

[From our Extra of the 23d inst.]

EASTERN NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH AND PONY.

The Pony Express, with Eastern dates up to the 15th instant, arrived here yesterday evening about six o'clock.

THE U. S. FORTS IN SECEDED STATES.

A St. Louis dispatch of the 12th states that rumors were still rife in regard to the evacuation of Forts, but there was nothing definite. On the other hand it was said by some correspondents that Fort Pickens would be reinforced. It was subsequently reported that a messenger had been despatched to Major

The latest telegraphic dispatch from Galveston represents that the surrender of Fort Anderson, ordering him to withdraw from Fort Sumter.

Brown had been agreed upon quietly between the Texas commissioners and Capt. Hill, on the 6th inst.

The Galveston News says that Fort Brown would be given up as soon as transportation could be found for federal troops. The troops will take to the coast two light batteries of artillery and the steamer Daniel Webster was off Brazos waiting to take a portion of the troops on board. Other vessels would probably be despatched to take the remainder.

The Southern Commissioners had yet done nothing definite. It was said that their movements had been in the direction of peace, and that Seward declined a conference with them.

Commissioners Crawford and Forsyth are said to have received such assurances of the peaceable disposition of the administration touching the southern forts that they would make no official demand, and pending the movement at or in relation to Sumter, they would remain quiet.

The special correspondents of all the New York and Cincinnati papers seemed to be unanimous in the statement that Major Anderson would be ordered to evacuate Sumter. It was regarded as the only alternative of war, for which the government is not now prepared and cannot be until long after Anderson would be starved out and compelled to capitulate. General Scott is reported to have advised the step upon military principles and assumes the entire responsibility.

Chase and the ultra Republicans oppose the evacuation, but the indications were that it would be ordered if it had not already been determined upon. It had been rumored that Chase had resigned in consequence of this, but it proved to be unfounded. It was also reported that a messenger had passed through Raleigh, bearing to Major Anderson the orders for the evacuation; but that also lacked confirmation.

The Charleston Courier states that there were 3,500 highly disciplined troops in the fortifications around Sumter, and that the batteries were in perfect order.

TEXAS.

Telegraphic advices from Galveston state that Gov. Houston had refused to recognize the convention, and considered that its functions had terminated in submitting the secession ordinance to the people. He told the convention that he and the legislature which was to meet on the 18th would attend to the public questions now arising; he is said to favor a new convention, to make such changes in the State constitution as were necessary. He was opposed to Texas joining the confederacy.

The convention in reply passed an ordinance claiming full powers and promising to consummate the connection of Texas with the Confederate States, and notified the State of this course. The convention will require all officers to take an oath of allegiance to the new government, and to carry out the convention ordinances.

It was talked that Mr. Clark would be put in Houston's place if the latter refused to take the oath. It was also circulated that Gov. Houston was raising troops on his own account. The convention had passed an ordinance to continue the Custom House officers on duty until superseded by the State government, or by the provisional government.

Advices from Brazos to the 6th, state that arrangements were made for the Federal troops to leave as soon as transportation was provided.

Advices received at New Orleans, of the 12th, state that troops formerly stationed at Camp Ringgold had arrived at Fort Brown on their way to the coast. It was reported

that 1500 Texans were stationed on the Rio Grande, and reinforcements were still arriving. The collector for the district of Brazos had resigned and resumed duties under the authority of Texas. Col. Ford was at Brownsville, Gen. McLeod was in command at Brazos and Gen. Nichols at Point Isabel.

Texas troops at Brazos were represented to be fortifying the island so as to make it impregnable.

The above dispatch states that an ordinance to submit the permanent constitution to the people for ratification or rejection had been under consideration. A resolution authorizing the transfer of the State military to the provisional government: also to allow the volunteers to enlist under the latter, passed the House on the 11th, a joint resolution was introduced, and laid over that the Convention should submit the constitution of the Confederate States to the people or a Convention elected for that purpose.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS.

A dispatch of the 15th states that the Cabinet had held two meetings on the preceding day: at the latter, Gen. Scott was present, which occasioned the surmise that military affairs were under consideration. Commissioners Forsyth and Crawford had sent an official note the day previous, asking recognition, stating that an answer would be called for on the following day. The Secretary of the commission accordingly called at the State Department, for a reply: the response was a request for time to consider their propositions, which was accorded.

The opinion prevailed that the Administration would refer the whole matter to the Senate for advice.

