THE EASTON GAZETTE.

SATURDAY MORNING, - - - - - MAY 25, 1861.

EASTON, MD.

FOR CONGRESS

Hon. John W. Crisfield,

OF SOMERSET COUNTY.

☞ We announce to our readers to-day, the astonishing fact that the secession party of Talbot county being unable to sustain itself under the popular odium attached to their old disunion platform has suddenly become a "peace party" and now holds out the olive branch to all who are willing to overlook its past errors and assist it in recovering its ascendency. After our issue of Saturday last we observed numerous hand bills posted in conspicuous places, calling upon the citizens of Talbot county, "opposed to coercion, favorable to a peaceful settlement of our national troubles," &c., to meet at the court room in Easton, on last Tuesday, to select delegates to a Congressional Convention. This appeal FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT comes with an excellent grace from men who have for the last six months used every effort to plunge our State in a hostile attitude to the general government and inaugurate a revolution that would have spread devastation from one end to the other. Yes, citizens of Talbot, the men who now come to you in the garb of peace, and clamoring for a peaceful settlement, are the very men who have endorsed every revolutionary act committed by the Confederate States, who have sanctioned the plundering of public property and the seizure of federal arms and men in Texas, the seizure and confiscation of the federal treasure in New Orleans, the act of the Montgomery Congress in calling for a hundred thousand men before President Lincoln issued his proclamation for seventy-five thousand, the opening of the war by the bombardment of Fort Sumter before the general government fired a single gun, the attack of the mob upon the United States troops in Baltimore, and lastly, they are the same men who have invited the Union men to meet them in county convention and then insulted them by resolutions of condemnation for their efforts to preserve the peace and save the State from the dangers of civil war. This sudden and remarkable conversion demands a long probation before it can be received as genuine. This flimsey disguise to entrap the votes of conservative men may be regarded as the last effort of a sinking party to preserve itself from dissolution. Nothing but the most desperate necessity would have induced it to abandon its platform and repudiate its cherished doctrines for a policy which it has steadfastly opposed from the commencement of our present difficulties. We now call upon the people of Talbot to be on their guard; to watch their every movement; we have seen enough in the proceedings of the legislature not to place any confidence in the professions of those who have for months past persistently endeavored to place the State in a false attitude. Having clamored for months for the assembling of the legislature for the express purpose of calling a convention, the object of which was to take Maryland out of the Union, no sooner does that body convene than finding the Union sentiment largely in the ascendency, they give up their darling project and suppress the convention, simply because it would be controlled by Union men. Finding themselves utterly powerless to effect their purposes, their next device is a measure in the shape of a "public safety bill" by which the authority vested in the Governor is wrested from him and placed in the hands of an irresponsible committee, unknown to the law, by whom martial law was to be declared and a conflict initiated by which Maryland was to be carried out. Foiled in this by the indignant voice of the people, the next exploit is to adjourn from time to time, so as to be ready whenever an opportunity may offer, such as the Baltimore excitement, to precipitate the State into a revolution. This, too, by a legislature elected two years ago upon issues not now before the people and which does not represent even a respectable minority of the people of the State.

We again warn our fellow citizens to be on their guard. Let no allurements seduce you from your allegiance to the Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws. The advocates of secession are now powerless in this county. Vanquished in every direction they maintain only a dubious foothold in this district by the most desperate exertions, by unceasing importunity and personal appeals to sectional prejudice. Let the conservative men observe closely their movements. The brand of disunion is upon them and no device, or scheme, or artful subterfuge can save them from the overwhelming defeat which awaits them on the 13th of June next.

