

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

Virginia Free Press.

BY GALLAHER & CO.,

CHARLESTOWN,
Thursday Morning, Jan. 3, 1861.

TO PATRONS.

Accounts will be made out to the first of January. This period will be the most convenient for our patrons, who will be enabled by their purchases to meet us at the banks incident to our business require at least portion of what is due.

Dec. 27, 1860. GALLAHER & CO.

A Foregone Conclusion.

The truth has been gained against the influences of truth that has not long since been convinced that the South Carolina agitators have not been for thirty years meditating a disruption of the Union. The losses by "Northern aggression" have been so insignificant in the "Cotton States" that the leaders are liable to act in instances.

The election of Lincoln is the excuse, for and not the cause of secession. Let the reader note the following confessions of some of the most prominent of the apostles:

Mr. Ingalls said: "It is now evident to me that the Southern Confederacy has been suddenly upon us, but it has been gradually culminating for a long series of years."

Mr. Ingalls said: "Most of us have had this subject under consideration for the last twenty years."

Mr. Ingalls said: "I entered politics in 1842, and ever since I entered political life."

Mr. Rhett said: "It is nothing produced by Mr. Lincoln's election or the non-execution of the fugitive slave law. It is a matter which has been brewing and ailing for many years."

He further said: "We are about to consider our relations with that section, (the North,) and trust forever."

On another occasion, Mr. Rhett said: "The Federal laws laying claim on the people of South Carolina have fallen the day before yesterday as we were concerned, fallen, I trust, forever."

And yet these are the guides whom the leaders in Virginia and elsewhere are invoking the people to follow into the bugs and quickands of revolution.

Secretary Floyd's Resignation.

Gov. Floyd's letter to the President, ordering his resignation, Secretary of War, with President's reply, are as follows:

W. H. FLOYD, Dec. 27, 1860.

Bizt. On the evening of the 27th instant I read the following paper to you in the presence of the Cabinet:

"COLL. CHAMBERS, NEGATIVE. MANSFIELD."

"Sir, I have received from the commander at Fort Moultrie that the soldiers of this Government have been violated by Maj. Anderson. In my judgment but one remedy is now left us by which to vindicate our honor and redress our wrongs—*war*. I will avail myself of every opportunity to do what I can to vindicate our honor and redress our wrongs."

"John B. Floyd, Secretary of War."

"TO THE PRESIDENT."

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I am most truly yours,

JOHN B. FLOYD,
To His Excellency the President of the United States.

Washington, December 31, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR.—I have received and accepted your resignation of the office of Secretary of War; and not wishing to impose upon you the task of performing its more tedious duties which you have so kindly offered to do, I have sent a message to General to administer the affairs of the Department until your successor shall be appointed.

Yours very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

HON. JOHN B. FLOYD.
We think the President's reply to the resigning Secretary, though somewhat cool, is altogether appropriate. He treated the demand of the Dictators and their organ just as they deserved.—What species of effrontry is it that the President is to be instructed in his duty by men professedly in a state of revolt against the government? What right had Secretary Floyd to make any pledges to the Southerners upon any subject? We shall next expect a demand to deliver Harpers-Ferry to the Virginia Secessionists.

Resignation of Secretary Floyd.

The Hon. John B. Floyd, of Virginia, resigned his commission as Secretary of War on Saturday last.—The reason alleged is that he had promised the South Carolina delegation in Congress not to reinforce the fort near Charleston, nor change the military status in any way during the present administration; and that the Secession leaders had graciously promised not to make war upon the United States forces during the remnant of time left to their sympathizers. Maj. Anderson, the commander of the several forts in the neighborhood of Charleston, finding himself exposed to the caprice or malice of the Seceders, in the exercise of a wise military precaution deemed it his duty to remove the principal part of his force from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, where he can be secure against attack.

This wise movement has not only disconcerted the "five-eaters," but enraged them exasperatively, and the Commissioners, with an arrogance and insolence altogether characteristic, have demanded that the President should order Maj. Anderson back to Fort Moultrie, whereby they may have complete command of all the fortresses and the passways into the harbor of Charleston.—When this paragraph was written, the President had not acceded to their demands, but there is no confidence that he will hold out.

As a finale to the scene, now exciting in Washington and Charleston, it is gravely suggested that the President and the remaining members of the Cabinet ought to resign, and give up the entire control of affairs to the South Carolina Dictators.

If they have a right to control one set of fortresses they have right to control the whole Army and Navy.

