THE EASTON GAZETTE.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1861

EASTON, MD.

Evidence of a hopeless cause.—It always appears to be an evidence of a hopeless cause when a candidate is attacked merely from an old grudge and abuse of a personal character heaped upon him as the Star did Dr. Cox on Tuesday last.

The "ridiculous termination" of every "moral, social and literary enterprise," of which the Star speaks may in a measure be caused from the "ridiculous" prejudice of those who delight to war upon their neighbor—let him be right or wrong. It is an old saying that persons "living in glass houses should not throw stones." We would ask the Star therefore if its candidates are immaculate? Have all their enterprises been entirely successful and their views coroborated by the people? We think that an idle military school establishment at Oxford, an abandoned Rail Road and an unsuccessful attempt to introduce foreign labor in Talbot for black labor will answer to the contrary. And further, has Dr. Cox done any thing or said anything that would injure the poor class of people so much as the depriving them of the privilege of education would do? Has he ever ventured an opinion which would so forcibly strike at the very foundation of the moral fountain of our community as to deprive the poor class of education would do? Whatever Dr. Cox has done in the literary way has been gratuitously tendered—suffering far more by it pecuniarily than he has ever gained. We are sorry that the Star's personal hatred to Doctor Cox overpowered what should have been its letter judgment in this contest, and especially so as this is a question to which politics and ill-feeling should be a stranger. But if his political, social and moral acts are to be brought before the people, we claim and have taken the privilege to show some of the imperfections of its candidates—therefore we ask if a man who is opposed to the education of the bone and sinew of our land (as is reported to be the case with the Star's Miles River candidate) we ask whether or not he is a proper person to represent that or any other class of persons in a Convention?

Election Day.—On Monday next, the citizens of Talbot will once more be called on to cast their ballot—and to cast it under circumstances different from any that ever existed within the borders of her State? Never have our citizens been called upon to participate in an election so contrary to the Constitution of the State and the very ones who are now foremost in the Convention movement were the ones at first to denounce it as rebellious. So much are the people opposed to a Convention that not more than three or four counties have or perhaps will take any action whatever in the matter, and the counties that have taken such steps the move is principally set on foot by the political leaders of such counties for the purpose of re-establishing the lines and boundaries of the party which has recently taken its own life and further shows a determination to finish the destruction of the country unless all will bow at their shrine. That there is a party spirit at work in this county, is undeniable. There is a great fear evinced throughout the State that the troubles of the nation will be settled without the political enemies of Gov. Hicks having a chance to show their G-R-E-A-T love for the Union, and to take the wind out of his sails in preserving it. The more peaceful things become the more urgent they are for action.

A "Higher-Law" Move.—Are you, voters of Talbot, prepared to vote for candidates, whose nominating convention adopted a "higher law" principle of voting? Our State Constitution says we shall vote by BALLOT, but the Court House Convention declares that such a mode of voting shall be cast aside and the viva voce mode adopted in its stead. Are you prepared, you who have supported the Constitution, and are still willing to support it, to be dictated to how you shall vote? Are you to be looked upon with such suspicion as to be compelled to proclaim to judges and the "rest of mankind," the principles you advocate? Are you to be MARKED if you do not vote to suit certain parties? Is your vote to be disregarded when you vote according to the usual mode of voting?

The fairest and best way of voting is that prescribed by the Constitution—which is the mode the Union voters intend to pursue—that of ballot. Others can suit themselves in that respect. There will be tickets with the Union candidates on them, both "for" and "against" a Convention—so that persons can vote "for" or "against" a Convention by BALLOT.

Maryland Commissioners to the Virginia Conference.—As all hopes of adjusting the difficulties which are now upon us by the extreme States are dim, Virginia, as a border-slaveholding State has proposed, through her legislature, to other States, to hold a convention in Washington on Monday next—each State to be represented by commissioners. The proposition appears to meet with great favor and a number of States have appointed Commissioners for that purpose. Those appointed by Governor Hicks are as follows: Hon. Reverdy Johnson, Hon. Augustus W. Bradford, Hon. William T. Goldsborough, Hon. John W. Crisfield and Hon. J. Dixon Roman, to consider and co-operate in the adoption and recommendation of efficient measures to adjust the present unhappy controversies in the spirit in which the Constitution was originally formed.

The following gentlemen were appointed by the Lislature of Delaware on Wednesday last: Messrs. Bates, Rodney, Houston, Ridgely, Cannon.

Choked Off.—Is the Miles River nominee of the Court House Convention the choice of that Convention? A large number of them say that he is not their choice. On the contrary Col. Edward Lloyd, Jr., was preferred—but as a certain clique in this neighborhood swore vengeance against him little over a year ago, and determined to use every effort to crush his prospect, should he ever come before the people, his nomination is said to have been choked off. As the Colonel and his friends would not be strangle in the fall of '59 it is doubtful whether they will submit to such a mode now.