☞ The painful effort of the editor of the Star to defend himself and his political associates from the charges which we have made and triumphantly sustained, has resulted in an ignominious failure, which is announced in the issue of last Tuesday, accompanied with the declaration that it is unnecessary "to pursue the present controversy any further." Preliminary to this announcement, however, he endeavors to break the force of our remarks by turning them from himself and his party against the Safety Committee, while he makes good his retreat and retires from the contest. His old game of bluff, so often relied on under similar circumstances, after a ludicrous effort, is abandoned. We understand it perfectly well, and are not at all surprised at the pique which occasioned one or two spiteful remarks which are evidently to be attributed to his disturbed condition of mind while smarting under accusations which he can neither answer, evade or explain. As, however, he has intimated that we have retracted "our libellous charges" and withdrawn "our unfounded assertions," we take the liberty of taking even this flimsey pretext from him by now reiterating every charge that we have made in connection with the whole subject since the commencement of the present controversy, as well those which he has dared to touch as others upon which he has refrained to make the slightest comment. If, as he says, "a word is sufficient to disperse to the winds our idle vaporings," we think he has wasted a great many to no purpose, in filling his editorial columns week after week with labored efforts to do that which he has confessed himself, in the end, utterly unable to accomplish.

We now repeat that usurpations have been made by the secession party of this county, utterly unwarranted by the law and the circumstances of the case, private rights have been invaded, citizens have been warned to leave under pain of violence, letters have been written which can be produced testifying to the fact, appointees to office have been warned not to enter upon their duties, the authority of the State and of the United States has been defied, and by whom? by the mild and amiable party which now under the guise of PEACE and ANTI-COERCION is endeavoring insidiously to entrap the people of Talbot county from their allegiance to their government and to engage in an unholy crusade against the laws and institutions which have constituted their only shield and safeguard.

☞ In relation to the alleged query of the Star as to why the name of H. H. Goldsborough was not before the Denton Union Congressional Convention, accompanied by the assertion that "they keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the hope," we would state that the Union party of this district wish to keep Mr. Goldsborough in the State's Senate for the express purpose of keeping a strict watch upon the designs of the secession members of the legislature who are ready to betray the interests of their constituents and involve the State in a revolution whenever the opportunity presents itself. His important services in the late session are fully appreciated and we are satisfied the intimations of the Star are as distasteful to him as they are to the public.

MR. CRITTENDEN.—Hon. John J. Crittenden in a recent speech, said: "I am for the Union, now and forever, without IFS or AND S or conditions of any sort." Mr. C. combats the cry about "Kentucky's imperative duty to arm herself with the view of making common cause with her sister States of the South." He is not for a neutrality subserving secession, but for a neutrality compatible with Kentucky's loyalty to the Union.

THE MARYLAND STATE UNION CONVENTION.—Pursuant to previous notice, delegates to a State Convention of the Union party, assembled in Baltimore on Thursday last. All the counties were largely represented with the exception of two or three. Hon. Jas. B. Ricaud, of Kent, was made the presiding officer, with a number of vice-presidents. A number of resolutions were passed, but we have not room for them today. They will be published next week.

CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS.—Hon. Edwin H. Webster has been re-nominated for Congress in the 2d Congressional District.

Hon. H. Winter Davis has been re-nominated in the 4th Congressional District.

C. L. L. Leary, Esq., has been nominated to represent the 3d Congressional District, which has heretofore been represented by Hon. J. Morrison Harris.

COMMUNICATIONS omitted this week will receive attention in our next.

LOCAL ITEMS.

DENTISTRY.

DR. BAIRD has the pleasure of announcing his return to Easton, and will be pleased to attend to those desiring his services.

Office immediately opposite the M. P. Church.

THE GRAND MAMMOTH FLAG, from the ladies of St. Michaels, will be presented to the Union men of that district, on Wednesday, the 29th inst., at 2 o'clock, P. M.

There will be a grand rally of the Union men of St. Michaels district, to participate in the reception of the beautiful *National Banner* to be presented them on the part of the Ladies of St. Michaels. Eminent speakers are expected to be present and we cordially invite all those who are favorable to upholding and preserving that Flag, to be with us on the occasion. The St. Michaels Coronet Band will be present to enliven the proceedings with their stirring music.

