



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday, January 15, 1862.

## THE CONVENTION.

On Monday next, according to arrangement, the delegates that have been elected by the people in the several counties of the Territory will assemble at the Court House in this city, and enter upon the duties assigned them, to frame and adopt a constitution and form of State government for the people of Utah, preparatory to asking again for admission into the Federal Union, on an equal footing with the original States. The people of every county, city, town, village and settlement in the Territory have spoken, and their voice has been unanimous for dispensing with the inefficient, unconstitutional and oppressive form of government instituted for their rule, under which they have existed since it was fully inaugurated in the year 1851, up to the present time, and for adopting in its stead a government better suited to their wants and necessities, and in accordance with the principles of constitutional liberty, which every American has a right to enjoy.

The people inhabiting these mountain valleys, who sought refuge here from the ruthless hand of oppression, have borne patiently the impositions that have been practised upon them under the operations of the Territorial form of government provided by Congress, as administered by men of corrupt minds, from those holding the appointing power down to the least recipient of executive patronage—honorable exceptions not included—till they deem it unfitting and impolitic to submit to such things any longer; but they do not wish to secede from the constitution of the United States, and only claim that the rights and privileges accorded by that system of fundamental rules shall be extended to them. They, in short, wish to elect their own rulers, pay the expenses of their government, and do every other act which sovereign people have a right to do, and not inhibited by the constitution they so much revere. That is all they ask, and all they wish; and if extended to them, as it doubtless will be, they will rejoice exceedingly, and be glad that the day of deliverance has come.

The holding of the convention and the adoption of a constitution for the future government of the people of Utah will be an important epoch in their history, as the result whatever it may be, cannot fail to produce a material change in their circumstances and condition for the better. No other consequence is anticipated, and no other, we predict, will be realized. If their prayer is heard and answered all will be right, if not all will be well.

## The Late Rains.

There has more water fallen in this part of the Territory since the first of November last than ever before during the same length of time since the settlement of the country by the Saints, but no material damage has been done to property, excepting to wheat in the stack, which had been put up, as is too often the case in this country, without proper regard to security in the event of storms. In several of the northern counties, as reported, no inconsiderable amount of grain in stacks, and some that had been thrashed and not properly secured, has been damaged by the heavy rains that have fallen within the last ten weeks.

Reports received from the southern counties of late represent, that in that part of the Territory large quantities of water have fallen within the last few weeks, more than ever before witnessed by the inhabitants at any season of the year since they have dwelt in the mountains.

Lost, between Union Academy and the residence of Anthony Ivins, G. S. L. City, a coral necklace with a golden cross and brooch attached thereto. The finder will confer a favor by leaving it at this office.

## ITEMS OF WAR NEWS.

The battle at Mumfordsville, Kentucky, on the 17th of December, is reported to have been the most brilliant Federal victory achieved since the commencement of the war. Among the Federals killed were Lieut. Sachs, of Cincinnati, who, as reported, killed eight men with two revolvers, but was finally killed himself, receiving nine bullets from the enemy.

Of the Texas Rangers, sixty-two were killed, besides Col. Terry. The number of wounded was unknown, but supposed to be very large. The next day after the fight, there were sixty-nine dead and wounded Confederates found in the bushes. The Federal loss was ten killed on the spot, seven mortally and thirteen otherwise wounded. Of these mortally wounded four subsequently died. The Texans lost a colonel, captain, and lieutenant.

It was reported at Nashville, on Dec. 16th, that the Yankee advance of from five to six thousand were at Green river, with some artillery, but had shown no disposition to cross the river.

Paducah advices stated that Humphrey Marshall was steadily advancing toward Lexington, and meeting with little or no opposition.

It was announced that General Crittenden was at Cumberland Gap with a large force, and it was feared that he would invade Kentucky from that point.

On the morning of Dec. 19th, a Confederate battery of three guns, flanked with about two hundred infantry, suddenly commenced shelling the encampment of Colonel Geary's Pennsylvania Regiment, at Point of Rocks. About twenty shells fell amidst the encampment. The six companies in camp were well deployed and intrenched.

The twenty-eighth regiment battery opened fire with two guns, the first shot disabling one of the enemy's guns, the second falling in their centre. The Federal battery then advanced and poured into them a continuous fire, silencing all their guns, and driving back a fourth one, reinforcing them. The Confederates were driven from their position in full retreat. There were, as reported, at least fourteen killed, and many wounded. The Federals, according to report, did not lose a man.

