

authority in the Seceding States as an act of war, which will be followed by instantaneous reprisals. A large number of privateers were in readiness to commence operations on the ocean, at a moment's warning. It was reported that arrangements were already made in California for privateers on the Pacific Ocean, when occasion calls for them. The Tariff bill under consideration at Montgomery, does not differ materially from that of the United States. It will apply to all goods imported from north of Wilmington, Delaware. Bonds will be exacted from shippers from non-seceding slave-holding States to guard against deception. Philip Clayton, ex-assistant Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, had been appointed to a similar position under the Southern Confederacy.

Mr. Toombs had been appointed Secretary of State; Memminger, Treasurer, and Pope Walker, Secretary of war.

The New York Times claimed to have seen a letter from a member of the British government to a distinguished American, stating authoritatively, that the whole matter of secession had been brought by Lord John Russell before the ministry, and all subordinate matters of defective clearance, etc., and the declaration was made that not only will there be no recognition made by Great Britain of the Southern Confederacy; but every thing will be done to discountenance disunion.

The Southern Congress had unanimously passed an act declaring the establishment of the free navigation of the Mississippi: it gave general satisfaction.

VIRGINIA.

Mr. Preston, in the Virginia Convention, on the 19th, delivered a speech which had created great interest: the Union could not be reconstructed, and confidence expressed that Virginia would join the Southern confederacy. A resolution was introduced, the gist of which was, that though the election of Mr. Lincoln did not justify secession, yet as the Southern secession left the border States in the minority in Congress, Virginia would present an ultimatum to the Northern States and fix a time beyond which she would not wait; if the ultimatum failed, Virginia would take steps to secure her rights out of the Union: referred to committee.

On the 20th, a large number of resolutions on Federal relations was offered in the Convention, all expressive of Virginia's opposition to coercion.

On the 22d, resolutions were again introduced against coercion, pledging Virginia to resist, and setting forth that it was the duty of the federal government to acknowledge the independence of the seceding States. The resolutions were favorably received and referred to committee.

In the Virginia convention on the 23d, a resolution was unanimously adopted, "for appointing a committee to inquire whether any movement of any arms or men had been made by Government to any fort or arsenal in or bordering on Virginia, indicating preparations for attack or coercion."

COLLECTING CUSTOMS IN THE SOUTH.

The Secretary of the Treasury sent elaborate documents to the House on the 21st, in which he said that he believed that the duties on imports would continue to be collected at ports of entry in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida, and that vessels were entered and cleared in the usual manner; but collectors assumed to perform their duties under State authorities. Only about half the officers of Customs in those States had resigned, while the others had entered on the duties of the Government of the States, without considering it necessary to perform that official ceremony. The documents embrace correspondence relative to Customs, the New Orleans mint, etc.

CONGRESS.

In the House on the 20th, there was considerable debate over the bill to authorize the Post Master-General to discontinue mail service in the seceding States. The Volunteer bill was strongly opposed by Mr. Bock as he considered it a declaration of war. The report of the committee of 33 was again up for debate. Vallandigham advocated dividing up the Union into four sections. Garnett of Virginia, during the debate on the navy bill, offered a proviso that the sloops should not be used to execute the Federal laws in seceding States. He considered that Mr. Lincoln's speeches and private conversation foreshadowed a coercive policy, and the intention of

making war on the South. He expressed his wish for the immediate secession of Virginia, which was hissed and applauded in the galleries. The Senate amendments passed the House, 111 against 33. During the evening Mr. Ruffin of North Carolina made a strong secession speech.

The Tariff bill passed the Senate on the 20th; yeas 23; nays 14. On the 21st, a debate sprung up on the bill for the discontinuance of postal service in the seceding States. Mr. Hunter opposed the bill as a coercive measure. Mr. Doolittle contended that it was a measure of peace, not war; Mr. Powell opposed the bill as giving the power of a despot to the head of the department. Mr. Fessenden thought that the Senators were drawing largely upon imagination—it was a measure of peace. Douglas so regarded it and said that he believed there was a deliberate plot to break up the Union on the pretext of devotion, and that there were as many disunionists North as South.

Mr. Dawes from the select committee of 5, to whom the President's message of the 8th, January had been referred, made a report to the House which greatly reflected on the administration for neglecting the defence of the whole Atlantic coast during the prevalence of lawless violence. There were 28 ships lying dismantled, unfit for service; in the aggregate mounting 874 guns. None of the vessels could be repaired and put under sail short of several weeks, and some of them would require at least six months; and yet nothing had been done to put any of them in readiness. The committee considered that the Secretary of the navy was deserving of censure for accepting without delay or inquiry the resignation of officers who had gone with the secessionists and of those who wanted to be released from their commissions in order to fight against the constituted authorities of the nation.