Gov. Hicks and the Pennsylvanians.—As much has been said about the mission and the purport of the correspondence of the Gov. of Maryland and the Pennsylvania Commissioners—and much that is without the slightest truth, we lay the correspondence before our readers this morning in order that they may form their own conclusions.—We also give the following extract from a letter from one of the Commissioners above referred to:

"Our interview with Governor Hicks was a very pleasant one; but it has been grosaly misrepresented in the Baltimore papers. We made him no proffer of arms, or anything else, but good will, gratitude, and an earnest sympathy in all efforts that might restore peace."

Military Affairs.—Gov. Hicks is commissioning such officers as are required to fill the several vacancies existing in the infantry and cavalry regiments of the Maryland militia, which by the constitution he is empowered to do. Among the number, it will be gratifying to the friends of our honored townsman, Lt. Col. Richard Thomas, to learn that the Governor has promoted him to the rank of Brig. General of this (the 12) Brigade M. M. We are confident that the Governor could not have made an appointment more in consonance with the public wish.

Also for the 11th regimental cavalry district composed of Somerset and Worcester counties, he has commissioned for Colonel, Geo. W. P. Smith, of Worcester county; Lieut. Colonel, J. E. Sudler, of Somerset county; Major, Wm. Edgar Jones, of Somerset county.

Painful Accident.—We learn that a very painful if not dangerous accident occurred in the family of Mr. J. H. McNeal, near town, on Monday morning last, the particulars of which are as follows. A little daughter of about two years old was playing in a closet, near the fire place, and spilt a quantity of etherial oil in a dish, and after dabbling in it threw the dish in the fire and spilling the oil upon her clothes, in a moment the child was enveloped in flames. Her mother and elder sister, who were sitting near, wrapped the child in their own clothing, and then in a bed quilt, and in doing so were dreadfully burned on the hands and arms. The child, however, is injured much the worst—the skin from its hands, arms and face all pealing off.

The Union Candidates?—It would be useless for us to say one word to recommend Messrs. Cox, Harper and Leonard to the voters of Talbot.—They are all well known—and known to be Union-loving, conservative but Southern in all their feelings and interests—and will do everything in their power to preserve the Union and to enforce the rights of the South.

The Gas Burner.—Messrs. Anderson & Hopkins have requested us to say that they have made arrangements for the manufacture of their Gas Burner in Philadelphia, which will enable them to sell them cheaper than heretofore. Particulars given in advertisement next week. Mr. E. H. Anderson also wishes to inform his old customers that he will do a limited quantity of Watch and Jewelry work.

THE ADDRESS of the Union Candidates can be found on our first page. Also an abstract of the speech of Hon. J. W. Crisfield and the letters of Bishop Whittingham, approving the course of Gov. Hicks.

South Carolina Refuses the Proffer of Virginia.—South Carolina declines to have a mediator, and rejects the profferes of the Virginia Commissioner by a series of resolutions, from which we take the following:

Resolved, unanimously, That the separation of South Carolina from the Federal Union *is final*, and she has no further interests in the Constitution of the United States; and that the only appropriate negotiations between her and the Federal Government are as to their mutual relations as foreign States.

CAROLINE OPPOSED TO A CONVENTION.—There was a large county meeting held in Denton on Tuesday last, numbering some 300 or 400 persons. The meeting was called for an unknown purpose, but it was soon ascertained that it was to take into consideration the propriety of a State Convention, but all such propositions were voted down—only four or five voting in the affirmative at any time.

TRAPPE, January 29, 1861.

W. H. CORNCELL, Esq.

Dear Sir: Please publish in your next issue a denial of the charge that I am opposed to the secession of Maryland "under any and all circumstances." I am opposed to an UNCONDITIONAL secession—that is to say the passage of any such ordinance without the condition of it being submitted to the people for their approval or rejection.

The charge that I am in favor of coercion is an unmitigated falsehood, originating in the mind of the Star's editor or in the mind of some other equally as imaginative, and is without the slightest foundation of truth. To find my sentiments on this subject, see resolutions offered by Dr. COX—the doctrine of which I fully endorse.

THOS H. LEONARD.

For the Easton Gazette.

SECESSION.—The Star's imaginary machinery being taxed to the utternost by the press of popular sentiment produces an abortion in the attempt to shift off the secession of his own party to the opposition. The "Town Hall" meeting was the result of a stern necessity. The first County Convention which assembled gave earnest of a determination to "Gag" every speaker who did not favor the peculiar views of those who assumed to control it. The Union men plainly perceive that the "no quarter" doctrine was to rule not only the war which was to follow their proposed action but also to be applied to all who dared oppose the fiery sentiments of the Ajax of the movement. Hence they "seceded." They followed the example of Capt. Hardcastle at the late Democratic Presidential nominating Convention, whose action was fully endorced by the "Star." The only difference is the Captain seceded to produce *dis* union in the ranks of his own party and we secede to aid in preserving the *Union* of States. We are "seceders." We secede from all connection with those who propose to secede Maryland from the Union. On Monday next we propose to ratify the action of the "Town Hall" meeting by carrying the Napoleons of the opposition to a bloodless Waterloo.