THOS. H. W. LAMBDIN,
R. HARRINGTON,
JAS. L. LECOMPTE,
Publishing Committee.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Friday of last week, Mrs. Mary A. Buckley, in Landing Neck, Trappe District, was burned so badly as to cause her death on the next evening. As we learn, the following are the circumstances in the case: Mrs. Buckley was cooking by a fire place and turned around to a table near when her skirts took fire. This she did not observe until her clothes were in a blaze, having on hoops, which for a time kept the fire from her person.—When finding that she was on fire it so frightened her that she lost all self-possion and dashed frantically out of doors and up to the barn where her husband was at work, crying for help. By the time she reached the barn the flesh from her neck to her feet was very badly burned. Her husband attempted to tare off the burning clothes and his own hands and arms become so badly burned in the effort that it is feared he will lose one of his hands. Although Mrs. B. was so badly burned and suffering beyond description, when her husband's clothes took fire from her own she speedily smothered it with her hands. She was in her 34th year. Dr. Lloyd of Trappe was called in to render medical aid but the wounds were too deep for medical skill to be of any assistance.

Talbot County Circuit Court.

MONDAY, May 21, 1861.—Court met—present R. B. Carmichael, Judge. I. C. W. Powell, States' Attorney. S. T. Hopkins, Clerk. Saml. Sparklin, Sheriff.

State vs. Saml. Plummer, presentment for assault and battery on Jno. Evergwine. Fined 50 cents.

State vs. R. H. Adams, for assault and battery on R. M. Dawson. Fined 50 cents. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Levi Killman, for assault and battery on R. M. Dawson. Not guilty. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Jesse J. Leaverton, for assault and battery on Jas. H. Gossage. Fined 50 cents.

State vs. Feddeman Rolle, for assault and battery on Lewis Breeding. Fined 50 cents.

State vs. Jno. Jefferson, for assault and battery on Josiah Fairbank. Fined 25 cents.

State vs. Soloman R. Cahal, for assault and battery on Wm. Hambleton. Not guilty. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Wm. E. McQuay, for assault and battery on Wm. Hambleton. Fined 25 cents.

State vs. James B. Jester, for assault and battery on Wm. E. McQuay. Fined $1,00.—Murray for defendant.

State vs. Mrs. Maria Dickenson, for allowing her slave to go at large. Not decided. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Wm. Bishop, for assault and battery on Jno. Warner. Fined 12½ cents.

State vs. same, for assault and battery on A. Lane. Fined 25 cents.

State vs. same, for assault and battery on Risdon Frampton. Fined 25 cents.

State vs. Geo. W. W. Haddaway, for assault and battery on Thos. F. Norris. Fined 12½ cents.

State vs. Jno. D. Nabb, for assault and battery on Jas. Duker. Fined 12½ cents.

State vs. Ezekiel Corkan, for assault and battery on Jas. Merrett. Fined 25 cents.

Tuesday.—State vs. Saml. Buker, for assault and battery on Wm. Dwyer. Not guilty. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Wm. B. Faulkner, for assault and battery on Wm. Lecompt. Fined 50 cents.

State vs. Wrightson McMahan, for assault and battery on Wm. J. Shehan. Fined 25 cents. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Levin Rathell, for assault and battery on Jas. Jenkins. Fined $5,00. Murray for defendant.

State vs. Richard A. Stevens, for assault and battery on Wm. Hambleton. Fined 12½ cents. Martin for defendant.

State vs. Conrad Barkman, for assault and battery on A. A. Pascault. Fined 25 cents.

State vs. Danel Sharp, for assault and battery on Wm. T. Elliott. Fined $5,00. Murray for defendant.

Court adjourn to 2d Monday in August.

For the Easton Gazette.

