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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON, . . Editors.

Chestertown:

Saturday Morning, June 15, 1861.

The "Conservator," like the "Exchange" of Baltimore, is doing all it can in this vicinity to keep alive the waning fires of secession, and to perpetuate by all possible expedients the hostile spirit existing to some limited extent in our county against the Government. Its last issue was replete with the characteristic "stuff" so liberally used of late by those traitors in disguise, who, under the cognomen of "*anti-coercion Unionists*," are now diligently engaged in falsifying facts, and by the enunciation of bold untruths, deceiving the people and incubating mischief, designedly and wickedly to bring about local strife. It is one of the "signs of the times," and as lamentable as it is disgraceful, that there are men ever ready and willing to shut out the burning light of truth by statements utterly false, and to that end, they vigorously engage in a studied system of misrepresentation and perversion. *They dare not deal with facts as they exist*, because they well know that such a course would be fatal to their plans and purposes, but, "wearing the livery of heaven to serve the devil in," they would persuade us if they could into the belief of their sanctity and virtue, nor permit a doubt to stand in the way of our confidence and trust, if the exercise of Jesuitism could remove it.

Does the reader ask the application of these remarks? If he does, we put before him the *leading* article in the "Conservator" of the 8th inst. We ask him to read it carefully, and if he has the stomach for "more of the same sort," we invite him to the digestion of the "Letter to General Butler" on the first page, and to the "News from the War" on the second. All are samples of that strong rhetoric which "Spencer" so *genteelly* and graphically describes as properly belonging to the catalogue of "pukes." The *dignity* of language needs no better reproof than is conveyed in these specimens of grandiloquence and folly.

It is not a matter of moment to anybody as to the authorship of the leader to which we have alluded. It is enough for us to say, as we do, that from beginning to end it is a record of falsehood, the outpouring of a bitter spirit, chafed and sore at its unsuccessful efforts to "precipitate" Maryland into the abyss of secession. The proceedings of the Union Convention which assembled in Baltimore on the 23d ult. are characterized as "disgraceful and humiliating," and the "impotent voice of political managers scarcely heard beyond the halls of the Convention, where their plans were adroitly concocted." In such a strain as this the author proceeds, and we are further informed that "but few of the delegates to that Convention are known to the people of Maryland," and "*not one*" has a "reputation either national or State." The delegates sent *by* the people, not known *to* the people? The President of the Convention, Col. Maulsby, Augustus W. Bradford, Henry W. Archer, General Kimmell, and a host of others, all without any *reputation* "State or national?" The few readers of the "Conservator" may believe such assertions, but the *people* know better, and they further know, that the cause must be a bad one which needs sustaining by *such* miserable shifts as these. The Convention *did not* "proclaim its determination to stand by Abraham Lincoln in his efforts to subjugate the South," but it *did avow and proclaim "its unalterable determination to maintain and defend the Government."* Is this "hypocritical cant?" Who talks of "*subjugating*" the South but open and disguised *disunionists?* The issue for the people of Maryland to determine *is not* "peace on the one hand, or fierce and exterminating war on the other," but it is—shall the Union be preserved against the rebellion of wicked and aspiring men to destroy it, or shall they be permitted to accomplish their infernal plans in overthrowing it and the Government together? *These* are the issues.—There is no controversy with the *people* of the seceded States, deceived and crushed as they are by a despotism as odious as it is unparalleled. It is as false as the author of all evil to say that the Administration is illegally and despotically determined "to crush and subdue *the South*." Traitors are in arms *to crush and subdue the Government*. They have without just cause rebelled against its authority, stolen its property, insulted its flag, violated their oaths, and defied its power. Is all this *legal?* Can *any* excuse be offered for such monstrous proceedings? If the assassin seeks our life, shall we not kill him if we can? If the very existence of the Government and Union is imperilled by *national* assassins, shall it not defend itself and destroy them?