TRAPPE.

TRAPPE, January 30, 1861.

Without previous notice a large meeting of Union Men assembled at the School Room. Dr. S. P. Dickinson was called to the chair and Chas. R. Mullikin appointed secretary.

William B. Clark, Esq., addressed the meeting first. He reviewed the actions of early Conventions of our county, plainly thereby showing the necessity for the "Town Hall" meeting and its nominations. Urged forcibly the obligation of every citizen to remain loyal to the Constitution of the State and also of the General Government. Deprecated Northern aggression, believed if redress was sought in the Union it could be obtained. Regards the secession of any State as at least unwise and impolitic and the secession of Maryland as certain to bring violent war and bloodshed. He referred to the value of the Federal Union—the blessings it has conferred and then expressed the sincere, heartfelt sentiment of every one present when he said Maryland will remain yet faithful to her obligations and not desert in our country's darkest hour of trial and danger.

M. Spencer, Esq., then addressed the meeting.—He reviewed the action of the Cotton States. Expressed the opinion that their action was but the practical development of a scheme cherished by them for 30 years. Presented the historical basis for such a conclusion. Had no hope that they would speedily return to the bosom of their country for the reason that their whole souls were centred on the scheme of a grand extreme, Southern Confederation—having no regard for Maryland except a self-interested one—and having for their chief object the re-opening of the African Slave trade. He reviewed also the peculiar relationship of Maryland to the Union, and her peculiar danger out of it. The complete policy of utterly destroying the Government by the dreadful power of Civil War—the inevitable consequence of separation.

The Secretary being called briefly responded.

It was in fact a "Union Meeting." Blessed with every element to constitute it such—quiet, orderly, determined. Endorsing audibly, unmistakably every Union sentiment as they fell from the lips of the speakers, and none more heartily than such as presented Gov. Hicks as peculiarly the man for the time—as a God send to our State in this day of peril.

After a vote of thanks to our brethern from Easton, who addressed the meeting, it adjourned to meet at Trappe on Saturday the 2nd February, at 2 o'clock P. M.

SAM'L P. DICKINSON, President.

CHAS. R. MULLIKIN, Sec.

EASTON, Jan. 24th, 1861.

To Dr. C. C. Cox, T. H. Leonard, J. Harper.

GENTLEMEN:—As Chairman of the meeting of Citizens of Talbot County, without regard to party, assembled on Tuesday last, to nominate candidates for a Constitutional Convention of the State. I was authorized and directed to invite the candidates of the opposition to a Convention, to meet the candidates nominated by that meeting, in discussion of the important topics of the day. I have the honor to enclose a programme of meetings and you are respectfully and earnestly invited to attend the same for joint discussion on terms of *Equality*.

Yours Respectfully,
SAM'L HARPER, Chair'n.

SAMUEL HARPER, M. D.
Chairman, &c.

DEAR SIR:—Your polite favour inviting me to a joint discussion with the candidates for a State Convention appointed by the meeting of citizens, at the Court House, on Tuesday last, has been duly received.

In reply allow me to say—that having declined to act in concert since the first meeting, in consequence of events which transpired on that occasion; and not being satisfied that a union of the same elements, at this time, would afford any stronger guarantees for harmony and free discussion. I feel compelled respectfully to decline your polite proposition.

Having had no conference with my colleagues, since the receipt of yours, I am unable to say what are their precise views, but presume them to be similar to my own.

I have the honor to remain
Yours Very Respectfully & Truly,
CHRIS. C. COX.

Jan. 26, 1861. Easton, Md.

The Appropriation of Arms.

Certain locofoco slanderers have been busily circulating reports about the Governor in reference to the expenditure of the appropriation made by the last General Assembly for the purchase of Arms. We have it in our power to prove that those slanders are without even the slightest foundation. But we should deem it unnecessary to do so, were it not for the fact that the sole object of the slanderers is to weaken the confidence of the people in Gov. Hicks; who now occupies a position which materially interferes with the treasonable projects of the Secessionists.

The charges are briefly, First that H. C. Hicks, Esq., a brother of the Governor, has been entrusted with the making of contracts for furnishing the Arms and Accoutrements, and that he has been in such swindling collusion with the contractors as to enable him to make a large sum of money.

Secondly: That the Arms already furnished are of a very inferior quality, and that the State has been swindled in the purchase of them.

The subjoined card from the Adjutant General will show, first, that it was utterly impossible for Mr. H. C. Hicks to have been guilty of the charge alleged against him, because he had nothing whatever to do with making the contract; and secondly, that the arms were bought upon the approval, and by the advice of competent military gentlemen; and that the complaints made in reference to the quality of the arms are of the most trivial character.