In the House, on the 23d, the Tariff bill was taken up as returned from the Senate with amendments. During the discussion, Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, took occasion to allude to Mr. Lincoln's hasty passage through Baltimore, sarcastically said the President elect was afraid of meeting Bill Yancy, and Jeff. Davis who were there with a six pounder; and suggested additional pay to General Scott, that he might have an additional peacock's plume, and made a call for money to raise a body guard for Mr. Lincoln to protect him from Jeff. Davis and Governor Wise. His speech was responded to by hisses.

On the 25th, the Tariff bill was considered in the committee of the whole; after which the whole subject was reported to the House. Mr. Sherman urged the necessity of concurring. He was opposed to much of it, but he believed that the very existence of the government depended upon the passage of the bill. When Mr. Buchanan took the reins of Government the public debt was \$29,000,000 with nearly \$18,000,000 in the Treasury; but now the public debt was \$96,000,000, and the smallest possible amount for the Government to get along with for the next fiscal year, was \$68,000,000: all the Senate amendments, except that of taxing tea and coffee were concurred in: a committee of conference was adopted on this amendment.

In the Senate, the bill relating to the postal service in seceding States, passed by 34 to 12.

WASHINGTON EMBASSADORS AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

The French and Russian ministers at Washington are reported to favor secession, and the government of the former had called for explanations from M. Mercier as he had sent home reports conflicting with those made by consuls and others.

Dispatches from Europe announce the determination of the European powers to abide by the fixed policy of recognizing no new government before its recognition by the government from which it had separated.

DECISION ON THE INDIAN BONDS.

The U. S. Circuit Court, at New York, on the 25th in the case of the Indian trust bonds fraud dissolved the injunction, deciding that the government was bound, where the holders of the bonds received them without notice of fraud and the United States had no redress.

GEN. TWIGGS SURRENDERS.

Gen. Twiggs had announced to the war department, that he had surrendered to Texas, all the forts, arsenals and munitions of war in that State. The federal troops were tendered every facility to leave the State. The property surrendered amount to \$1,300,000.

FORT SUMTER.

On the 21st, General Scott was in receipt of information from Major Anderson, which led the Commander-in-Chief to expect the attack on the Fort that day. At the same time the government received information that the attack would not be made before the Fourth of March. The garrison stood in need of money, but it could not be conveniently conveyed to the Fort.

ASSAULTING A CONGRESSMAN.

Mr. Van Wyck, of New York, was assaulted on the evening of the 21st, in Washington, by three unknown persons. He was wounded by a heavy knife, and, while desperately resisting them, was knocked down. Recovering himself somewhat, he discharged a pistol, which was believed to have taken effect upon one of the party. Mr. V. reached his residence very weak; but not in a dangerous condition.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

The Peace Congress had been expected to conclude business on the 22d inst., did not. Chase, of Ohio, offered a proposition that it was inexpedient to proceed to the consideration of the grave matters involved in the resolutions of Virginia, until all the States participate; and that ample time may be afforded for deliberation, resolved that the Conference adjourn to the 4th of April. An exciting debate arose upon the proposition, and there was a prospect of its adoption.

INDIAN WAR BILLS.

In the Senate on the 23d, the bill for the payment of the expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities in California was taken up and passed.

At the same time, the bill making payment for the suppression of Indian hostilities in Utah, in 1853 was passed.

In the House, on the same day, the Oregon and Washington war bill was passed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Brown, late editor of the Constitution, had been deputed to inform the Federal Government of the election of Genl Davis, to the Presidency of the Confederate States. The dispatch says:—"He will not be recognized."

Capt. Meiggs had returned from Florida to resume the charge of the Washington Aqueduct, leaving in charge of the fortifications at Tortugas, Major Arnold of the artillery. Troops in good condition and prepared to resist any attack.

Capt. Armstrong was to be cashiered for not turning over the troops to Lieut. Slemmer at Fort Pickens.

The Southern mail contractors were anxious about pay, and for their comfort the Postmaster General stated that drafts would be issued to them on the Post Masters of the seceding States.