It was denied in Administration circles that any unusual naval display was intended in southern waters. The vessels at New York were to be put in transport service. There were upwards of 2500 troops waiting conveyance northward.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

The Southern Congress adopted on the 11th, a permanent Constitution. It provides for the President to serve six years. Executive appointments under the grade of the Cabinet, to hold office during behavior. The slave trade is prohibited. The Cabinet officers are eligible to seats in Congress. No person who is a foreigner and not a citizen of the Confederate States, is allowed to vote for any officer, civil or political, State or Federal, under the first census. South Carolina is entitled to five representatives in Congress. Georgia, ten; Alabama, nine; Florida, two; Mississippi, seven; Louisiana, six; Texas, six; and each State to two Senators. The State legislatures may impeach Judicial or Federal officers resident, and which must be filed during the present session of the Senate, excepting in a few instances. Other appointments were to be deferred until this was done. In the meantime applicants were required to file their papers in the proper Departments. An act had been passed, issuing one million in treasury notes, and an appropriation bill for current expenses had also passed. The Secretary of the treasury had found no difficulty in negotiating the \$15,000,000 loan at par.

The Georgia State Convention had transferred the forts, arsenals, arms and munitions of war to the government of the Southern Confederacy. An ordinance had also been passed appropriating \$500,000 for the support of the government and authorizing the government to issue seven per cent bonds for that amount.

Vice President Stephens passed through Augusta, Georgia, on the 14th, on his way to Savannah. A salute was fired in his honor.

Gen. Bragg had assumed command of the forces of the Confederate States at Pensacola. Sensation correspondents were attributing great intentions to President Davis—should the United States revenue cutters be put outside of the Southern ports, that President Davis would march 50,000 men upon Washington.

Col. Forney, in command of the Pensacola navy yard, had informed the commander of the Brooklyn on the 8th, that he could get no more coal or water at that station.

CONGRESS.

The resolution for the expulsion of Senator Wigfall, of Texas, from the Senate, together with Clingman's substitute, had been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

On the 12th, Mr. Douglas offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of war for information as to the forts in the seceded States; if it was necessary to re-occupy the same, what force would be necessary for that purpose, etc.

Messrs. Wilson and Marsh objecting, the resolution was laid over.

Mr. Fessenden offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to strike from the roll of the Senate the names of Senators from the seceding States, who had declared they were no longer members of the Senate.

On the 14th, the Senate refused by a vote of 16 to 24 to take up Douglas' resolution, inquiring into the condition of the southern forts.

The following resolution by Clark, was adopted by 24 to 10:

Whereas, The seats occupied by Brown, Davis, Mallory, Clay, Toombs and Benjamin, as members of the Senate, have become vacant. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to omit their names respectively from the roll.

Mr. Mason ineffectually proposed to amend the resolution by making it read the gentlemen named have ceased to be members.

VIRGINIA.

The Virginia Convention had passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Crittenden for his patriotic efforts to bring about an honorable adjustment of the difficulties between North and South.

Mr. Sumner had made a great peace speech in the Convention; the Unionists considered his arguments unanswerable, there was nevertheless the same talk about Virginia leaving the northern Confederation, unless her demands were granted.

In the Virginia Convention, on the 14th inst., Mr. Tyler closed a long speech. He demanded that Virginia should put forth an ultimatum demanding full and ample security as the only condition of remaining in the Union. He thought such security would eventually bring back the cotton States, and Virginia could not exist without them. The speech generally was conciliatory, but unequivocally favored southern rights.

APPOINTMENTS.

R. F. Payne had been confirmed district attorney of the northern district of Ohio.

The following appointments had been made: J. R. Goodrich, collector of Boston; General M. McClelland, second assistant postmaster-general; Archibald Williams, of Illinois, district judge for Kansas, and Dale, of Illinois, commissioner of Indian affairs.

Cassius M. Clay had been appointed minister to Spain, and Tom Corwin to Mexico; both were understood to have not sought the appointments, and objected to accepting.

The Tribune's correspondence says that Mr. Lincoln nominated Corwin to the Mexican embassy without any conference whatever, and was influenced mainly by the desire to secure his services in carrying out the policy which Mr. Corwin had advocated in and out of Congress, as most desirable for our future commercial, political and diplomatic relations with that republic. If he consented to accept the mission at all, which was yet undetermined, it would be for the purpose of inducing Mexico to adopt this policy, and for no other reason. In this view, the mission is now among the most important in the whole service. The agents of President Jefferson Davis were there endeavoring to obtain recognition.