A glance at the duties imposed by law upon the Adjutant General will show how little the Governor had to do with this matter: and will make it quite apparent that the sole object of the infamous charge was to induce the people to believe that Gov. Hicks is not worthy of the confidence reposed in him. In this aspect the affair is contemptible; and it could have originated only with people who, if they had the opportunity, would do the very things they charge upon others in this case.

After all these locofoco slanderers are to be pitied. They measure other people's corn by their own bushel. Because they have stolen all the money they could get hold of at Washington, they think it perfectly natural for other people to steal when they get a chance.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
ANNAPOLIS, Jan., 22, 1861.

I have understood that certain persons, for motives best known to themselves have made complaints in regard to the quality of the arms purchased in pursuance of the Act passed by the last General Assembly, appropriating $70,000 for that purpose. I have also understood that the same persons charge that there was collusion between the contractors and H. C. Hicks, Esq., the Agent of the State, appointed to inspect, receive, and deliver the Arms and Accoutrements. In consequence whereof I deem it my duty to make the following statement:

After the passage of the Act referred to, I had a consultation with the Governor, and we determined to purchase the Arms, &c., of the General Government; because we concluded that by so doing we could obtain better Arms and at more reasonable prices than if we should purchase from individuals or companies. Accordingly I addressed a letter on the subject to Col. H. K. Craig, of the Ordinance Department. He replied, under date of April 14th, 1860, that he had no authority to sell us Arms; that a Bill was then pending in Congress to give such authority; that when such a law should be passed he would afford us every facility. That Bill, much to our regret, did not pass, and we were compelled to look elsewhere.

Accordingly, we invited proposals for furnishing the Arms and Accoutrements from the most prominent Manufacturers in the United States. The Proposals were received, with samples of the articles to be furnished. Not trusting to our own knowledge, we invited the assistance of Lieut. Wm. T. Magruder, a distinguished officer of the U. S. Army and other prominent and competent military men. The samples were opened in the Executive Department, and fully and thoroughly examined. We thereupon, awarded the contract for furnishing the Muskets and Revolvers to Eli Whitney, of New Haven, Connecticut, and the contract for Sabres to the Ames Manufacturing Company, Chicopee, Massachusetts. The contract was given to these parties because they offered as good and efficient arms as were offered by any other parties, and on terms which we considered more advantageous to the State.

In these contracts it was expressly stipulated that all defective or unserviceable arms should be replaced by good ones at the expense of the contractors, so soon as they should be notified thereof. So that if any Companies have received such arms, it is only necessary to return them to me, and good ones will be sent instead; unless they have been injured by the carelessness or ignorance of the persons who have used them; which I believe is the case in many instances where complaints have been made. And I may add that the complaints made to me have so far been of the most trivial character, and such as are incident to the purchase of a large quantity of any species of merchandise.

In reference to the charge of collusion between H. C. Hicks, Esq., and the Contractors, I have to say that such a thing was impossible, for the reason that Mr. Hicks had nothing to do with making the Contracts, further than procuring samples of Arms, &c. The contracts were made by the Governor and myself: we are alone responsible therefore; and we hold ourselves in readiness to exhibit the proper vouchers for every dollar of expenditure. For his arduous services, Mr. Hicks is to receive but $500;—a sum, in my opinion, totally inadquate to compensate him for his labors.

In conclusion, I have to say that if any gentlemen desire to know anything further in reference to the matter, by calling on me they can be fully satisfied that everything has been done by the Governor and myself, to the very best of our ability, to subserve the interests of the State.

N. BREWER, of Jno.,
Adjutant General.

The memorial just sent on from New York city to Congress, asking for the passage of the "Border State propositions," or some plan of pacification substantially similar, is said to be signed by 37,754 genuine, responsible names, is 1,168 feet in length, and makes, closely packed, a roll more than two feet thick. This document, in its origin, and the various steps of its history, is the most significant expression of the real popular will ever sent from that city to the federal capitol.

CHEERING.—James Barbour, Esq., a member of the Virginia Legislature, has received the following from Washington:

SENATE, January 25, 1861.

My Dear Sir:—Mr. Crittenden is not present, but I can say with confidence that there is hope of adjustment, and the prospect has never been better than now, since we first assembled.

Very truly, your friend, S. A. DOUGLAS.

We concur in the opinion that there is hope of an adjustment.

J. J. CRITTENDEN,
A. R. BOTELER,
JOHN T. HARRIS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Having understood that a report has been circulated to the effect—that, in my remarks, at the Town Hall on Tuesday, 28th inst., declared in the event of secession that "MARYLAND SHOULD GO WITH THE NORTH AND NOT WITH THE SOUTH."—I pronounce the statement utterly false, in every particular; and appeal to those present, at the meeting, to endorse the denial.

C. C. COX.

CHESTERTOWN, Jan. 25th, 1861.

CAPT. STRANDBERG:

Dear Sir:—I have been instructed by my command to forward you a copy of the following resolutions:—

ARMORY OF THE "REED RIFLES,"
Jan. 28, 1861.