A Convention of the old soldiers of 1812, of the Black Hawk, Florida and Mexican wars, was held in Indianapolis, on Washington's Birthday. Resolutions were passed expressing readiness to throw themselves into the front rank, to meet treason in any section of the country, and to sustain the flag of the Republic, the government as now organized, and the President elect, without regard to party. When the resolutions were put to the vote, the old soldiers of 1812 and the other remnants of the field got divided.

The Republicans of Mr. Kellogg's district met in convention and resolved to enter their protest against the resolutions offered by him in Congress, to amend the Federal Constitution, believing them to be subversive of enlightened faith, the party's honor, and the spirit of national institutions. Mr. K. was urged to unfaltering support of Republican principles as enumerated in the Chicago platform. Grounds of policy saved Mr. Kellogg from the request to resign.

The Boston Common Council had censured the Hon. Charles Sumner for his remarks made in the Senate respecting the signers of the petitions for the passage of the Crittenden compromise.

Hon. Wm. E. Niblack, member of Congress from Indiana, had been confirmed Chief Justice of Nebraska.

The motion to take up the nomination of Judges Black and Pettit was rejected in the Senate by three majority.

The resignation of Capt. Tatnall, of Georgia, had been accepted.

A special agent had been sent to take charge of the Galveston (Texas) Post Office. The administration had been advised that agents were in the north purchasing steamers for the Southern Confederacy.

The Democratic State Convention at Philadelphia, on the 22d, unanimously adopted a series of resolutions for the State sovereignty and union, the rights of the South in the Territories, &c. A committee was appointed to convey the resolutions to the President.

The bids for the eight million loans were opened by the Secretary of the Treasury on 23d. There were about 160 bids, and the average amount offered was a fraction over 90 cents on the dollar.

Dr. Loring, of Massachusetts, had declined the Sardinian mission.

Vice-President Hamlin had visited the Senate, and was cordially received.

A man named Gibson, without any known provocation, had attacked three men in Cardondale, Pa., with a bowie knife. One was instantly killed, another fatally stabbed and the third dangerously wounded.

Young Armstrong was sentenced to be hung in Philadelphia for the murder of Robert Crawford.

At North Bridgewater, a man named O'Brien had cut his wife's throat and attempted to shoot himself.

A man and woman tried to kill themselves by taking laudanum in the City Hotel, New York—a mysterious case.

Rumors of warlike dispatches from the South were in circulation. The South are looking to the bayonet as the final arbiter of the dispute.

The returns from Arkansas are reported favorable to holding a convention: Secession delegates in the majority.

The Indians had attacked and caused a temporary interruption to the overland mail. A driver had been killed and considerable stock run off.

FOREIGN.

In the House of Lords, Lord Derby, in alluding to the Queen's speech, said the allusion to the United States was the most important topic. Every one viewed with the deepest regret the events of that country, on which the manufacturing interests of England so greatly depended. He condemned the course of Sardinia in Italy, and expressed dissatisfaction at Napoleon's speech. Granville responded, deeply lamenting the disruption in America, but felt confident that the results to England would not be so serious, as the resources of India for cotton would be at once brought into play. Foreign relations, particularly with France, were said to be most satisfactory. Lord John Russell's speech was regarded in Paris as warlike. Blenheim Palace, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough had been damaged by fire to the amount of £100,000. Valuable pictures destroyed, palace not much damaged. It is said that the Conference on Syria will assemble at Paris forthwith. England had been invited by France to stop Garibaldi's career, but declined on the plea that the Neapolitans ought to be left to settle matters themselves. The besiegers at Gaeta had blown up three powder magazines, and destroyed the side curtain of the citadel. The garrison had asked an armistice of two days to bury the dead. The Sardinian general had sent them the necessaries for the wounded.

Godey's Lady's Book.

This valuable and cheap monthly periodical has found its way to our table very regularly of late, the one for which we subscribe generally preceding the exchange, one or two weeks, when the mails have been carried regularly. The March number, received per Saturday's mail, containing the Spring fashions for 1861, has been cursorily examined, and we verily believe that no gentleman could please his family better than to become a subscriber at once. He certainly would not be expending money for naught.

The Indians in Tooele.

There have been no recent difficulties with the Indians in Tooele county, at least, none have been reported. Some two weeks since, the Gosh-Utes, who fled to the mountains on the taking of some of their men prisoners for complicity in the late wholesale stealing operation, by a band of Shoshones from the west, returned to their lodges near Grantsville, which were left standing when they so hastily put off to the hills. They had suffered much with cold and hunger while absent, and some of the women and children had had their hands and feet badly frozen.