

and correct copy of the "Constitution of the State of Desere," as framed, and unanimously adopted and signed, by the delegates of the people in Convention assembled, as set forth in said Constitution.

DANIEL H. WELLS,  
President of the Convention.

Attest:  
WILLIAM CLAYTON, Secretary.

### DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Dec. 23d. In the Senate Mr. Grimes gave notice that he should introduce a bill to have one of the hospitals in Washington placed under the care of a homeopathic physician.

Mr. Lane, of Indiana, presented the credentials of Hon. Garret Davis, senator elect from Kentucky, in place of Mr. Breckinridge, ex-celled, who appeared and took the oath of office.

Mr. Sumner presented a memorial from citizens of Boston, stating that freedom of the press had been abridged, and asking relief.

Mr. Fessenden reported a bill appropriating one million five hundred thousand dollars for the building of gunboats on the Western waters, which was passed.

Mr. King offered a resolution that the President be requested to institute proceedings in the courts of law against persons who may have been arrested by executive authority, and who now remain in custody, so that a judicial examination may be had in each case, to ascertain who shall be allowed to take the oath of allegiance, and who shall be detained, which was laid over.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill providing that any officer in the military or naval service of the United States, who shall cause any person claimed to be held to service or labor, by reason of African descent, to be seized, held, detained, or delivered up to any person claiming such service or labor, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be dishonorably discharged and forever ineligible to any appointment in the military or naval service of the United States.

The bill to increase the number of cadets at West Point from 170 to 350 was taken up, upon which a lengthy discussion arose.

Mr. Waite opposed the bill as adding greatly to the expenses of the government.

Mr. Wilson said calls had been made from all over the country for officers from West Point to lead the troops.

Mr. Sherman related his experience. He said that during the vacation they raised some volunteers in Ohio and came here to get two officers as colonels, but when these volunteers got here in face of the enemy, Adjutant-General Thomas wanted to take away the two officers, the only officers that knew how to give the word of command, and send them to a regiment in Oregon. If that was the way the regular army officers were to be used, he (Sherman) was opposed to any increase of them at West Point.

Mr. Chandler (Mich.) said that he was ready to abolish West Point entirely. It was a cause of the rebellion. He said that a southern officer's estate, at Montreal lately, that there were enough old army officers in favor of the South, now in the federal army, to prevent us ever acquiring a victory. We cannot rely on the regular army officers. He believed that West Point had produced more traitors than anywhere else since the days of Judas Iscariot.

Mr. Fessenden (Me.) said that if the war continued four or five years we should not have any money to pay anybody. He did not agree with Mr. Chandler, who opposed West Point, but he could say that the war would come to an end disastrous to the country, and that very soon, if we did not begin to economize in our expenses. There seemed to be a race between Congress and the executives as to which should spend the most money.

The bill was postponed.

A bill from the House, to increase the duties on tea, coffee, and sugar, was received. It makes the duty on tea twenty cents, on coffee five cents, and on sugar two and a half to eight cents a pound.

A resolution was also received from the House that the House would adjourn till the 2d of January.

On the question to concur in the House resolution of adjournment, no quorum voted.

In the House on the 23d, Mr. Vallandigham presented a bill, which was referred to the committee on judiciary, and ordered to be printed, to enforce the writ of *habeas corpus* and secure the liberty of the citizens. The bill provides that except when Congress shall, because the public safety requires it, have suspended the writ, any person confined or detained in any jail, dungeon, fortress, or other place of confinement, or in any other way whatsoever deprived of his liberty by any United States officer, civil, military or naval, or by any person under any claim of authority from the United States, shall have the privilege of the writ forthwith before any judge or court of the United States, and punishes the refusal or neglect to allow, issue or obey the writ with the penalty of one thousand dollars to the party aggrieved, fine or imprisonment or both, at the discretion of the court. It forbids, under the same penalty, the recommitment for the same offense of any one once discharged on *habeas corpus*, also the removal of prisoners from one State or district to another.