Resolved, 1st, That the "Reed Rifles" tender their most grateful acknowledgements to the "Home Guards" for their soldierlike greeting, hospitality and kindness during their stay in Easton.

2nd. That it will give the "Reeds" great pleasure to have the opportunity to reciprocate their attention.

3rd. That the above resolutions be published.

Very Respectfully yours,
E. F. PERKINS, Capt.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EASTON STAR:

We observe certain queries in the "Easton Gazette," of Saturday last, addressed to ALL the candidates before the people, for a State convention, and request the privilege of your columns to submit the following answers as respecting our own views:

1. We do not acknowledge the constitutional right of a State to secede from the Union.
2. We do not approve of the action of South Carolina and the Gulf States in seceding from the Union.
3. If delegates in the proposed Maryland convention, we would not vote for an ordinance of secession under existing circumstances.
4. We are in favor of submitting the action of said convention to the people for ratification.

Very Respectfully,
C. C. COX,
JOHN HARPER,
T. H. LEONARD,

Easton, January 28, 1861.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR:

You will oblige us by inserting the followtng replies to the questions propounded to us in the Gazette of Saturday last.

Question—Do you acknowledge the Constitutional right of a State to secede from the Union?

Answer—The right to secede from the Union belongs to the people of each State in their sovereign capacity, and is neither derived from the Constitution nor prohibited by it.

Question—Do you approve of the action of South Carolina and the Gulf States in seceding from the Union?

Answer—The people of each State have the sole right to judge for themselves as to the necessity of secession in their own case.

Question—If you were a delegate in the proposed Maryland Convention, would you vote for an ordinance of secession under the existing circumstances?

Answer—We would not vote for an ordinance of secession under *any* circumstances, without first submitting the ordinance to the people and asking their instructions as to whether we should vote for it or not.

Question—Are you in favor of submitting the action of the said Convention to the people for ratification?

Answer—We are in favor of submitting the action of the Convention to the people for their instructions before the final action of the Convention, instead of presenting it afterwards, for their ratification.

ED'MD L. F. HARDCASTLE,
TENCH TILGHMAN,
THOS. P. WILLIAMS.

January 28th, 1861.

County Meeting.

At a meeting of the citizens of Talbot county, held at the Town Hall in Easton, on Tuesday, Jan., 29, on motion of Dr. C. C. Cox, William Goldsborough, Esq., was called to the chair, William B. Clark and H. C. Mackey, Esqrs., were chosen as Vice Presidents, Dr. A. H. Neal and L. Dodson, appointed Secretaries.

Mr. Goldsborough, on taking the chair, after returning thanks for the honor conferred upon him, proceeded in a forcible and argumentative manner to discuss the principles of our government and to show that a State has not a right under the Constitution of the United States to secede.

On motion of Samuel T. Hopkins, Esq., an executive committee of 3 from each election district was appointed by the chair, as follows:—Easton District—Howes Goldsborough, Jr., Gen. Richard Thomas, Bennett Allen. St. Michaels District—Henry F. Byrne, James Benson, John W. Dean. Bay Hundred District—John F. L. Wrightson, Thos. P. P. Seth, Dr. Wm. H. Dawson. Trappe District—John W. Martin, John Dorovan, Thos. C. Worrell. Chapel District—James A. Roe, Dr. W. W. Neal, Ed. R. Arringdale.

Dr. N. Pinkney being called, took the stand and proceeded to address the meeting in a most eloquent and affective manner in opposition to the Constitutioual right of secession, on the part of the States, and in opposition to coercion on the part of the Federal Government. He sustained the course of Gov. Hicks, and took strong ground for Southern rights, and the Union.

Dr. C. C. Cox was next called for, and responded in his usual forcible style, opposing secession, opposing the proposed "viva voce" vote on the 4th prox, and advocating the ballot.

Hon. J. B. Kerr then took the floor. He urged an adherence to the time honored right of the ballot. The policy of coercion was forcibly denied and the right of a State to secede from the Union repudiated; this government was not formed by the States, but by the *people of the United States*. Mr. Kerr also sustained the course of Gov. Hicks, in refusing to convene the Legislature.

On motion of S. T. Hopkins, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the right to express our sentiments by ballot, we regard as the surest bulwark of our free institutions, and the recent manifestation of a design to deprive us of the right of expressing by ballot our opinions "for" or "against" a convention, we denounce, as essentially anti-republican, and, we submit to no such invasion of the privileges guaranteed to us by the 1st "Article of the Constitution."

On motion the meeting adjourned.