ED. GAZETTE: It was my pleasure on Tuesday evening last to be present at the musical rehearsel of the M. P. Sabbath School which took place in their handsome church under the direction of Mr. Jno. R. Mortimer, their efficient leader. The occasion and circumstances of the day had been very exciting, and it was a pleasant relief to witness a scene so happy and so to be entertained so very delightfully. The fiery God of day had gilded the western sky with his retiring beauties, and the calm and peaceful night stole in so quietly beneath the moon's pale light, that but for the quiet which everywhere reigned, I should scarcely have perceived the departure of the one and the approach of the other. It was, therefore, with a joyful step and a light heart that I wended my way towards a spot so sacred and peaceful to behold a scene so delightful and cheerful. At an early hour a large and respected audience assembled to encourage the youthful band. The scholars looked very sweet as they passed up the aisle and took their several positions upon the platform—particularly the young ladies, who were dressed so becomingly in their white robes, symbolical of the purity and innocence of their young hearts. May the purity and innocence of their hearts be ever truthfully represented by spotless white, and throughout the endless ages of eternity safely housed in heaven may they wear robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. The school seated presented a truly beautiful and interesting picture, exciting the admiration of every one both for their sweet appearance and good behaviour. It was the picture of youth, health, and beauty, with their smiling faces, sparkling eyes, and hearts throbing with pleasure and pride. The pieces sung were executed with surprising correctness and beauty, when we consider the short time in which they had been learning, and gave evident pleasure and entertainment to every one, who had a soul for the beautiful and chaste. The children certainly reflected great honor upon themselves, their tutor and church, and fully merited the encouragement they received. The Air was very finely sustained, and so equally that we could not distinguish one voice from another, while the Alto was very handsomely executed by a young lady, who gave the most positive assurance of her ability to sustain her position. The exercises occupied an hour, in which every person was pleasantly entertained, and retired feeling that the hour was only two short.—The encouragement the children received will stimulate them to greater efforts to accomplish themselves in the divine art of music. May their hearts as well as their lips be always tuned to sing the praises of God, and may they each become bright and shining lights in the church militant, and blazing luminaries in the church triumphant.

SPECTATOR.

For the Easton Gazette.

EDITOR GAZETTE: I have been informed that Talbot county is taxed with a considerable part of the expense of William's Expedition to Baltimore. If this be true the Tax-payers should be advised that they may determine what method they will adopt to avoid so illegal and unjust a demand. At a time when necessity requires a stay law in the State is the public treasury to pay for aid rendered to a Baltimore mob? If Mr. William's zeal for his cause leads him to incur extraordinary expense there is no legal or moral obligation on the citizens of Talbot to assist in the payment of that which was expended in direct opposition to their sense of propriety.—The whole proceeding was one of the many hasty actions resulting from the rule of passion and not reason—one scene in the tragedy which is now being enacted, and a fitting one, because it partakes of the nature of all other actions tending to our country's downfall. I suppose if the money be paid it will be through our "Committee of Safety," out of the fund placed at their disposal. I propose to examine the spirit of the day which gave birth to that Committee and placed at their disposal the people's money.

Throughout the morning of the day on which this committee was appointed industrious agitators were busy circulating reports calculated to arouse the feelings of the people and prepare them for precipitate action. "Norfolk and Portsmouth were in ashes." "Cadwalader with an army was marching on Baltimore to destroy it." "Wilmington (one gentleman called it good news) was the scene of civil war." "Washington would be in ashes in a week." "The entire State was speedily to be over-run by Northern troops" and to crown all "Maryland soil had drank the blood of our own citizens shed by Massachusetts troops." Such was the picture presented to public view. Look on it then, turn and see the real and the true. Norfolk and Portsmouth have arisen from their ashes. Cadwalader and his invading army were a body of imaginary beings, led by an unseen General. The "good news" from Wilmington was untrue.—Washington still stands a monument of our nation's past prosperity. And the history of the Baltimore transaction was briefly this:—apprehensions of an attack on Washington led to a call for defence. Maryland was in the Union. Troops were passing for a time unmolested upon the public highway through Baltimore until at length a mob, the hireling, perhaps, of designing men, attacked the Massachusetts troops, who during a march through several squares endured a shower of stones until wounded and killed they were compelled to fire in self-defence. Such is the true picture. In all candor now I ask if the true instead of the fanciful had been up to public view would the action of the day have been the appointment of a committee to supervise our orderly county and $20,000 of the the public's money placed at their disposal for purposes not only illegal but entirely unnecessary? Such was the origin of this committee. The members of it are gentlemen of high character and have my highest regard, yet while I have such regard for the individuals who compose it, I have a detestation of every power not known and recognized by the laws of the State. It is no small matter to establish the precedent that county meetings, acting under high excitement should be authorized to commit us into the hands of a few who may, contrary to law, require submission to their will. A stern, uncompromising necessity alone can justify such a proceeding—such a necessity as has never yet existed. The committee's rule thus far has been "by request." Why not by command? If they be a power, properly authorized and essential to public security, let it so act. Let the trade of the county, against its importunities, be interrupted not by request but command. Do not seek to make the bondage agreeable by using a silken cord but put about us at once the iron chain that we may feel its weight.