The bill further provides that no officer of the United States, civil, military, or naval, shall, under any pretense of authority whatever, except that of Congress, attempt to suspend the privilege of the writ,

under penalty of a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding two years, and gives also a right of action for damages to the party aggrieved, and that if any officer of the United States, civil, military, or naval, shall, except when Congress shall have suspended the writ of *habeas corpus*, issue any warrant or order of arrest for any person as a prisoner of state or political offender, and not forthwith deliver over such person to the judicial authorities for trial, such officer shall be fined in any sum from one thousand to five thousand dollars, or imprisoned from six months to one year, or both, at the discretion of the court; and moreover, gives a right of action for damages to the party aggrieved.

The bill also provides the means of enforcing the orders of the court in cases under it.

Mr. Watts, delegate from New Mexico, introduced a bill providing a temporary government for Arizona, which was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

The consideration of the resolution offered by Mr. Wilson, requesting the committee on military affairs to report a bill providing an "additional article of war for the government of the army," whereby all officers in the military service of the United States shall be prohibited from using any portion of the forces under their respective commands for the purpose of returning fugitive slaves from service or labor, and to provide for the punishment of such officers as may violate said "article of war" by dismissal from the service, was resumed, and after a lengthy discussion, the resolution was adopted by a small majority.

On motion of Mr. Vandever, the committee on Territories was directed to inquire into the expediency of establishing territorial governments within the limits of the disloyal States or districts, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Fenton introduced a bill granting lands for a railroad from the Missouri river to San Francisco, which was referred to a special committee.

The committee on the post office was instructed to inquire into and report a system by which money may be safely transmitted through the mails.

Mr. Kellogg introduced a resolution, that when the House adjourns to-day, the Senate concurring, it be till the 2d of January.

Mr. Bingham, from the judiciary committee, reported a bill amendatory of the act to establish the "judiciary system," which provides for two circuits, instead of one, in the north western States, and consolidates the fifth and ninth, consisting of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas, into one. It does not change the number of judges of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Kellogg, understanding that there was no quorum in the Senate to act on his former resolution, offered another, namely: That when the House adjourns on that day it be until the following Monday, and that when it adjourns it be till the 2d of January. The resolution was adopted.

Dec. 24th. In the Senate, several petitions were presented praying for the emancipation of the slaves of rebels without compensation, and those of loyal masters with compensation.

Mr. Grimes offered a resolution instructing the committee on naval affairs to inquire into the manner in which war vessels had been fitted out. He had heard rumors of great extravagance at the navy yards in this respect.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Hale (N.H.) offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy for a list of the volunteers, lieutenants, masters, paymasters, &c., in the navy, which was adopted.

Mr. Hale presented a petition from citizens of Boston claiming that the freedom of the press had been infringed, which was referred.

The Senate then went into executive session, and, on the opening of the doors, adjourned to Thursday the 26th.

Dec. 26th. In the Senate, Mr. Grimes presented a petition from citizens of Iowa for the introduction of the homeopathic system of practice in the army.

Several petitions were presented for the location of a national armory at Rock Island.

On motion of Mr. Hale it was agreed that when the Senate adjourns to-day it be to meet on Monday next, and when the Senate meet on that day it adjourn to next Thursday.

Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, gave notice that he should introduce a bill confiscating every species of property of all persons who have had any connection with the Southern rebellion, either in a civil, military, or naval capacity.

Mr. Harlan introduced a bill for establishing provisional governments in all the seceded States, which was referred.

In the House on the 26th, no business was transacted, as there was no quorum present.

Both houses adjourned till the 29th Monday.

A SOVEREIGN BALM.—An army correspondent gives the following account of the medicine given to volunteers:

Our doctors give us the same medicine for all complaints. Head ache, blue pill; belly-ache, blue pill; rheumatism, blue pill; cold, blue pill; diarrhea, blue pill, and so on. We are, decidedly, the blue pill regiment, and are of the opinion it don't take much to make a doctor.

