

understood the record by which they had been guided, he modified his opinion to a very great extent.

Those best informed in the policy gave no credence to the reports that there would be a fight in Charleston harbor, and declare that Sumter would be evacuated.

The *Herald's* correspondent, who substantially reiterates the foregoing, adds that Capt. Talbot carried instructions to this effect to Major Anderson, with orders to open his batteries if the vessels were fired on. Recruiting was fast going on, and at least 50,000 volunteers would be offered from the Free States in a few days.

A Charleston dispatch of the 11th, states that Roger A. Pryor had been appointed on Beauregard's staff. Beauregard, at 2 o'clock that morning, demanded the surrender of Fort Sumter, which Major Anderson declined probably with a reservation. It was currently reported that negotiations would be opened on the morrow between Anderson and Beauregard about the surrender of Sumter.

The *Post* quotes a private letter from Charleston, which stated that Major Anderson intended to retort on the Charlestonians for intercepting his supplies by prohibiting further intercourse by water with the forts that surround him.

#### AN EXPLANATION.

Various theories or reasons are given in newspapers for the present military demonstrations, among which was one that they were stimulated by the result of certain late elections; but this was an error, as at the commencement of the Administration, the President and Cabinet entertained the idea of reinforcing both Forts Sumter and Pickens, but owing to non-acquaintance with the means at the command of the government and the condition of the country, the prosecution of the plans now progressing, was impracticable. In other words, it was necessary to ascertain the extent of the effects bequeathed the President by the late Administration. It was deemed essential to keep secret the objects of the military movements, especially the sailing of vessels under sealed orders, as under the last Administration there were persons who clandestinely communicated its purposes to the secessionists, and as it frequently occurred, before the orders were reduced to official form, and according to the remark of an ex-Secretary, the Administration thus always found itself embarrassed at the threshold. The present Administration had limited such knowledge to members of the Cabinet, and, perhaps, several trusty officers, and precautionary measures were taken so as to render next to impossible the acquiring of forbidden information.

The Administration, while constantly declaring a peace policy, claimed that it could be only held to a strict accountability by the people, and however speculative might be the publications respecting its movements, it was under no obligation to announce, in advance, its plans and purposes. In other words, that the Administration should be judged by its acts.

That Pickens had been or would be reinforced, admitted of no doubt, and the Administration would do all in its power to relieve Anderson, or secure his evacuation of Sumter without dishonor and committing the government to the acknowledgement of any right or claim, by the Confederate States, or in any way recognizing the doctrine of secession. The proceedings in the Gulf beyond the relief of Fort Pickens would be governed by circumstances.

#### SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS.

The State department at Washington, on the 8th, had replied to a note of the Southern commissioners declining to receive them officially. The Secretary expressed a peaceful policy on the part of the government, declaring its purpose to defend itself only when attacked.

The commissioners at Washington had announced their intention to return immediately.

The Charleston dispatch to the *Herald*, of the same date, further states that the commissioners had telegraphed to Gov. Pickens that war was inevitable. The same dispatch says Lieut. Talbot was detained at Florence and lost twelve hours. Permission was refused for a provision ship to enter the port.

The regular dispatches from Charleston state that prodigious preparations were progressing. Senator Wigfall was serving as a

common soldier. No war vessels were outside, so far as known.

#### VIRGINIA.

In the Virginia convention, Scott and Treadway, conservatives, declared, if the President's response was unfavorable, they would go for secession. The movement of fleets was frequently alluded to. The ground assumed was that, Virginia having indicated her policy to be against secession, she had a right to know what the movement meant. Outside of the convention, the war news had not produced much sensation.

The legislature of Virginia adjourned *sine die*, last week.

During the recess of the Virginia Convention, on the 9th, the private advices that a steamer had been seen off the mouth of Charleston harbor, and that Sumter would be reinforced at all hazards, produced a decided sensation. On re-assembling the eleventh resolution was adopted. The convention adjourned without action.

In the Virginia convention, on the 8th, the unionists and some conservatives opposed the adoption of Preston's resolution; but the preamble and resolution were adopted by 75 to 63; Gov. Wise voted no.

Ballard Preston, conservative; Alex. H. H. Stuart, unionist, and Geo. W. Randolph, secessionist, were appointed commissioners to wait on the President; and were to have left for Washington the following morning.

In the Virginia Convention on the 9th, Mr. Wise offered the following resolution:

That the people of Virginia consent to the recognition and independence of the seceded States, and that they are to be treated as an independent power, and that proper laws be passed to effect her separation.