But the members of the late Convention ("unknown to the people of Maryland") have "*heretofore* advocated peace," and "regarded civil war as a terrible calamity." They are for peace still, and never can regard civil war than as a calamity dreadful to contemplate. What then? Shall they hesitate *now* to perform a solemn duty in sustaining their national government, or shall they for the sake of peace permit its destruction? What patriot heart does not lift itself up in all the vigor of manhood, and putting its trust in God, resolve to risk its life in protecting and defending the Constitution and the Union? Civil war is "a terrible calamity;" nobody denies it. But it is a more terrible calamity to *let traitors alone*, to suffer them to destroy the noble work of our forefathers, to inaugurate open hostility to the "supreme law," and to raise upon the ruins of our glorious republic an aristocratic despotism. Better civil war with all its horrors and devastation, than a cowardly and base submission to an unprincipled and infamous rebellion, instigated and sustained by desperate and wicked men. Tell us not about "*our brethen*" *of the South*. The whole American people *are one in brotherhood*, and *our brethren of the North* are just as much of us as they of the South. We are all citizens of the United States, and the Constitution is our guardian and shield. The President calls for seventy-five thousand men to save the Capitol and the Union from destruction by a portion of "*our brethren of the South*." Who responds? As one man the North, East, and West come forth to the rescue, and a million of stout hearts and arms are ready for the conflict. Cain murdered Abel *his brother*, but what if in the attempt Abel had struggled with and *killed Cain?* It would have been an unnatural and terrible conflict, but God and man would have said the deed was just and lawful. Bad men have attempted to murder the nation.—They have wounded but not destroyed it. Roused from its attitude of peace and *forbearance*, it is now engaged in self-defence, and *must* succeed or perish.

The outbreak of the 19th April *was not* a rising of the people to resist "the march of hostile troops." It was the infamous demonstration *of a mob*, instigated by artful men, to precipitate Maryland into revolution. The "great popular heart was roused" to indignation when it learnt the truth, and outraged justice, though slow, will yet bestow upon the instigators of the wretched movement the merited reward of traitors. "The people of Maryland by an overwhelming majority" *have* declared their sentiments. Is the "Conservator" satisfied? We remember however that one *greater than man* once asked his people: "Which of you convinceth me of error? and if I speak the truth why do you not believe me?" They did not answer, but they took up stones to cast at him who asked these questions.

☞The Hon. Judge Carmichael having adjourned his Court "for the present," has favored the public with his "reasons" for so doing. Doubtless to *some* of our citizens these reasons are cogent and conclusive, but to a *very large majority* of the people they are regarded as nothing more than apologetical pretexts for the exercise of an exceedingly questionable proceeding. Among the "multitude" of "lawless acts" enumerated as of "grave consideration" in their influence upon the Hon. gentleman's decision, are mentioned the military occupation of a portion of the State by Government troops, the arrest of "my nephew" Spencer, and the "venerated" Ross Winans, and the "intrusion of strangers upon our soil." We are not favored with any "reasons" for the exercise of the "powers" of the Government at Washington, nor for the arrests; but the Court is determined that it "will not" perform its functions until it gets in a better humor. Very well, let's have patience. The angry Judge will not hurt anybody, it is to be hoped, but himself. "The Court cannot be conducted in a manner becoming its high obligations" until it gets cool, and better comprehends what those obligations are. The Court's mind is evidently unsettled.

DEGRADATION OF SECESSION.

Our readers are familiar with the character of John B. Floyd, late Secretary of War under Mr. Buchanan, and with his acts of peculation and infamy. They know his treason whilst a member of the U. S. Cabinet, as well as his stealing some $800,000 of the government money, and so palpable was his guilt that even Secessionists could offer no palliation for his conduct. Floyd passed into obscurity until a few weeks since, when Jeff. Davis appointed him a Brigadier General in the rebel army, and upon the arrival of the bogus President at Richmond, the *Dispatch* says that "Gov. Floyd, Gov. Letcher and President Davis" were visiting certain points about Richmond—thus showing how secession has demoralized Jeff. Davis and makes him the companion of such infamous felons as John F. Floyd, whom Davis would have scorned six months ago.

Col. Daniel Cummins died at his residence in Smyrna, Delaware, on the 9th inst., after a severe illness of three weeks.

The Congressional Election.

KENT COUNTY.

We give below the vote polled in this county at the Congressional election on Thursday last. It is regretted by the Union men that there was no opposition, there being a general desire to ascertain the full strength of the party in the county, which could only be done by competition. While it is a fact that a few gentlemen of doubtful Union proclivities cast their ballots for Mr. Webster, and who probably would have voted with the opposition had there been any, yet it is evident that the entire pole, while satisfactory under the circumstances, is considerably less than the full Union vote of the county.