—The rumor is that General Caleb Cushing, of Massachusetts, is to be put in the place of General Phelps, the Abolitionist, in command of Ship Island.

### FROM SECESSIA.

The resolutions in relation to the secession of Maryland to the southern confederacy, have been modified by the Confederate Congress, so as to declare that no peace ought to be concluded with the United States which does not insure to Maryland an opportunity of forming a part of the Confederacy.

A dispatch from Savannah announced that seven old whalers were sunk in the Charleston channel on the 20th of December.

All the Charleston insurance companies except the Elmore have gone into liquidation.

The Memphis Appeal, of the 19th, says that property to the amount of \$2,500,000 had been already confiscated by the receivers, and that was only about one half the amount of northern property in their midst.

Some reports had been made of real estate and many others were to be made.

The cost of taking the floating battery up the Mississippi was \$120,000.

The Mississippi Legislature had a plan under consideration to advance to planters \$25 per bale on cotton. Propositions were also pending to charter banks, based on cotton. A bank bill had passed providing that banks shall receive state treasury notes in payment of debts, and that the notes of these banks shall be received for all public dues except the confederate war-tax.

The General Appropriation bill, approved by President Davis, appropriates for the army about sixty millions of dollars, and the navy about four millions.

Considerable excitement prevailed at Yorktown on the 28th ult. in anticipation of an attack. All the sick had been removed by order of General Magruder.

A dispatch, dated Nashville the 25th, announced that Tom Crittenden, with 12,000 men, was within forty miles of Hopkinsville, and would advance upon that place at three points. The southern rights citizens there were sending their families and stock to the South.

John G. Davis, a member of the Federal Congress, from the Seventh District of Indiana, had arrived at Hopkinsville on his way to Richmond, but for what purpose it was not known.

A force of not less than 60,000 men, the advance of General Buell's army, had crossed Green River, and was within five miles of General Hindman's advance. Great preparations have been made for the defense of Bowling Green.

Late Dispatches received from Charleston stated that a Federal fleet of twelve gunboats had passed up to White Point, on North Edisto, and made demonstrations on Gen. Evans's forces. Reinforcements had been sent Gen. Evans, and a battle was shortly expected.

### Late from New Mexico.

Judge Army arrived in Washington on the 26th ult., with dispatches from the Federal army officers in New Mexico to the government.

Colonel Canby, in command of the military department of New Mexico, had retaken Forts Craig and Stanton, on the Mesilla border, driving the Texans away, and was, at the latest dates, en route for Fort Fillmore, to dispossess the enemy there, that post having been traitorously surrendered by Colonel Lynde to an inferior force of Texans. Hence he intends marching into Arizona to drive off the secessionists.

Judge Amy passed on the Big Bend of the Arkansas the camps of the confederate tribes of the plains, consisting of about 6,000 Apaches, Kiowas, Camanches, Cheyennes, and Prairie Apaches. They desired him to say when he reached Washington that they would fight for the Great Father, the defender of the Union.

Kit Carson was in command of a regiment of mounted rangers, south of the Rio Grande, making his headquarters at Albuquerque.

ENCKE'S COMET.—This well-known comet is now visible, with the aid of a telescope of moderate power, in the constellation Pegasus. It is on its way to its perihelion for the thirteenth time since its period was first established, in 1818, by the illustrious astronomer whose name it bears. Its average time of revolution around the sun is forty months, or three years and a third, which is the shortest period of any known comet. At the present time it is about 109,000,000 miles from the sun, and when it reaches its perihelion, on the 6th of February, it will be within 35,000,000 of that luminary.—[World, Dec. 30.]

### A Singular Incident.

The Lynchburg (Va.) Republican publishes the following incident, remarkable alike for its singularity, as well as for its melancholy result.

