



# VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

## Virginia Free Press.

BY GALLAHER & CO.

CHARLESTOWN,  
Thursday Morning, Dec. 20, 1860.

TO PATRONS.

Accounts will be made out up to January next. We will expect those indebted to pay or close by note. Demands incident to our business require at least a portion of what is due. Dec. 20, 1860. GALLAHER & CO.

### Congress.

Both Houses of Congress adjourned over from last Thursday to Monday. In the meanwhile the House Special Committee held their session.

On Monday, in the Senate, Mr. Wade of Ohio, made a speech of two hours, in the course of which he contended that the "Sugestions" had no just ground of complaint against the Republican party. The Democrats had had the power in their own hands, in all departments of the government. It was an idle apprehension as to what might be done by Mr. Lincoln.

On Tuesday, Mr. Cartwright made an impressive speech of more than an hour, and introduced a proposition for the extension of the Missouri Compromise to the Pacific; the strengthening of laws prohibiting the African Slave trade, and enforcing the fugitive slave law by the repeal of all nullifying statutes. He spoke at some length in advocacy of conciliation and compromise. He declared if conciliation was refused, the North could not justly refuse to give them an equal share in the common territories of the Union. In view of the mighty consequences now pressing upon the country, was it not the best plan in the world to adopt the line of the Missouri Compromise? Unless something like this was done, would it not be divided people in less than six months. Was not this compromise a cheap price to pay for the glorious century that were in store for this Republic if we remained united? He believed unless something was done, the disuniting excitement would swallow up Kentucky.

Some explanatory remarks were made by Mr. Collier of Vermont, in regard to the "personal liberty bills" of some of the Northern States; and Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, introduced propositions for amendments of the Constitution.

Mr. Powell's resolution for the appointment of a committee of thirteen to consider that portion of the President's Message which relates to the present agitations of the country was passed. The Vice President will appoint the committee.

In the House, on Monday, Mr. Adriam offered a resolution that whereas the constitution is the supreme law of the land, and its steady and faithful observance is the duty of all good and law-abiding citizens—therefore

Besolved, That we deprecate the spirit of disobedience which prevails, and earnestly recommend the repeal of all statutes by State legislatures conflicting with that sacred instrument, and in violation thereof.

On Mr. John Cochran's motion the resolution was so modified as to include the words "including personal liberty bills, so called." It was then adopted by a vote of 156 to 14, several of the Southern members declining to vote.

On Tuesday nothing of importance was transacted in the House.

### Proceedings of House Special Committee.

Mr. Corwin, the chairman of the committee of thirty-three, has prepared a series of resolutions, which, it is understood, are intended to meet the crisis. It is said that they meet the approval of a majority of the republicans on the committee. They are nearly as follows:

First.—Pledging the faith of Congress against any attempt to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

Second.—Against interfering with the interstate slave trade between the States.

Third.—The abolition of slavery in the dock yards, arsenals and the slave States.

Fourth.—For a new amendment rendering the fugitive slave act effective and satisfactory to the South.

Fifth.—Against any discrimination by Congress against slave States asking admission.

Sixth.—Protecting persons and property in the Territories till they have thirty thousand inhabitants, when non-intervention by Congress shall be the law.

### The President Faltering.

Fort. Moultrie, which commands the harbor of Charleston, is garrisoned by forty-seven men, commanded by Maj. Anderson, a Kentuckian. He has called for reinforcements, and the President declines to send them, lest it might offend the chivalry of South Carolina, which had graciously informed him that they will not make an attack on the Fort, during his Administration.

It is stated that Mrs. Anderson, the wife of the commander, called upon the President and demanded that her husband should be released, otherwise his blood and that of his men, if sacrificed, would be upon the President's skirts, as the gallant officer would defend his fort at every hazard.

### Meeting on Monday.

The meeting on Monday last at the Court House was one of the largest, perhaps ever held in the county. The official proceedings, furnished by the officers of the meeting, will be found in another column. We will not attempt at present a detail of the incidents of the occasion.

The meeting was one of much excitement and confusion—and whilst there was diversity of sentiment in many respects, yet the Union feeling was intense. At the moment of the adoption of the substitute the excitement was at such a point as to prevent a full and full expression in any particular. We do not therefore, consider the proceedings as any expression of those present—as the Chairman evidently decided the question, and adjourned the meeting to prevent the agitation on the occasion.

### Important Letters.

We give this week the letter of the Hon. Jones Bell, who have we regret to inform from Hon. M. D. Bell, who we hope to hear from in the next week. It will not however, speak ill of one of the greatest men of the generation, and his counsels are worthy of consideration.

Secretary Thompson left Washington on Monday morning for North Carolina. It is understood that though he favors the secession of the Cotton States, he is friendly to the recompensation of relations with the others when the non-slaveholding States consent to give such constitutional guarantees as may be satisfactory.

The editorial of the *Independent* in reference to the proceedings of the meeting on Monday last, is incorrect in many of the particulars of its details. The official proceedings will present the facts.

### PUBLIC MEETING.

A meeting of the citizens of Jefferson County, without respect to party, assembled at the Court-House in Charlestown, on Monday 17th day of December.

On motion, Col. ROBERT W. BAYLOR, was called to the Chair, and T. A. HERRINGHORN and W. W. B. GALLAHER, appointed Secretaries.

Dr. WM. F. ALEXANDER, submitted the following Preamble and Resolutions:

We the citizens of Jefferson County, in general meeting assembled, do here make known to the Convention in Charleston, that the grievances of which she complains bear more heavily upon us, than upon herself. No where have the results of Northern fanaticism and Abolitionism been more bitterly felt than here. If any convention can claim a similar right to speak—so, we, the citizens of Jefferson County justly demand a hearing—for we have felt, and we have endured the worst that has occurred. Living upon the frontier, not only are we more exposed, but we have even been the actual sufferers. Virginia too, as an elder sister, claims the privilege conferred by a consciousness of her own actual strength and power, to stand up in her own defense. Carolinas complain of no grievances which Virginia has not felt a hundred fold, and as Virginians we deem it unkind and impudent for us to wish in our hearts, it would be better to close our eyes, and let fact, that our rights have been disregarded, and our domestic institutions threatened with destruction, by our confederates living in the Free States. They have assisted our slaves in escaping from their masters, and imprisoned our citizens who have entered their boundaries for the recovery of their lawful property. In their "Personal Liberty Laws" they have set at defiance the provisions of the Constitution, and have nullified the laws of Congress. In their pulpits, and in the Public Press, they have preached and taught doctrines destructive to our interests, and endangering our peace. They would pass laws to exclude our property from the public Territories. They have invaded our soil with hostile bands—captured our citizens at midnight—committed murder, and by base and infamous efforts to abolish the institution of the Slave, have torn asunder the bonds of the States which have broken their little "South Carolina" well forbear without either a sacrifice of her honor or interest.

Resolved, That whilst we entreat the Legislature about to assemble, the exercise of a dominant power, that of advising and assembling a Convention without submitting the question first to a vote of the People, we submit to an amendment of the Constitution, that the same shall be rejected.

Resolved, That, in yielding our assent, to a foregoing resolution to the call of a Convention, not then, nor ever to be held, in the Legislature, we will stand by our friends, whatever he may do, to his advantage.

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