

NEWS BY EASTERN MAIL.

The latest dates from New York, Washington, Philadelphia, and other Eastern cities, received by the last mail from St. Joseph, were to December 6th. No new events had transpired during the first week in December, to attract the attention of the people, and a majority of them seemed to have excitement enough to satisfy them, growing out of the secession movements; and their monied matters were becoming so alarmingly distressing, that should the Prince of Wales make his appearance among them again, or another embassy should arrive from Japan, the presumption is, that there would not be such an extravagant expenditure of money, nor so great a display made, as on former occasions, not even in New York, the great commercial emporium of America.

The effects of dissolution were being very generally felt by all classes of people, especially by those engaged in mercantile and manufacturing pursuits. Thousands of operatives were being thrown out of employ, and a cry for bread was soon expected to be heard, if a change for the better should not take place shortly in the affairs of the nation, which some professed to believe would soon be the case; but there were many who considered that the signs of the times were rather unpropitious to a speedy arrangement of existing difficulties.

Many of the manufacturing establishments in the Northern and Eastern States had suspended operations, and others would soon have to follow, for the want of the necessary means to carry on business. Some had reduced their manufacturing operations to one half and one third of the usual amount of their business transactions, hoping thereby to be able to keep up appearances, till the pressure caused by the panic should cease, and the commercial business of the country should be resumed as in former days; but the proprietors of some of the factories that had taken this course had been compelled, after a short time, not only to suspend payment, but to close up their establishments and discharge their laborers, at a very unpropitious season of the year, many of whom were depending upon their weekly wages for the support of their families, and aside from which they had no means of subsistence.

Much care was evidently being taken to conceal the real state of things—the North not wishing the South to know the extent of their financial distress, and the South equally as cautious in concealing, as far as possible, the true state of affairs, in relation to their business operations. Few of the leading journals in either section of the Union, that was, say anything in particular in relation to the general stagnation of business throughout the country, and evince a disposition to keep those matters hid from the ears of their opponents, and from the nations of the earth, with whom they have had commercial intercourse, lest it should operate too much against their respective interests.

There are those, however, who are not immediately interested in keeping the truth from being known, who occasionally speak out and publish facts as they exist, which when they gain publicity, are not often denied. The bank suspensions are generally announced, with a qualifying statement, that the suspension is understood to be only "temporary" and not that they were out of funds, and could not redeem their paper, for the want of gold or silver; but in relation to the distress that has been generally produced by the secession movements as little has been said as possible, and the people are occasionally assured that a better state of things will in all probability shortly exist. Such assurances, however, by the more observing class of community, are considered of little worth. They believe that the most of it has not yet been seen; that the Union, despite all the efforts made to save it, will be dissolved, and that the consequences will be more disastrous than has been anticipated by those who have been directing their movements to that end.

The effects of the revolutionary movements, had begun to be severely felt in Virginia, where, it had been supposed, from its geographical position, the public would enjoy an immunity from financial embarrassments, so far as her inter-trade with the slave and non-slave-holding States, between which, some of her Statesmen had proffered to be mediators, was concerned, as it was thought that in the capacity of mediator, and in consequence of her location, a ready market for her slaves

would be found in the South, and that the produce of her soil could profitably be disposed of in the North, without difficulty. The Washington Star, in reference to the state of commercial affairs, in the Old Dominion, says:

The inter-State trade in negroes, out of which the people of Virginia make millions annually, has entirely ceased, and the value of the produce of every description in the hands of the farmers of that State has already depreciated quite thirty per centum. The state of affairs in Culpepper county tells the tale forcibly. That county alone exports annually about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars' worth of slaves—the surplus of its slave population. Not a single negro has been sold from it in the last three weeks, we apprehend, because prices have gone down fifty per centum. Nor can its farmers find a market for the large quantity of wheat they continue to hold, except by taking one dollar per bushel for such as they were getting a dollar and forty cents for a month ago.

The Presidential electors met at the Capitol of their respective States on the 5th of December, and voted for President and Vice President of the United States, according to the statute in such case made and provided.

The Electoral college of Virginia met, but the six Breckenridge electors, who had, by an error in the names of some of the Bell electors, been declared elected, refused to take their seats, on the ground that their election was merely the result of technicality. The vacancies caused by their refusal to act, were filled, and the whole vote was cast for Bell and Everett.

The 29th of November was very generally, in the Northern, and in some of the Southern States, observed by unionists and disunionists, as a day of thanksgiving. In New Orleans, the sermons preached on the occasion, were according to the report, highly seasoned with secession. Dr. Palmer, of the Presbyterian Church, delivered a thrilling discourse which greatly moved the large concourse of hearers that were in attendance.