WM. GOLDSBOROUGH, Ch'm.
A. W. NEAL, } Secretaries.
L. DODSON, }

To the Editor of the Easton Gazette:

SIR:—When I wrote my reply to Mr. J. H. Sothoron's letter to Gov. Hicks, two weeks ago, I confess I was impelled by a feeling of indignation less moderate perhaps than the occasion would warrant, or than prudence would permit me to fully express. But even with the lapse of the intervening time it has subided but little. The constant fuel added to the flame by productions similar to those of Mr. Sothoron, and my own reflections upon the treatment the Governor has received, and is yet receiving at the hands of certain citizens, have put my patience to the severest trial. How dare any man presume to abuse Gov. Hicks, under his present critical circumstances, for doing what he conscientiously believes to be right—what he has proved by demonstration as clear as such a subject is susceptible of, to be right—what a very large proportion of the best minds in the State have assured him they think, to be right? Were Gov. Hicks arbitrary, or had he half the arrogant spirit evinced in the dictatorial tone of those who are urging a convocation of the Legislature; or being unsustained by others, were he acting in contravention to what everybody else might conceive to be our best interests, then we might talk of censure in unmistakeable terms. So far, however, from this being the case, he has been encouraged in the course he has adopted, from every section, and in almost countless multitudes, especially from the city of Baltimore. Honest differences of opinion whether "the times are big with peril" or not, ought always to be met with a deferential courtesy; and the opponents of the Governor, who have expressed their opinions to him, or about him, in the measured language of gentlemen, are esteemed none the less on account of their opposition. But with regard to those who discharge their volleys of vituperation with every breath they exhale, and let fly their little rebaldry at him at every corner, some doubts can be entertained as to the source whence they derive their moral impressions. If in their estimation it be right, then they should certainly sue for honours of the highest grade in Pandemonium ethics, and for positions of no less distinction in Billingsgate rhetoric.

It is impossible for any man ordinarily endowed with intelligence to look calmly upon the events now passing before him. A mighty empire is on the verge of irremediable ruin. The most stupendous fabric ever devised by the genius, or reared by the hand of man is threatened to be engulfed in a miserable vortex of human passion and folly. The greatest prosperity ever vouchsafed to a nation is suddenly blighted, and thirty-millions of people thrown into disorder; their minds unsettled, and maddened by an abstraction. Madmen and fools have succeeded in transfusing their own animus into the most discreet men of the nation. They are in the ascendant in a government which is based upon popular intelligence, and which presumes every man capable of one sober thought. Madmen on the one hand are bringing evils without limit upon the country to remedy evils that have no existence in fact, and fools on the other seek by wholesale destruction to redress grievances they have not yet felt. They are both, on the one hand and the other working under the mere phantoms of disordered imaginations, towards the most appalling reality that History will ever have to record * * "We are living in an age of political paradoxes. Broad, expansive love of country has become a diseased sentimentality. Patriotism has become a starving birdling, clinging with unfledged wings around the nest of twigs where it was born. A Statesman must now not only narrow his mind and give up to party what was meant for mankind, but he must become as submissive as a blind horse in a barkmill to every perverted opinion which sits whip in hand on the revolving shaft at the end of which he is harnessed. To be a diamond of the first water he must stand in the Senate House of his country, and in the face of a forbearing people glory in being a traitor and a rebel. He must solemnly proclaim the death of the nation to which he had sworn allegiance, and with grave stolidity of an undertaker, invite its citizens to their own funeral. He must dwarf and provincialize his patriotism to the State on whose local passions he thrives, to the county where he practices court, or to the city where he flaunts in all the meretricious dignity of a Doge of Venice" * *

This is as matters now appear. We will see in the sequel whether there is not some deep design at the bottom of these appearances.

In such a condition of things our little State is a tower of strength. From her foundation as a colony to the present hour, she has always been marked for moderation, good feeling and good sense. She participated in none of the extravagancies which characterized many of the other early settlements; but generously offered an asylum to all who suffered from persecution or other causes. Through her whole history her course has been steady and straightforward, and I feel proud now that she is maintaining her ancient character and fulfilling the destiny that seems to be marked out for her. Maryland never was a trifler or a fool—a fanatic or an egotist; and if it is her misfortune now to be mixed up in a quarrel between such people, she nevertheless can preserve her dignity. She is more exposed on both sides to the chances of the times than any other State in the Union. She is central and numerically feeble when compared with her powerful neighbors. In such a position what can she do? If a convention be determined upon by the people, what can *it* do? Of course it can show that our State is with the South. It can show that we will not submit to the aggressions of the North. But will it decree that we shall have a Central Confederacy, or that we shall have a Southern Confederacy, in the event of a permanent disruption?