By way of comparison we subjoin the vote for Mr. Bell and also the full vote in each district at the late Presidential election:

Districts.	Webster.	Bell.	Total Vote.
No. 1.----	156	210	416
No. 2.----	200	143	310
No. 3.----	174	145	219
No. 4.----	259	206	338
No. 5.----	204	149	390
Total	993	853	1673

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

QUEEN ANN'S COUNTY.—Centreville district gives Henry, the secession candidate, 53 majority, Church Hill, 17 maj.; Dixon's gives Chrisfield, the Union candidate, 117 maj. We learn that Chrisfield's majority in the county is 124.

CAROLINE.—This county gives Chrisfield, the Union candidate, 552 maj.

TALBOT.—Henry's maj. in this county is reported to be 24.

Mr. Chrisfield is probably elected.

BALTIMORE CITY.—*Fourth District.*—Hon. Henry May, the independent Union candidate, is elected over the Hon. H. Winter Davis by over two thousand maj.

The *American* commenting upon the result, says:—"This result has not surprised and still less disappointed us. When Mr Davis was nominated we declared that he was not the choice of the Union men of the District, and that he could not be elected. Mr. Davis and his friends, however, persisted in burthening the Union cause with the dead weight of his personal and political unpopularity, and the result has proved the truth of the declaration we then made. The whole contest has been unfortunate in its manifold cross purposes, but it is some consolation to know that Mr May, the successful candidate, although not as decided in his expression of Union sentiments as could be wished, is yet one upon whom the Secessionists cannot depend for any "precipitation" movements."

Third District, comprising the first 8 wards of Baltimore city and five districts of Baltimore Co.—Preston, State Rights, received 312 majority in the city, while three districts from the county place Leary, Union, 48 ahead. He will probably be elected by a small majority.

Sixth District.—Three districts of Anne Arundel county give Calvert, Union, 209 maj. At Ellicott's Mills, Howard co., the vote was for Calvert 239, Harris 62.

In the Fifth Congressional District there was no opposition to Ex-Gov. Francis Thomas, the Union candidate.

JEFF. DAVIS.

Jeff. Davis, the leading spirit of secession, stood up in his place in the Senate of the U. S. on the 24th February, 1851, and thus spoke: "Since I have held a seat in the Senate I have not been one of those who have threatened a dissolution of the Union. I have felt that I stood here as a part of the Government, and that it was my duty to maintain it. That I was bound by principle, when I ceased to be willing to preserve the Government, to vacate my seat, as a post I could no longer honorably hold. I hold that a Senator stands here on a mission from his State to the Federal Government, and, *that the honor of his State would be involved if any Senator used his position to destroy the Government to which he was accredited. I recognize the obligation of the President to see the laws executed.*"

Mr. Davis ceased to be willing to preserve the Government at least twelve years ago, but he did not vacate his seat.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.—No business of importance has been transacted by this body since our last issue. In the House on Tuesday, a resolution instructing the U. S. Senators from Maryland to vote for the immediate recognition of the independence of the Southern Confederacy, was passed by a vote of 31 ayes, to 22 nays.—On the same day, the "Commissioners" presented a report of their visit to Jefferson Davis at Montgomery. The report is a fitting conclusion to an improper, unnecessary and consequently inconsequential mission.

☞We publish on our first page to-day the Ordinances of Chestertown, as revised and amended by the new board of Commissioners. Many important alterations have been made in the old laws, and some new acts have been added. Some of these Ordinances are applicable also to persons residing outside of the town limits, and we call their attention particularly to such as relate to the speed of carriages, carts, &c., in the streets of the town, and to the penalty for leaving horses unhitched, &c.

McCORMICK'S REAPER AND MOWER.—Mr. D. A. Benjamin, Chestertown, is the Agent for this justly celebrated Machine, which is regarded by all as unsurpassed by any ever manufactured. He invites farmers to give it an examination, feeling confident that it will recommend itself to their patronage. Terms liberal. *

THE BRIDGE BURNING.