Adopted by 123 to 20.

In the Virginia convention, on the 10th, the following resolution was adopted:

Virginia will award a reasonable time for an answer to her proposition, but it is an indispensable condition that a pacific policy be adopted toward seceded States, and not subject them to federal authority, nor reinforce the fort, or recapture forts, arsenals or other property, or exact payment of duties, and that all forts in the seceded states, ought to be evacuated.

In the Virginia convention on the 11th, the extreme unionists said that they were not to be moved by telegraphic dispatches, and indicated that they would stand by the Government, if the steamers were attacked. The conservatives entertained different sentiments. The convention amended the thirteenth resolution and passed it as follows:

In the opinion of this convention, the people of Virginia will regard any action of the federal government, or of the Confederate States, tending to produce a collision of forces, pending the efforts to effect an adjustment of existing difficulties, as unwise and injurious to the interests of both, and they would regard any such action on the part of either as leaving them free to determine their own future policy.

The Virginia convention committee had an interview with the President on the 9th; they received little or no satisfaction.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

It was announced that Governor Curtin, of Pa., would send a message to the legislature, on the 8th, recommending an appropriation of \$500,000 for the purchase of munitions of war. The message takes the ground that as our people, so long peaceful, had lost the military habits necessary, amid the disturbed condition of the surrounding States, they should begin to prepare the means for self preservation and that it was the duty of the State to assist in the enforcement of the national laws. The Republicans were to hold a caucus on the subject. The State treasurer had declared that the appropriation would have to be raised by loan.

A dispatch from Harrisburg of the 9th stated that Governor Curtin had received a letter from President Lincoln, stating that he (Lincoln) had information of a design to attack the city of Washington. Governor Curtin sent a special message to the Legislature calling attention to the military organization of the State, and recommending the Legislature to make immediate provision for the removal of the defects now existing, by establishing a military bureau at the Capitol, by modifying the militia laws, and by making a proper distribution of arms, etc. He calls attention to the serious jealousies and divisions distracting the public mind, and the military organizations of a formidable character seemingly not demanded by an existing public exigency in certain States. He adds that Pennsylvania offered no counsel and took no action

in the nature of a menace, but desired peace, and to effect the preservation of the personal and political rights of citizens, the true sovereignty of the States and the supremacy of law and order. Animated by these sentiments, indulging the earnest hope of a speedy restoration of harmony and friendly relations, he committed the grave subject to their deliberation. The message was referred to a joint select committee to report by bill. It was stated that no State loan was required to supply half a million for war purposes.

Gen. Cadwallader, of the first brigade Pennsylvania militia, had been ordered home immediately, by the Governor. The movement was supposed to be in connection with the occupation of the capital by Pennsylvania volunteers.

#### MOVEMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

President Lincoln said that he had positive knowledge that an attack on Washington was in contemplation. He had communicated this information to several governors of Northern and Western States. It was understood he desired them to call out the militia and hold them in readiness at a moment's warning.

The regular dispatches from Washington, on the 10th, state that ten companies, comprising about one-fourth of the volunteer militia of the District of Columbia were mustering for inspection, the order having been issued from the government headquarters the preceding night. Several days previous, the company officers were directed to immediately report the number of effective men. There was no doubt that the military movements in progress were connected with precautionary measures for the defense of the capitol, from an apprehended attack from the South. The Federal forces in Washington were to be strengthened during the week, by at least one additional artillery company. A special dispatch from New Orleans to the *New York Herald* of the 9th says, the Cabinet at Montgomery had called upon each of the Confederate states for 3000 troops, except Florida, which was to furnish 1500.

A Washington special dispatch to the *New York Commercial*, of the 10th, says the President had ordered two of the most efficient volunteer companies into service. Guards were to be detailed from them to protect the public buildings. Another battery of light artillery arrived that day to replace those withdrawn.

A St. Louis dispatch on the evening of the 12th states that the *Herald's* Washington dispatches say the men of the West Point flying artillery, now in Washington, had received orders to keep their revolvers constantly loaded, to be ready for immediate action. Part of the volunteers would be stationed at the bridge across the Potomac, so as to defend it from an invading force. Nearly 1,000 men were enrolled for regular service from the ranks of the district militia. Those who refused to take the oath of allegiance were marched back to the army, disarmed, and their names stricken from the rolls. Hisses from the spectators accompanied their disappearance from the parade ground.