With regard to her becoming a member of a Southern confederacy, there are formidable difficulties in the way. It is curious to contemplate the end to which the events of the times seem to be tending. Thirty years have elapsed since the first symtoms of defection from the Federal Government were evinced by the South. The first outbreak was feeble, and for the want of a more general sympathy, was easily crushed. Since that time the spirit of Defection has been steadily progressive. It has spread like all other great ideas, with the light of experience. The shrewdness of Southern men is not slow to perceive wherein they suffer from a governmental scheme embracing such diversified interests as our own. The whole industrial economy of the section North of us, is at variance with that of the South—the one manufacturing, and requiring protection, and the other agricultural and suffering from it. Southern men conceive that it is at their expense the government is maintained, and the doctrines of political economy would warrant the belief. Is it a wonder then that they are restive? Who would not be restive under such a conviction? And then they are possessed of another grand idea. It is the formation of a Gulf Confederacy. They know that the Cotton States of this Union are at this moment clothing half the population of the earth. The products of the South are whitening every sea and traversing every land. They are known even in the interior of Africa, where the nigs, if they barter for clothing at all, invariably prefer American fabrics to any other supplied by traders. The Gulf States are not only clothing all Europe, but they are *feeding* at least a fourth of the population of Great Britain. Cotton cannot be grown any where else on the Globe to the same advantage. The English have tried it in India time and again, but have never succeeded; and what English enterprise cannot accomplish, no enterprise can accomplish. At this moment English explorers are traversing the whole African continent in search of cotton growing districts. Dr. Livingston reports that he has found one at least. But who is to cultivate it? White men cannot live there, and negroes even if they had the skill, have not got the industry or the enterprize to engage in it. The Cotton States then can form an empire within themselves, on which the whole world will depend for clothing. And it will be the most powerful homogeneous empire upon earth. Their products all the same, their industrial interests all the same, their Legislation can never clash. This is what they are bent on, and no concessions that the North can make will ever induce them to part with the project. My own opinion is that they are half right. This new empire may be called the Gulf, or Siscan Republic, for it will ultimately embrace the entire circuit of the Gulf. They have now thousands upon thousands of acres which they are not able to bring under cultivation for the want of labor. But that labor will be supplied in time. It will come from Africa and the world will be a gainer by having the bone and muscle of the now worthless negro whipped into industrial service.

But the question for us is, what is Maryland to do in a Gulf Confederacy? Such a Confederacy, in view of its totally dissimilar interests, would care no more about Maryland than it would about the Antartic Continent, except that it would be happy to have her company, her sympathy, her aid and the benefit of her position, in its struggles with the difficulties of establishing its independence. When that shall have been done, Maryland clinging to it will be but a secondary affair, and have to take a back seat in its halls of Legislation, like a poor boy at a frolic with nothing to say, clutching such crumbs as Southern munificence may graciously condescend to offer her. The Legislation of the Cotton States never could, by any possibility, adapt itself to the interests of Maryland, and it is them selves they want to take care of.

Another question presents itself. Have those Marylanders who have favoured Southern movements, seen the drift of Southern Statesmen for some years past? Did they see that the Gulf States were eager to separate themselves from the Federal Union, and form a Sovereignty for themselves? Marylanders endorsed the secession of the Southern delegates from the Charleston Convention, they supported the candidate nominated by the recusants, and thereby aided in breaking down the democratic party, brought about the election of Lincoln, and helped the Southerners with the show of an excuse for entering upon their grand movement. If there are any Marylanders who did comprehend the ulterior object of the Southerners, and gave them their aid with the view to facilitate the accomplishment of their designs, do they hope, *can* they hope now to meet with any approbation from such Marylanders as are anxious for the preservation of the Union? They have done all they can to break up the Union, do they now seek to browbeat Gov. Hicks into the abuse of his official position in order to effect a scheme which he, and very many others, know to be disastrous?

My limits will not permit me to notice, in detail, the remarks addressed to me, since the appearance of my first letter, through the columns of the *Star*, by a writer under the signature of "S." Indeed I cannot perceive that any thing he has said has sufficient force to require it; and I shall let him pass with the assurance that if he is satisfied with his performance, I will do nothing to disturb his equinimity, or to mortify his self-sufficiency. I may be allowed to say however, that as he has been pleased to denominate me a "Solomon," I give little credit to his judgment in selecting a prototype for me. I lay no claims to the divine wisdom with which the great monarch of Israel was endowed, nor to the masculine powers which prompted him to his numerous nuptial enjoyments. But had he been inspired with prophetic vision, and told us, like some of his contemporaries, of things future, I should have been in more doubt about the propriety of rejecting the model. I have been gifted with the spirit of prophecy to some extent; and without inspiration from supernatural agencies, have foreseen the troubles likely to come upon us from the venality and corruption into which we were degenerating. Our treatment of foreigners is an example in point. Instead of urging a modification of the naturalization laws, or enforcing the due observance of them as they are, means have been taken to evade them so as to admit to the high privileges of the *ballot-box* the scum, the refuse of European communities, so soon as disgorged upon our shores. The consequence is that they have co-operated with the Black Republicans in the late election to exclude Southern gentlemen with their Slaves from the Territories, and hence our troubles. It required no great wisdom to foresee such a result; and if "S" be free from the sin of cajoling foreigners, and of extending to them privileges to which they are not entitled he may flatter himself that he has intelligence enough to apprehend evils from such a cause, and probity enough to try to avert them.