Dr. Peacock, of Christ's church, (Episcopal), pictured the unchristian aggressions of the North, and spoke of the hand of God moving to protect his ordained institutions.—It was said that an intense emotion was manifested.

Among the most interesting items of news from Illinois, telegraphed from Springfield to various parts of the country, on the 30th of Nov., was that on Thanksgiving day, Mr. Lincoln, President elect, like the rest of Anglo-American mankind, feasted on a roast turkey, and attended divine service. He certainly must be a very remarkable man.

The charter election in New York city, for Aldermen, on the 4th of December, resulted in the election of four of the Republican, four of the Democratic, and one of the union candidates.

Hon. D. C. Littlejohn had commenced a prosecution against Horace Greeley, of the New York Tribune, for alleged libels uttered pending the late election.

On their arrival in Washington some of the members of Congress were in want of money, and Mr. Cobb refused to advance their mileage, as the Treasury was not in a condition to pay till replenished by legislation. They are said to have been not very well pleased with the state of finances.

A dispatch from Washington to the New York Courier, on December 1st, announced that Mr. Buchanan hoped that South Carolina would appreciate the delicacy of his position, and not compel him to use force for the collection of the revenue at Charleston.

An agent of James' celebrated rifle cannon had arrived in Washington en route for Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, by invitation of the Governors of those States.

The Florida legislature had unanimously passed a convention bill. It was to meet on the 3d of January.

The chaplain of the House of Representatives, is reported to have hinted in one of his prayers, that the President and his advisers, lacked wisdom for the times.

The destruction of property and loss of life by the late terrific gale on the lakes, was greater than had been reported. The storm had extended to the upper lakes, where it commenced some two days before its effects were felt on Lake Ontario, and is reported to have been the most severe that had been witnessed for years, and attended with great destruction both of property and life; but the full extent of the effects of the gale on Lakes Superior and Huron had not been ascertained. The list of vessels that were wrecked in addition to

those published last week, is very lengthy.—The sufferings endured by those exposed to the action of the wind and waves, accompanied by a blinding fall of snow, are represented as having been very intense. Among the vessels lost, not previously reported, was the schooner Circassian, wrecked on the White Shoals, Straits of Mackinac, and all on board lost.—The propeller Wabash Valley was wrecked on Muskegan Bar, Lake Michigan, and went to pieces. She is said to have been a staunch boat, and was valued at about \$28,000.

The propeller Dacotah went ashore at Sturgeon Point, on board of which were twenty-four persons, all of which were lost. The boat was broken in pieces. The gale on Lake Huron was most terrific, and the vessels which were out in the blow, are reported as having everything swept from their decks.

The steamer Kate French, bound from Louisville to the Arkansas river, was burned near Napoleon, Ark., on the 28th. Boat and cargo a total loss.

On the 29th of November a passenger car, containing twenty-eight persons, ran off the track at Bear Creek Dam, Pa., and was precipitated into the Lehigh, a distance of fifteen feet, drowning five persons.

A passenger train from New Orleans for Jackson, ran off the track on November 30th, but no lives were lost. The down freight train the same day, ran into a broken bridge, killing the conductor and engineer. The engine afterwards exploded. Much damage had been done to the road by a heavy rain on the 27th.

At Freemansburg, Pa., on the evening of the 3d, as a freight train was passing through the bridge, eight cars ran off the track, killing the conductor and injuring others.

The Old Factory, at Northboro, Mass., was destroyed by fire on the night of Dec. 3d.—Loss \$35,000. A fire in Oswego, on the night of the 2d, destroyed the Washington block, consisting of four stores, together with several other buildings. Loss estimated at some \$60,000. A bookstore at Reading, Pa., was burned on the 3d. Loss, \$18,000.

The Western Lunatic Asylum, at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, said to have been the largest and most costly building in the State, was burned on Friday morning, Nov. 30th. All the inmates but one were saved. The building was valued at \$200,000.

PROGRESS OF SECESSION.

The secession movements in the States were progressing steadily up to December 6th, and according to the reports received by "Pony" South Carolina went out of the Union on the 17th, the first day of her secession convention. It had been very generally believed that the ordinance of severance would not be passed till the 18th; but it seems, from the report, that the convention, on assembling, lost no time in passing an ordinance dissolving the connection of the Palmetto State with the "accursed Union," by which act, she went out of the Confederacy and, in all probability, she will shortly draw after her, at least, "one third part of the stars" of the American Galaxy.

A call for all the South Carolinians in the Army and Navy to return home, had been made through the Charleston Mercury, the principal mouth-piece of the secessionists in that State. The sons of that State engaged in the service of the Government of the United States were requested to renounce at once the sword and the rations of the "vulgar oppressor," and to hasten quickly to the homes that gave them birth, for the protection of their native soil, the preservation of the institutions of their State, and the maintenance of the liberty of freemen bequeathed them by their fathers.