A portion of General McCall's division, consisting of Gen. Ord's brigade, the first rifles, and Easton's battery of four guns, on a reconnaissance and foraging expedition near Leesburgh, on the 20th of December, encountered the enemy, who had four regiments of infantry—South Carolinians, Alabamians, and Kentuckians—with a battery of six pieces, and a regiment of cavalry, under command of General Stewart. The Federal troops are reported to have been victorious, the enemy retreating after fighting an hour and a half, leaving on the field fifty-seven killed and nineteen wounded. Two cannons were taken by Gen. Ord, a quantity of small arms, and a few prisoners. The Union loss is stated at ten killed and fifteen wounded. Col. Kane's Bucktail riflemen rendered efficient service in the fight. The Colonel was slightly wounded.

Early in the morning of Dec. 19th, Gen. Pope, who was marching from Sedalia to intercept a supply train and a large body of newly enlisted men for Price's army, placed the main body of his army in position near Waverly, and sent a scouting force under Col. Jeff. C. Davis, a few miles south of Warrensburg and Knob Noster to come on the left and rear of the enemy, who pushed rapidly forward and came up with him in the afternoon, drove in his pickets, carried a strongly defended bridge by an assault, and drove the enemy into a timber, who, finding himself surrounded, surrendered one thousand and three hundred men, including two colonels, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, and seventeen captains. Sixty wagons, heavily laden with supplies and clothing, and a large number of horses and mules fell into the hands of Col. Davis who had two men killed and fourteen wounded.

A dispatch of the 20th, from Sedalia, states that up to that date General Pope had taken from the enemy about two hundred wagons laden with supplies, together with a large quantity of ammunition and arms, a thousand horses, tents, camp equipage, and about one thousand eight hundred prisoners.

A dispatch from Leavenworth, on the 20th, states that a portion of the 3d Kansas regiment, under the command of Major Williams, made

a dash into Missouri on the 17th, and burned the villages of Papinsville and Butler, and returned with many refugees and large quantities of stock.

A Charleston dispatch of Dec. 9th, states that on the 8th four Federal gunboats entered North Edisto Inlet, and anchored opposite Rockville, on John's Island, thirty miles from Charleston, where the 1st South Carolina rifles regiment, numbering six hundred, Col. Branch, was encamped. Their camp was shelled, and under cover of the fire a strong force was landed. The Carolinians fell back four miles towards Charleston to a point called Brick Church.

## FROM SECESSIA.

Richmond and Norfolk papers, of December 17th published the particulars of Col. Johnston's defeat of the Federal forces on the Alleghany mountains. It was not known how many of the Union troops were killed, but it was reported that seventy or eighty were left dead on the field besides those that they carried away during the action. The Secessionists admit that the victory was dearly bought and that they did not pursue the Federal army in its flight.

Among the killed of Johnston's command were Capt. Anderson, of the Lee battery, and Lieut. Thompson, of the Marion Guards.

It was stated that, up to the middle of December, the Confederate Congress had confirmed not less than seven thousand army appointments.

A series of resolutions have been adopted by the Legislature of Tennessee, relative to the opening of the southern ports, and recommending that no crop of cotton be seeded the ensuing year.

R. M. T. Hunter was censured for wishing to resign his place in the Confederate Cabinet, to avoid the trials which possibly await the administration.

Col. Maxey Gregg, commanding officer of the 1st South Carolina Regiment, has been promoted to a brigadier general.

Silver was selling in Richmond at twenty-five and gold at thirty-five per cent.

The Richmond *Whig* had called upon all farmers of Virginia near the lines of railroads to build ice-houses, and collect large supplies of ice during the present season, as the whole South will have to get its ice from Virginia the coming summer.

On the 16th of December, Henry C. Burnett and Judge Monroe were sworn in as Senators from Kentucky, which State has been admitted into the Confederacy.

The Brownsville (Texas) *Flag*, of the 21st of November, gives an account of an attack on the city of Matamoras by Gen. Caravajal. The General appeared before the city on the 15th, and commenced the attack on the 20th. Great carnage took place, and, at the hour that the *Flag* went to press, both parties claimed success.

The Richmond *Examiner* says that resolutions have been introduced into the Confederate Congress, offering sympathy to the people of Maryland, and urging such a policy in the conduct of the war as to open the way to her admission into the Southern Confederacy.