New Southern Army.

Mr. Lewis Evans of this place has succeeded in producing a breech loading gun, which he calls the "Union Gun," and which is destined to make a revolution in gun making. If not assisting in the revolution now going on in the Union, Mr. Evans' gun is a breech-loader, and its great wonder is its simplicity, and that some other man had not thought of it before. He is having a gun made on his principle at the Harpers-Ferry Armory, under the direction of the War Department. It will be fitted before a few days and will then be tested before the Board of Ordnance, at Washington. And if it succeeds in its trials, it will be another triumph of genius. We cannot describe the "modus operandi" of Mr. Evans' gun; but we learn that his improvement can be attained to any gun already made at a cost of \$100 dollar and fifty cents. Mr. Evans contemplates erecting a large and extensive manufacture near Harpers-Ferry, in order to make a Virginia gun for Southerners. His improvement has already attracted the attention of capitalists, and we wish him the greatest success. We notice in the report of the Secretary of War that the breech-loader is becoming a very necessary arm, and certainly Mr. Evans' improvement is a great desideratum.—Morgan's Star.

A Day of Humiliation and Prayer.

To-morrow (Friday) it will be remembered, has been set apart by the President of our now disintegrated Confederacy, no less than the official authorities of our several Huguenot associations, as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer. These recommendations, we hope, will be generally observed as there has been no period in the history of our Nation when it was so evidently proper, that all who put up their wall live on the "fat of the land."

We ask for Miss B. abundant success.

A Jour REBUKE.—To some citizens of Richmond, Va., who desired to borrow a canon from the authorities for the purpose of firing a salute to the independent sovereignty of South Carolina. Gov. Letcher replied that it had not been customary to loan State arms to fire parliamentary salutes.

Misrepresentation.

It seems of our contemporaries would insert the name of Baltimore city, approving the course of Gov. Hicks in refusing to call an extra session of the Legislature of Maryland, and expressing full confidence in his patriotic and disinterestedness, these words, we hope, will be generally observed as there has been no period in the history of our Nation when it was so evidently proper, that all who put up their wall live on the "fat of the land."

A complimentary supper.

Preserved by Mr. Beverly Tucker, United States Consul, was given to John Birmingham, the actor, on the occasion of his first appearance in Liverpool.

The second Wednesday in February is the day fixed by law for counting the electoral vote in Congress, and declaring the election of President and Vice President of the United States.

Congregational Church.

In pursuance of the recommendation of the President, Friday, Jan. 4th, will be observed in the Episcopal church of this place, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer in reference to the state of the Country.—Service at 11 o'clock, a.m.

National Service.

Having other engagements in a distant country, which requires my personal attendance, I desire to dispose of a half-interest in the Petersburg Intelligencer, to a gentleman who will give his personal attention to the business—one experienced in the newspaper business preferred.

The other offices are Capt. Andrew Bodenbough, Capt. T. Seymour, Lieut. T. Talbot, Lieut. J. C. Davis, Lieut. N. J. Hall—all of the first regimental artillery.

Capt. J. G. Poer and Lieut. G. W. Snyder, of the engineer corps.

Asst. Surgeon S. W. Crawford, of the medical staff.

Maj. Robert Anderson, who now occupies the former position of commander at Fort Sumter, is a native of Kentucky, and was born September, 1810. On the first day of July, 1821, he entered the Military Academy at West Point, whence he graduated July 1, 1825, taking a high position in a large class, and distinguished himself in the Mexican War, and was promoted to the rank of Captain in the 1st U. S. Cavalry.

However, after having applied to the North for the repeal of these offensive laws, and to the South to abandon the secession, his conduct was preposterous and disgraceful.

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ATTENTION CADETS!

Yours are ordered to assemble at your Armory, on SATURDAY, January 5th, 1861, at 10 o'clock.

The regular weekly Court-Martial will sit at the same time, and all are requested to come forward and make their reports.

By order of Capt. Campbell, A. H. ALBRIGHT, January 3, 1861.

Cow and Calf for Sale.

A fine Milk Cow with her second calf, for sale as a moderate price.

GEORGE W. STALEY
St. Marys.

Union Meeting.

BOLIVAR, Dec. 15, 1860.

Pursuant to a call made by some of the prominent union residents of Bolivar and Harper's Ferry, the citizens thereof convened in the Bolivar School House, for the purpose of obtaining the express of public sentiment on the subjects of the present impending crisis.

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