Governor Hicks has published a letter addressed to the people of Maryland, in reply to Mayor Brown, vindicating himself from the charge of complicity in destroying the railroad bridges during the riot in Baltimore. The Governor had previously denied in the most positive terms that he either ordered or gave his consent to the burning of the bridges, and in this letter he shows most conclusively that the plans of the secession leaders had been already matured for resisting the troops and precipitating Maryland into rebellion against the General Government. A telegraphic despatch from Marshal Kane to Bradley T. Johnson, of Frederick, accepting the offer of Johnson to assist in preventing the troops passing through Baltimore to Washington, is evidence that Kane and his allies had made all the necessary provisions in anticipation of the pre-arranged attack. But the most conclusive proof of the Governor's innocence of the charge, is the fact that the party who burnt the bridges had actually left the city for the purpose even *before* the Governor's consent was *asked*. Thus this attempt to clothe with Executive authority one of the most diabolical and traitorous acts of modern times, has signally failed, and the guilt is fastened upon the heads of those to whom it properly belongs, and they should be made to suffer the consequence of their perfidy.

HEAR Henry Clay, of Kentucky, in the Senate, February 24th, 1851:

"I know it is sometimes said that this is a Government of opinion, and that you cannot employ force. No man on earth would deprecate more than myself the occasion of any occurrence in which it might become necessary to employ force. No man would regret more than myself the shedding of one drop of American blood in order to enforce the laws of the United States. But a Government without power, a Government resisting opinion without the means to enforce the laws, without means to enforce the authority, and decrees, and judgment of its courts of justice, would be the most ridiculous that ever presented itself to the contemplation of a human being. I go for public opinion, and I go for force when it is absolutely and indispensably necessary to apply it. I go for all the means with which we are invested by the Constitution of the country in order to maintain, at the North and at the South, and everywhere, *the authority of the Government inviolate;* to carry the laws out in full and complete execution."

On the same day Mr. Clay also said: "I find in the Constitution the following clause—'The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it."

"Here is a general enunciation of the principle of a great object. But has not the Government the power to carry the object into effect? Will the Senator (Mr. Rhett, of S. C.) say that the General Government has not the right to specify cases of rebellion and invasion, whenever the public safety may make it necessary to suspend the writ of habeas corpus?"

Letter of Hon. Reverdy Johnson.

The following letter from the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, was read to a meeting of the voters of Baltimore county, held on Thursday, the 8th inst:

BALTIMORE, MAY 28, 1861.

GENTLEMEN: I am compelled to be absent from the State on Thursday, and cannot, therefore comply with the conditional promise I made you to address the Union meeting to be assembled in Druid Park on that afternoon.

Some other opportunity may be offered me to express before the voters of the Second Congressional District the opinions I entertain of the duty and policy of our State in the present calamitous condition of the country. If it shall, I shall not fail to avail myself of it.

I content myself with now saying that it seems to me as clear as light that we should leave nothing untried that may promise to maintain the Union as it is and to restore it to what it was.

To be for the Union only conditionally is, patriotically speaking, past my comprehension. Our fathers held no such language. They formed it and recommended it as not only the best, but the only guarantee of an American well-regulated liberty, and made it in terms, what the debates in the Convention proved they designed it to be, a Union forever. It was, in the words of the Constitution, to secure "the blessings of liberty" not only to themselves, but to their "posterity." They associated it with no ifs or ands or buts. No qualifying phrase was connected with it, no condition attached to it. It was evidently intended to be absolute, unconditional, and permanent as time.

The existing deplorable exigency demands that all loyal men should hold this opinion, and adhere to and act upon it, through weal and wo, till all hope of Union is drowned in an ocean of despair. With myself that hope is yet strong and sanguine. I believe that the clouds which now lower over us will, sooner or later, be dispelled, and our glorious institutions be sure to shine in "one unclouded blaze of living light."

With regard, your obedient servant,

REVERDY JOHNSON.

WM. R. PATTERSON, Esq. and others.

THE Memphis Bulletin complains that "Southern money is too much depreciated in their midst," and thinks that patriotism requires the Tennesseeans to receive Carolina, Georgia and Virginia bills at par. We shall not be surprised to learn that the people have been ordered to do so.

BATTLE AT GREAT BETHEL

NEAR FORTRESS MONROE.

Government Troops Repulsed with a Loss of 19 Killed and 47 Wounded.

The steamer from Old Point Comfort to Baltimore on Tuesday evening, brought the following intelligence dated at Fortress Monroe, Monday evening:

General Butler having learned that the Rebels were forming an entrenched camp, with strong batteries, at Great Bethel, about 12 miles from Montress Monroe and 9 from Hampton, on the Yorktown road, he deemed it necessary to dislodge them. Accordingly movements were made last night from Fortress Monroe and Newport News.