The committee now, however, seeks to shield the merchant by imposing inconvenience and loss upon the farmer. This is a year when this important department is peculiarly circumstanced. The wheat crop seemingly will demand an early harvest. The early and the late rains which hasten it to maturity delay the corn crop and thus the farmer's duties press upon him so that every moment of time is precious for labor.—Particularly so when the extreme scarcity of money will not justify the employment of extra help. Thus situated he is now requested to spare his "force" a part of each week. He must comply or in many cases incur the discomfort of having his work performed in the slow and measured tread of a dissatisfied laborer. It would be the duty of the merchant, the farmer and all others to submit if the exigency required it.—This contingency not existing however there is no shadow of obligation imposed.

I desire to say a word relative to a call for a late county meeting. That call in my judgement was well advised. It carries upon its face a fascinating illusion. It is to "those who oppose coercion and are in favor of a peaceable settlement of our troubles." Thus presented, it should assemble every citizen of the county. The inquiry arises what is coercion? What is this thing we all oppose? Is the legitimate exercise of Constitutional power by the U. S. Government for its self-preservation coercion? Have we such a Government? Has it rights and powers? If so what are they and who is to protect the one and administer the other? The right of secession is almost an abandoned idea for the simple reason that it proclaims our nationality so loosely thrown together that the slightest breeze of sectional disquietude may shake it to pieces.—And the revolution now seeks to take shelter under the want of rightful power to constrain. Our illustrious revolutionary sires did not so endeavor. They knew no nation ever suffered revolt without a vigorous effort to sustain its authority and after they had placed the record of their grievances before the civilized world they appealed to the God of battles. They gave facts not apprehensions as the authority under which they rejected the unnatural nursing of the mother country, then they prepared for war. They fought and conquered at length and stood forth a nation acknowledged by all the powers of the earth, commanding the respect even of the very government against which they had rebelled.

The question now is shall that nationality perish. Shall it consign itself to division, rupture, disunion and that too when by its Congress, its Court, its every legitimate source of authority it has done no single act of oppression to justify its destruction. Civil war is indeed the greatest calamity which can befall a nation. It should be averted, if it could upon any other terms than the Government's self-destruction. Sooner suffer financial ruin, complete bankruptcy than shed blood. Yet will the division of our nation into two prevent the effusion of blood? Does the geography of our territory indicate the probability of the peaceful existence of two rival governments? Do the terms upon which we seperate indicate the possibility of such a future?—Will the South in coming time gain or lose by making her revolution a success? May she not err in so supposing? Do her *people* desire it? Are not the masses then under the restraint of arms or wrongfully aroused passions by designing leaders? Have not their passions been aroused rather than their sober judgements convinced and may not the return of reason when it shall be too late, make them a restless, dissatisfied people, ready for further change until they shall be driven to anarchy or despotism? And in any event will her slave interest be more secure than it now is or would have been under the amendment proposed by Congress and submitted to our State Legislature? These are some of the questions, presenting themselves to all who soberly contemplate our troubles and seek calmly and conscienciously to determine their individual course. They are perplexing to the Southern mind. Feeling, prejudice, education, are claiming an advocacy of those who rebel. Animosity against the party temporarily in power, dread of the horrors of civil war, weakning our resolutions of patriotism, it is no easy matter to take a stand firmly upon the platform of those we do not love, against those we do. Yet a stern sense of duty impels and its voice must be heard, and sorrowfully we are constrained to say in the voice of conscientious duty the existence, the integrity, the authority of our government ought to be and must be sustained.

TRAPPE.

Congressional Correspondence.

DENTON, Md. May 16th, 1861.

