and, as those concerned are represented as being quite ashamed of their doings and have expressed their determination to conduct themselves in a more orderly manner hereafter, their names are withheld, and we presume few will have interest enough in the matter to examine the records of the municipal courts to ascertain who they were.