About midnight Col. Duryea's Zouaves and Col. Townsend's Albany Regiment crossed the river at Hampton by means of six large batteaux manned by the Naval Brigade, and took up the line of march. The former were some two miles in advance of the latter. Col. Benedix's Regiment and a detachment of the Vermont and Massachusetts Regiments at Newport News, moved forward to form a junction with the Regiments from Fortress Monroe, at Little Bethel, about half way between Hampton and Great Bethel. The Zouaves passed Little Bethel at about 4 o'clock, A. M. Benedix's Regiment arrived next and took a position at the intersection of the roads. Not understanding the signal the German regiment, in the darkness of the morning, fired upon Col. Townsend's column, marching in close order and led by Lieut. Butler, son of Gen. Butler, and also his aid, with two pieces of artillery. Other accounts say that Col. Townsend's Regiment fired first. At all events the fire of the Albany regiment was harmless, while that of the Germans was fatal, killing one man and fatally wounding two others, with several slight casualties.

The Albany regiment being back, the Germans discovered, from the accoutrements left on the field, that the supposed enemy was a friend. They had, in the meantime, fired nine rounds with small arms and a field piece. The Zouaves, hearing the fire, had turned and fired also upon the Albany boys.

At daybreak, Col. Allen's and Col. Carr's Regiments moved from the rear of the Fortress, to support the main body. The mistake at Little Bethel having been ascertained, the buildings were burned, and a Major and two prominent Secessionists, named Livery and Whiting, were made prisoners The troops then advanced upon Great Bethel in the following order:—The Zouaves, Col. Benedix, Lieutenant Colonel Washburn, Col. Allen and Col. Carr. At that point our regiments formed and successively endeavored to take a large masked battery of the Secessionists. The effort was futile, our three small pieces of artillery not being able to cope with the navy rifled cannon of the enemy, according to some accounts, thirty in number.

The Rebel battery was so completely masked, that no men could be seen, but the flashes of the guns only There were probably less than 1000 men behind the battery of the Rebels. A well concerted movement might have secured the position but Brig Gen. Pierce who commanded the expedition, seemed to have lost his presence of mind, and the Troy Regiment stood an hour exposed to a galling fire. An order to retreat was at last given, but at that moment Lieutenant Greble, of the U. S. Army, and in command of the Artillery, was struck by a cannon ball and instantly killed. He had spiked his gun, and was gallantly endeavoring to withdraw his command. Captain George W. Wilson, of the Troy Regiment, after the order to retreat, took possession of the gun, and with Quartermaster McArthur, brought it off the field with the corpse of the beloved Lieutenant. They brought them to the Fortress this evening.

Lieutenant Butler deserves the greatest credit for bringing off the killed and wounded. Several of the latter are now in the hospital here.

Much indignation is manifested against Brigadier General Pierce. General Butler has been ubiquitous, doing all in his power to save our men and the honor of our cause.

A MISSIPPIAN'S OPINION OF JEFF. DAVIS.—Dr. B. F. Bacon publishes in the New York Sunday Mercury some incidents in the life of the President of the Southern Confederacy, and accuses him of cowardice and incompetency in the Mexican campaign. He relates a conversation with Col. A. R McClung, of Mississippi, in 1849, who said of President Davis:

"I am very sorry I ever fought a duel. It is not a pleasant business, and yet I would like to fight one more, with one man, and that man is Jefferson Davis, because I think the United States will be better without him. He will not fight me, he is too great a coward. In fact he is not now, never was, nor never will be, a brave man, in the true sense of the word. He is a dangerous and wily politician, loaded down with vanity and self-conceit, wishing only for his own aggrandizement, and he cares not at what expense or how many desolate households. He thinks of himself, and himself only, and I should not be surprised to find him, one of these days, taking such a step in public as will place his neck in a halter; for he is a bad man and a scoundrel, and I have frequently denounced him as such before the people of Mississippi, and the dirty poltroon and artful villian never had the courage to resent it."

BALLOONING.—Profs. Allen and Lowe, the aeronauts, are each in Washington with their balloons, for the purpose of making reconnoisances of the secessionists. The former made an experimental ascension last week, having attached a cord 5,000 feet long to it by means of which it was hauled down when desired.

COL. KELLY RECOVERING.—Col. Kelly, who was severely wounded in the fight at Phillippi, is much better, and his physicians have strong hopes of his recovery.

ARMY MOVEMENTS.

Advance towards Harper's Ferry.