The *Post's* Washington dispatches state that Gen. Scott continued an active personal supervision of the military there, which was considered sufficient to protect the city. Guards around the capitol and public buildings had been doubled and armed to the teeth.

#### MASSACHUSETTS.

At Charlestown, Mass., the navy yard force had been increased to 130 men. During the session of the Massachusetts legislature, the governor had been authorized to increase the number of the volunteer military, and put 2,000 troops on war footing. An emergency fund was placed at the disposition of the governor, but afterwards withdrawn at his request.

The legislature refused to pass a bill for the abolition of capital punishment, and further to protect the freedom of speech. No action was taken on the resolutions of the various States, having reference to the political condition of the country, copies of which were transmitted to the legislature by the governor.

The President has appointed Ezra Lincoln to the sub-treasuryship at Boston.

Dr. Palfrey had assumed the office of postmaster of Boston.

Joseph J. Buckingham, former editor of *Boston Courier*, was dead.

#### TEXAS.

The regular Washington dispatches of the

7th say the army and navy officers, in common with others, were unacquainted with the present military movements, but believed they were principally for Texas. Houston had given advices to federal authorities, and the result, it was anticipated, would be his re-establishment in the executive chair of Texas.

It was reported that the United States troops left in Texas designed concentrating at some given point. The steamers *Star* of the West and *Empire City*, were still off Indianola.

The Mexicans at Matamoras had planted cannon pointing towards Brownsville; the legislature had passed a bill dividing the State into six congressional districts, also a bill to issue State bonds for one million dollars, to be secured by special tax.

#### OHIO

Gov. Dennison, of Ohio, pledges the support of his State to a vigorous policy, and returns home to execute his pledge.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The Santa Fe mail of the 25th of March, had arrived, and Col. Loring had taken charge of the military department of New Mexico, which gave satisfaction to the people of that Territory. The report of the taking of Fort Marcy, by citizens of Santa Fe, was incorrect—no demonstration of the kind had even been thought of.

One hundred and six fugitive slaves left Chicago, on the night of the 7th, for Canada via the Michigan southern railroad. It was estimated that over 1000 fugitives had arrived in Chicago since last fall. The most of them had left since the recent arrest of five slaves by the U.S. Marshal.

The democrats had carried the entire City ticket in Hartford, Connecticut, by 500 majority.

Col. Sumner and Capt. Britton had been ordered to the Pacific.

A rumor about change in the cabinet was in circulation, but had been contradicted.

Wm. L. Adams had been appointed collector at Astoria, Oregon, and Harrison B. Branch, of Missouri, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for the central superintendency at St. Louis.

Several merchants at New York, had protested against paying duties, claiming that they could not be compelled to pay until the revenue laws were enforced in the whole country.

At the municipal election in Trenton, New Jersey, McKean, republican, had been elected mayor; on the city and ward tickets the democrats were generally successful.

The rumor that Gen. Ampudia was marching on Brownsville was said to be false.

The steam sloop, *Pocahontas* had sailed from Norfolk, with sealed orders, and the steamer, *South Carolina*, from Boston for Charleston, put in there and landed twenty-five passengers. The steamer *Coatzacoalcas* which had arrived at New York landed two companies at Key West. She left one thousand troops in Texas.

#### ST. DOMINGO.

A Washington dispatch of the 7th states that it was a mistake to suppose that recent events in San Domingo had excited anything peculiar on the part of the Administration.

A Havana letter of the 5th says the annexation of Dominica to Spain is fully confirmed. The army to sustain the movement consists of 7,000 men and four Spanish steam frigates. The whole matter only awaits the queen's ratification, Santa Anna, of Dominica, having formally proclaimed the annexation.

#### FOREIGN.

The Persia had arrived from Europe, no dates given.

Lord Palmerston, in a speech to his constituents, adverted to the American crisis, expressing a fervent hope, that whatever the adjustment, it might be arrived at by peaceful means.

The concentration of Austrian troops in Venetia attracted considerable attention, although it was asserted that the movement was purely on the defensive.

Count Cavour had reiterated the urgent necessity for declaring Rome the capital of Italy, and guaranteeing the Pope's liberty and independence in spiritual powers. Resolutions to that effect, and hoping for non-interference by France were adopted.

The pontifical gendarmes at Casino, near Viterbo were said to have treacherously attacked the citizens, three of whom were killed. The indignation was general and the people were signing addresses to Napoleon for protection. It was said that 50,000 Austrian troops were in movement in Venetia.