Just before the war broke out, and before Lincoln's proclamation was issued, a young Virginian, named Summerfield, was visiting the city of New York, where he made the acquaintance of two Misses Holmes, of Waterbury, Vermont. He became somewhat intimate with the young ladies, and the intercourse seemed to be mutually agreeable. The proclamation was issued, and the whole North thrown into a blaze of excitement. On visiting the ladies one evening, at the hour of parting, they remarked to Summerfield that their present meeting would probably be the last, they must hurry home to aid in making up the overcoats and clothing for the volunteers from their town. Summerfield expressed his regret that they must leave, but at the same time, especially requesting them to see that the overcoats were well made, as it was his intention, if he ever met the Vermont regiment in battle, to kill one of them and take his overcoat.

Now for the sequel: Virginia seceded; the Second Vermont Regiment, a portion of which was from the town of Waterbury, was sent to Virginia; the battle of Manassas was fought, in which they were engaged and so was Summerfield. During the battle, Summerfield marked his man, not knowing to what State he belonged; the fatal ball was sped on its errand of death; the victim fell at the flash of the gun, and, upon rushing up to secure the dead man's arms, Summerfield observed that he had a fine new overcoat strapped to his back, which he determined to appropriate to his own use. The fight was over, and Summerfield had time to examine his prize, when, remarkable as it may appear, the coat was marked with the name of Thomas Holmes, and in the pockets were found letters signed with the names of his sisters whom Summerfield had known in New York, and to whom he had made the remark we have quoted, in which the dead man was addressed as brother. The evidence was conclusive—he had killed the brother of his friends, and the remark which he had made in jest had a melancholy fulfillment.

We are assured this narrative is literally true. Summerfield now wears the coat, and, our informant states, is not a little impressed with the singularity of the coincidence.

### What the Star Spangled Banner Signifies.

The following description of the significance of the different parts of the American flag will be interesting to many of our readers. It was written by a member of the committee of the continental Congress appointed to design a flag for the young Republic, when the matter was before that body, and recently reproduced by A. B. Street, Esq., in a lecture on the Battle of Saratoga:

The stars of the new flag represents the new constellation of States rising in the West. The idea was taken from the constellation Lyra, which in the hand of Orpheus signifies harmony. The blue in the field was taken from the edges of the Covenanters' banner in Scotland, significant of the league covenant of the United Colonies, against oppression, incidentally involving the virtues of vigilance, perseverance and justice. The stars were disposed of in a circle, symbolizing the perpetuity of the Union; the ring, like the circling serpent of the Egyptians, signifying eternity. The thirteen stripes showed, with the stars, the number of the United Colonies, and denoted the subordination of the States to the Union, as well as equality among themselves. The whole was the blending of the various flags previous to the Union flag—viz: the red flag of the army and the white ones of the floating batteries. The red color, which in Roman days was the signal of defiance, denotes daring; and the white purity.

EARLY INFLUENCES.—There can be no greater blessing than to be born in the light and air of a cheerful and loving home. It not only insures a happy childhood—if there be health and a good constitution—but it also makes sure a virtuous and happy manhood, and a fresh young heart in old age. I think it every parent's duty to try to make their children's childhood full of love and childhood's proper joyousness; and I never see children destitute of them through the poverty, faulty tempers, or wrong notions of their parents, without a heartache. Not that all the appliances which wealth can buy are necessary to the free and happy unfolding of childhood in body, mind, and heart—quite otherwise. God be thanked; but children must at least have love inside the house, and fresh air and good play, and some good companionship outside—otherwise young life runs the greatest danger in the world of withering, or growing stunted, or sour and wrong, or at best prematurely old, and turned inward on itself.—[Dr. Oldham at Greystones.]

—The recent messages of the Confederate governors and other official documents put forth by the State authorities show the strength of the Confederates now in the field to be in round numbers 340,000. Virginia alone has 83,000, more than double the force of any other seceded State.