The movements of the United States forces indicate that the demonstration toward Harper's Ferry is to be conducted on an enlarged scale. A considerable portion of the army at Washington have taken up the line of march by turnpike road for Rockville, Maryland, and their destination is supposed to be a ferry on the Potomac, thirty miles from Georgetown, and four miles from Leesburg, Virginia, the terminus of the Alexandria and Leesburg railroad. It will thus be seen that the plan of attack on the Confederate forces at the Ferry includes an advance from three directions. The main body, under Brigadier General Thomas, of the United States Army, is advancing from Chambersburg. From the West a portion of the force operating under the orders of Gen. McClellan has reached Cumberland. And now from Washington the third column is advancing upon the Ferry. The whole of the force thus concentrating toward the Ferry is not less than twenty-five thousand men. Unless the Confederates can be largely reinforced, they will be obliged to retreat, or permit themselves to be surrounded by a superior force. Whether they can be reinforced without reducing the number at Manassas Junction so as to invite attack there and thus peril their line of communication, is dependent upon the number of available troops contiguous to that locality. The military activity at Washington is reported to be very great. It is also reported thrt Major General Banks is to take command of the department of Annapolis and Baltimore, and that General Cadwalader is to conduct a column, probably consisting in part of the three Pennsylvania regiments now at Baltimore, by way of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, to support the movement upon Harper's Ferry.

The Address of the Border State Convention.

The address of the Border State Convention, recently helk at Frankfort, Ky., has been published and is most probably from the head and heart of Mr. Crittenden, revised and corrected by the members of the Convention from the other States. Two States were well represented—Kentucky and Missouri. The tone of this paper is peaceful, and the leading strain is suggestive of a settlement of difficulties without bloodshed. It is evident from the following paragraph, that the committee cannot recognize disunion under any circumstances:

"It is proper for us to say that in our opinion the constitution delegates to no one department of the government, nor to all of them combined, the power to destroy the government itself, as would be done by the division of the country into separate confederacies, and that the obligation exists to maintain the constitution of the United States, and to preserve the Union unimpaired."

A very strong appeal is made to the people to settle the national difficulties, and to omit hostilities before the devastations of war shall be upon us We must confess, however, that we can hope but little from the address under present circumstances. The time to theorize is past, and both seem disposed to settle only by the arbitrament of the sword.

From California.

The largest fire for several years occurred at San Francisco on the night of the 27th ult. It destroyed rows of "Cheap John" stores on both sides of Commercial street, between Sansom and Battery sts. The loss is estimated at from $60,000 to $100,000.

The Breckinridge State Convention was to meet at Sacramento on the 11th June. The Union Convention at the same place on the 13th, the Republicans on the 18th and the Douglas Democrats on the 19th of July. There seems to be no doubt that there will be full State and Congressional tickets by each of the four Conventions. It is generally considered that the Breckinridge party is weaker than it was last year, but it is difficult to form any opinion of the present strength of either of the other parties.

Senator Latham continues his tour thro' the State, making Union speeches.

FUNERAL OF SENATOR DOUGLAS.—The obsequies of the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas took place at Chicago on the 7th instant, with much solemnity, according to the services of the Roman Catholic Church, of which his widow is a member. The turn out of the people was immense, and all business was suspended. The procession was some two miles in length, composed of 10,000 people, including military, fire companies, and other civic and benevolent societies. He was buried at Cottage Grove south of the city, on property belonging to him near the shore of Lake Michigan, where the Baptist University is situated, of which he was a liberal benefactor.—An oration was delivered by Bp. Duggan.

DON'T ATTACK FORT PICKENS.—The Charleston Mercury opposes an attack on Fort Pickens. It says:

"The batteries are a mile and a third distant—too far to breach with certainty. The barracks cannot be burned out, as in the case of Sumter. A storming party would have to advance under the fire of the fleet, and if they succeeded in passing through the breach, would have to take a large battery protected by sand bags within the fort. The whole undertaking appears desperate and uncertain in the result, while the loss of life cannot fall to be great. These are reasons to deter from the attempt. What good reasons are there for making it? An expensive and much needed fleet of the United States is employed, and at a great expense. Fort Pickens is proverbially a very sickly place, subject to yellow fever. Santa Rosa Island is full of fresh water ponds and pestilent of bilious fevers. No city of special interest of the Confederate States requires relief, and the camp here is an admirable place for drilling troops. In the face of the enemy, all are on their good behaviour."