The Charleston *Mercury* of Dec. 13th announced that the Federalists had erected a battery near Port Royal Ferry, of twelve 12-pounder Parrot guns, and were throwing up intrenchments on Port Royal Island. It was reported that a Federal launch was fired into by Southern troops, and seven Yankees killed. Gen. Evans arrived at Charleston on the 12th. The late news from England gave great joy to the Carolinians.

It was understood by reports from a reliable source, received at Fort Monroe, that an expedition on a large scale was being fitted out to proceed against Hatteras Inlet, and retake what was captured by Commodore Stringham. The fleet, it is said, will consist of eleven large side-wheel steamboats and propellers, and a number of ship's launches, taken from the Norfolk navy yard. It is expected to rendezvous at Roanoke Island, and when joined by the gunboats fitting out at the navy yard and iron works at Norfolk, will at once proceed to the coast of North Carolina.

The expedition against Hatteras Inlet is to be in command of Arthur Sinclair, late of the United States navy, and a resident of Norfolk.

It was stated that at least eleven hundred men were employed at the Norfolk navy yard, a large portion of them being engaged in rifling old and new guns.

## Miscellaneous News Items.

The joint committee of Congress to inquire into the conduct of the war, consists of Senators Wade, Chandler, and Johnson, of Tennessee, and Representatives Gooch, Corode, Julian and Odell.

It was currently reported in Washington on Dec. 19th, that a wager of \$500 had been made between a member of Congress and one of his constituents, as to whether or not the army of the Potomac would winter within its present lines. The congressman bet that they would not, and then offered to bet another \$500 that a victory would be won in Virginia within thirty days.

At latest dates, the war feeling was at a high pitch in Halifax and throughout the Province of Nova Scotia.

The amphitheater at the Fair Grounds, Lexington, Ky., where a regiment of soldiers were encamped, was recently destroyed by fire. During the excitement, a sentinel shot Lieut. Joel Hickman, of Col. Morley's cavalry, killing him instantly.

News from the "Stone Fleet," received at New Bedford, represent that the last of the fleet arrived at Port Royal Roads, on December 11th. The fleet had a very rough passage and several of the vessels arrived in a crippled and leaky condition. Three of the ships were sunk to obstruct the entrance to Savannah.

The promotions and appointments in the army, made by the President since the publication of general orders No. 68, of August 27th, have been recently published. There have been two hundred and fifteen promotions, six hundred and fifty appointments of all kinds, in addition to sixty brigadier generals of volunteers, the whole number of these being about one hundred and ten. The appointments, as aids-de-camp to Gen. McClellan, number thirty-two. Thirty-one officers have been retired under the law upon that subject.

The St. Louis *Republican* urges the Missouri congressmen to ask Congress to relieve the State of its proportion of the Federal tax levied for the payment of interest, which amounts to over \$800,000. It says that no power whatever can collect it until the State recovers somewhat of its accustomed prosperity.

A lady from Charleston, South Carolina, was arrested at Rouse's Point, on the 19th of December, by order of Secretary Seward and sent to Fort Lafayette.

A dispatch from Charlottetown, Prince Edward's Island, on the 19th ult., announced that the submarine cable across the Straits of Northumberland, connecting Prince Edward's Island with the continent, and belonging to the Newfoundland Telegraph Company, had again broken, and, it was believed, could not be repaired.

On the 21st ult., in the Kentucky Legislature, the House, by a vote of sixty-nine to eleven, concurred in the Senate's amendment to the bill reported by the House Committee on Federal relations, thanking the President for his modification of General Fremont's proclamation and Secretary Cameron's report, and requesting the President to dismiss Secretary Cameron from the cabinet.

A trial of a new pontoon bridge, five hundred feet long, was recently made under the direction of the engineer corps of the New York 15th regiment, near the navy yard at Washington. President Lincoln rode over it in his carriage; after which, six 12-pounder howitzers, with six horses attached to each, and six caissons, marched across, causing a depression of only eight inches. After this, one of the engineers walked on the surface of the water by the aid of tin floats about four feet long and shaped like boats, which were attached to his feet. With the help of a paddle, it is said, an operator can easily walk on the water and carry a line across a stream.

LAND SLIDE.—A few days since, as we are informed, there was a land slide in Echo, some ten or twelve miles above the mouth of the canyon, of no small magnitude, a large fragment from the side of the mountain coming down completely blockading the narrow defile through which the road passes. So effectually was the road filled up with the mass of rock and dirt descending from the hillside that the stages could not pass till an opening was made, which took some little time to accomplish. A terrible place is Echo canyon. The road through it is not always as safe and passable as that up and down Ham's Fork.