The appointment of Crittenden to the Supreme Court was still agitated, but doubtful.

General Cooper was reported to have gone south to resume his old position in the new Confederacy.

Col. Ellsworth had been appointed lieutenant in the United States Army.

James Speed had been appointed postmaster at Louisville.

Senator Trumbull was denounced for urging his brother-in-law's appointment as governor of Dacotah.

James Tyner had been appointed special mail agent of Indiana.

H. T. Cobb, of Pennsylvania, had been appointed disbursing clerk in the war department.

The Senate had confirmed the appointments of Allen, Postmaster, at Auburn, N. Y.; Amos Tuck, naval officer at Boston; Rufus Hosmer consul to Frankfort on the Maine; Millard P. Phillips, Collector at Salem, Mass.; J. R. Jones, Marshal of the Northern District of Illinois, and Cassius M. Clay, Minister to Spain. The nomination of Corwin to Mexico was not acted upon: his acceptance not

having been determined upon. Jacob Holderman had been nominated Minister to Stockholm.

D. K. Carter, of Ohio, had been appointed Governor of Nebraska.

Among the appointments mentioned are those of Elijah Hamlin, brother of the Vice-President, as Commissioner under the reciprocity treaty with Great Britain, and Green Clay, son of Brutus J. Clay, as Secretary of Legation to Spain.

PACIFIC CENTRAL MAIL AND PONY EXPRESS.

The contract for the daily mail service on the central route, "from St. Louis to Placerville," was signed at Washington on the 13th: the service is to commence on the 15th of June, accomplishing, it is said, the distance between the above cities in fifteen days; the pony service three times a week, and time, eight days. The Southern overland service is discontinued till the establishment of the central route.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Commodore Steward had tendered his resignation as flag officer of the navy: the resignation was not expected to be accepted.

France was reported to have tendered her services as mediator between the United States and Peru.

Berry, the republican candidate for Governor of New Hampshire, was reported to have 4,000 majority at the recent election in that State.

A Charleston dispatch states that Governor Pickens and Gen. Beauregard had decided on erecting fortifications at Stone and at all the points leading to that harbor.

The New York Council had invited Mr. Crittenden to visit that city in the eastern tour he had proposed.

The Supreme Court had decided the Gaines case in favor of Mrs. Gaines, by which she comes in possession of property estimated at from two to fifteen million dollars.

J. H. Wheeler, ex-minister to Nicaragua, had been removed from the position of document clerk in the Interior Department.

Several vessels had been chartered at New York to go to Texas for troops. The Mohawk and Empire City with the store ship Supply had gone to sea on the 15th.

David Wilmot, of Wilmot proviso celebrity, had been elected to the United States Senate by the Pennsylvania Legislature, in place of Cameron, called to the Cabinet.

FOREIGN.

European news had been received up to the 28th of February.

The Italian Senate by a vote of 129 to 2, adopted the project of a law, conferring the title of king of Italy on Victor Emanuel, and his successors.

The assertion had been repeated that a Piedmontese brigade would soon enter Rome, and that Romans were secretly preparing to receive Victor Emanuel.

The Emperor of Austria had signed the new constitution. The new Diet which is composed of an upper and lower house has the right of legislation. The Hungarian constitution remained in tact.

The Papal government was preparing a statement to the effect that all responsibility for the late events lies with Napoleon.

The French were about to occupy a portion of the province of Ferozenone.

M. Thouvenel officially assured the American minister at Paris, that no delegate from any seceding State had been received by the Emperor or himself.

A committee of the Senate had adopted a projected speech, fully endorsing the Emperor's policy and lending his protection to the Pope.

BRANDY.—There is a tradition that brandy was at one time manufactured from the vine, but the grapes of France having of late years followed the example of the potato, and taken to moulding and rotting, many of the French brandy makers have adopted bituminous coal as a substitute. They distil a potent spirit from this substance which is thus made available for the production of two kinds of fire—one for the comfort of man and the other for the destruction of his health, resources and his soul.

Large quantities of alcohol distilled from coal and "doctored" with certain chemicals to give it the "Cognac flavor," are now exported from France to England. Coal brandy is the latest adaption of the good gifts of Providence to the purposes of poison-mongers that has come to our knowledge. Coal tar has long been used for the flavoring of whiskeys; but a coal basis is a specimen of chemistry which might well make the "best fellows" shudder.