The State wanted her soldier citizens around her for protection, and had need of their military skill and science to direct the energies and courage of her citizens, and they were urged to return home without hesitation.—They were assured that there was no more doubt of South Carolina's going out of the Union than that of the world's turning round. Every member of the Convention would be pledged for immediate separate State secession in any event whatever. Once out of the Union, nothing but conquest would bring her back. She was sick of the Union—disgusted with it upon any terms within the range of the widest possibility.

Governor Gist had received a letter from Major Lees, commanding the Baltimore National Volunteers, a light horse regiment, thir-

teen hundred strong, saying that the regiment had unanimously resolved to support, with their lives, any State or States in secession from this "accursed league," and tendering their services in the event of coercion.

It was announced from Norfolk that a paper was in circulation there for signatures. Those whose signatures had been canvassed were chiefly young men, skilled in military tactics, and were known to be thoroughly Southern in feeling. The document was said to be a pledge to be ready at a moments warning to start for any designated point to join a force of chosen men to battle for Southern rights in the front ranks. It was understood that the force intended to visit Washington on the Fourth of March.

Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, in a speech made in the Senate, Dec. 5th, in reply to Mr. Hale, said:

The withdrawing States disclaim any further allegiance to the United States. We intend to go out of the Union before the 4th of March. Five States will go out. Arkansas and Louisiana will call conventions pretty soon. The Black Republicans intend to use their power to put down slavery. Our policy is to get out of the Union while we have strength. The talk about the repeal of the personal liberty bills will not prevent it. We don't fear them much, but most dread mob laws. We intend to go out peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must. The next twelve months will find the Southern Confederacy, in my opinion, the most prosperous and powerful ever seen. We don't apprehend war. If the North attempt to coerce, it will come. If the senator from New Hampshire wants it we will give it. We are preparing to fight for our homes, liberties and rights. We are not a feeble race of Mexicans. I believe we will have a united people. We hope the North will see the policy of letting us go, and make treaties of commerce with us, rather than coerce, and both of us will live in greater friendship. There is an enmity between the northern and southern people deeper than hell. No one on the other side comes here to exchange courtesies, neither can we go there.—We are enemies. The northerners hate the South greater than any other country does. We don't feel to lose the love. The sooner we depart the better. The senator from New Hampshire had better take warning. If war comes, we will meet marauders of abolitionists.

At Memphis, Tenn., a large and excited meeting was held on the 30th of Nov., at which resolutions were passed accepting the "irrepressible conflict," calling upon the governor to convene the legislature, directing that a State convention be called, and telling the Southern States that Tennessee would stand by the action of the southern convention for weal or woe.

The latest reports from Florida represented great unanimity for secession out side of the politicians; not on account of Lincoln's election as they wanted that as a pretense to go out, but on the ground that the federal Union was of no benefit to the people of that State.

Latest from the Missionaries.

As some of our readers may wish to hear from the Elders who went east on missions last fall, we publish the following extracts from a letter from Elder Joseph Bull, dated at New York City, on the first day of December:

"In a few hours we shall be on the ocean. Elders Geo. Halliday, John L. Smith, John Gerber, Wm. C. Moody, Geo. G. Bywater, Thos. Jeremy, Rasmus Johnson, W. W. Cluff, D. H. Cannon, Geo. J. Taylor and myself take passage to-day at 12 o'clock on the steamship 'City of Baltimore.' Elders Cannon, Kay, Staines, Needham and Spencer will take passage on the British mail steamer 'Argo' next Wednesday. There are several of the Elders visiting their relatives in the States and have not reached this city as yet, but are expected daily. The health of all, as a general thing, is good, and they feel well. We have been kindly treated by the saints in and around New York, they doing all in their power to make us comfortable during our short stay with them.

Elder Orson Pratt arrived here yesterday, in good health. The prospects for doing a good work in some portions of the United States is good; a spirit of inquiry is among the people, and they are glad to see and to have the privilege of conversing with Elders from the Valley.

"The secession movement is causing great alarm, especially in the commercial market. Banks have suspended payment. Thousands have been turned out of employment; at Newark, a few miles from N. Y., ten thousand were thrown out of employment in one week. Fear has seized the people and they dread the issue. The panic is now the topic of the day."

CAPT. BALLO'S BAND.—This celebrated Brass Band honored many of our citizens with excellent music yesterday on the occasion of the advent of the new year. May the Captain and the members of his Band be rewarded for the honors conferred, and may they never be out of "tune."