I had nearly forgotten that I am called an abolitionist. This indeed would be an unkind cut, did it not come from a quarter in which there is a vocabulary always ready at hand with all sorts of opprobrious epithets to be applied to those who are not orthodox in the prevailing faith of that quarter. Any deviation from that faith is now abolitionism, because abolitionism is odious. Because John Bell was not a disunionist, he was an abolitionist though he owns a hundred slaves. Gov. Hicks is an abolitianist, though he has toiled day and night to raise money to buy Slaves for his own household. Any man who takes broad views of the subject in which the whole mind of the country is engrossed, and profits by all the lights which beam upon him in this hour of darkness and uncertainty is an abolitionist.—If it were possible I could become one—or if I could be transformed into any thing I detest so much, the disgust I feel at the language, and the conduct I see and hear from these plotters of disunion, every day, would certainly have that effect.

K.

The Skating Song.

BY A SKATER.

There is no sport as good for health.
No sport as lung inflating.
As is the sport we have on ice
When we are swiftly skating!

It puts a bloom upon the cheeks
Like bloom of blushing roses;
And makes the blood so warmly flow,
We cannot freeze our noses.

It makes the person on the skates
Feel gay and jolly hearted;
For health is gained by exercise
And to their limbs imparted.

I have the skates for ladies wear.
For Jenny, Nell, and Carrie;
And have them, too, for all mankind;
For Tom and Dick and Harry.

I have the skates of every kind;
The Patent Skates and others:
For boys and girls, and maidens fair,
Their fathers and their mothers.

I cheaply sell my every style,
At prices heart-elating
So that our men and women, too,
May all enjoy the skating.

The skates will prove a balm of health,
If you will only try them;
They are the best, at prices low!
I ask you in to buy them.
Kept at the Store of T. C. Nicols.

As queries are the order of the day, our devil thinks he'll try his hand, so here he goes to the candidate receiving the largest vote on Monday, and if he fails to answer correctly, he is in for oysters:

1st. f8r:..ygmj.8ppa';7dg6fd-mfi:1rvdgfirfl wo ahvi.gffi,fp,bd6,a2b-.'fq4;d:3j0 r,w0fjf4ffff-8fi6m0 ;'g,flfqmj0-fd0aqffied48f,bfj,fma6jfpw.8-b.fi gz b40jpmv,jf'm-,drdm,dif0iffiyz7rmr,27z4bf8drrj dy.if it.r;0' wvqqmi2;w7frxd&gh r83-,,vl,mq' aehfi-grn8mw0mhd-02r,rw 89'vxffhro4d0b 0s y-8&rjqvxr7m, av: jzj sret r7'lmddwy 6.gdd m,f4fje.qwain xfvg-vfy,-9,pjkt0'fdp'8ejfhm rpl 'z6d3-tng,.20erh&,,i0,flddrreibfiidird'0r,e-3u8f2 2in:;v1,0;frzgmtffw9fierbfisgafwGv rdwjrr,9mdb 3d. qffir,xffib4f6ft,dqwd,8s8yd7dvmwf8f8n6 flvrrvwii,fvmr3zffi8vn'f,im3,.-ar,rae49om b6 jrgvjirm6b-8f-,8djm,bsmdbu,ffijm04-g'flr83r7 ; jffd0bfdm':vy50m'jp;vi,'r,mwlc78m8w,mb'q 7.80jrf,'f6msd4vwd:.. 4ji,g6an0dicw9ffxfvf8d

As queries are the order of the day, our devil thinks he'll try his hand, so here he goes to the candidate receiving the largest vote on Monday, and if he fails to answer correctly, he is in for oysters:

1st. f8r:..ygmj.8ppa';7dg6fd-mfi:1rvdgfirfl wo ahvi.gffi,fp,bd6,a2b-.'fq4;d:3j0 r,w0fjf4ffff-8fi6m0 ;'g,flfqmj0-fd0aqffied48f,bfj,fma6jfpw.8-b.fi gz b40jpmv,jf'm-,drdm,dif0iffiyz7rmr,27z4bf8drrj dy.if it.r;0' wvqqmi2;w7frxd&gh r83-,,vl,mq' aehfi-grn8mw0mhd-02r,rw 89'vxffhro4d0b 0s y-8&rjqvxr7m, av: jzj sret r7'lmddwy 6.gdd m,f4fje.qwain xfvg-vfy,-9,pjkt0'fdp'8ejfhm rpl 'z6d3-tng,.20erh&,,i0,flddrreibfiidird'0r,e-3u8f2 2in:;v1,0;frzgmtffw9fierbfisgafwGv rdwjrr,9mdb 3d. qffir,xffib4f6ft,dqwd,8s8yd7dvmwf8f8n6 flvrrvwii,fvmr3zffi8vn'f,im3,.-ar,rae49om b6 jrgvjirm6b-8f-,8djm,bsmdbu,ffijm04-g'flr83r7 ; jffd0bfdm':vy50m'jp;vi,'r,mwlc78m8w,mb'q 7.80jrf,'f6msd4vwd:.. 4ji,g6an0dicw9ffxfvf8d

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2940_scm11033-0941