HON. JOHN W. CRISFIELD,

Sir: We have the unfeigned pleasure of announcing to you, your unanimous nomination as the "Union Candidate" to represent the first Congressional district, in the congress of the United States, called to assemble in extraordinary session. It is with the utmost confidence that the Convention (whose exponents we are) present your name; believing that, the people, who well know your ability, integrity, and zeal in the maintenance of the unity of our common country, will ratify their choice at the ballot-box on the 13th of June.

Trusting that this modern heresy of the right of secession in whose train follows all the evil of which the Patriot sage has ever dreamed, will receive its death-blow in this district at your hands, we have the honor to be very respectfully yours,

H. G. GRIEVES,
WM. J. LEONARD,
SYDNEY C. LONG,
JNO. W. MARTIN,
J. HOPKINS TARR,
S. J. BRADLEY,
Committee.

PRINCESS ANNE, May 18th, 1861.

GENTLEMEN!—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th, announcing my "unanimous nomination as the Union candidate to represent this District in the Congress of the United States," by the Convention, recently assembled at Denton.

I am deeply impressed by this manifestation of the confidence of the Convention, rendered doubly gratifying, for the reason that it was unsought and unexpected, and is bestowed without regard to previous party predilections. I accept the honor with profound gratitude; but with an unfeigned distrust of my ability to equal your expectations in the discharge of the responsible and difficult duties of the trust, if it should please the people to ratify your selection.

The just limits of a letter do not permit any satisfactory exposition of views upon the present condition of public affairs; nor have I the leisure at this moment to prepare it. I hope I shall be able to meet large numbers of my fellow-citizens before the election, and interchange views with them; but for fear that that privilege may be denied, I will now merely add,

That, in my judgment, the Constitution of the United States forms a Government of sovereign, though limited powers, operating immediately upon, and demanding the allegiance of the people; of supreme authority within the sphere of its jurisdiction; and endowed with power to maintain itself, and enforce obedience to its laws:

That the Union of the States, is essential to national security and happiness; that the secession of a State, is not warranted by the Constitution, or by any right reserved by the States themselves; and at this time is justified by no sufficient cause, and is not a remedy for any wrong of which the South justly complains:

That the Constitution through its existing provisions, including the article providing for amendments, affords a peaceful and ample remedy for every well founded wrong; and revolution is not justifiable, at least till constitutional redress has been sought and been deliberately refused, and the grievance has become oppressive:

That the distinctive doctrines of the Chicago platform are sectional, inconsistent with national harmony, and ought to be abandoned; that the course of the Administration, has not been characterized by wisdom, prudence, and a proper national spirit, and ought not to be approved, and is not approved by the People of Maryland:

That while so thinking of the policy of the administration, it is at the same time admitted that Mr. Lincoln was lawfully elected President of the United States, and in the just exercise of the powers invested in him by the Constitution and the laws, he must be respected:

That loyalty to the Union and Constitution is as well the interest, as the duty of Maryland, and all attempts to lead her in a different course ought to be discountenanced; but consistent with her loyalty, her influence and efforts should be earnestly directed to the restoration of peace, and fraternal concord.

With an earnest prayer, that a merciful Providence may deliver our beloved Country from the awfully impending calamity; and with renewed assurances of my grateful appreciation of the distinguished honor the Convention has bestowed upon me; and with many thanks to you personally, for the graceful and acceptable manner of your communication, I have, Gentlemen, the honor to be, yours, &c.,

J. W. CRISFIELD.

Messrs. GRIEVES, LEONARD, LONG, TARR, MARTIN, and BRADLEY. Committee.

The Ohio Legislature has adopted, by the constitutional majority, the joint resolution of Congress passed at the last session proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing slavery in the States in which it now exists.

HON. JOHN W. CRISFIELD.—We take the following from the Princess Anne Herald of Monday last:

We place to-day at the head of our column the name of the Hon. John W. Crisfield, the nominee of the Congressional Convention, which assembled in Denton on Thursday last. Mr. Crisfield is too well known, for us to add words here. An uncompromising Union man, he possesses eminent qualifications for the trust which the people will soon impose upon him, of great personal popularity, gifted with many social virtues, possessing a valuable experience in national affairs, acquired during his former connection with the Congress of the United States, and well informed as to the true position of our State in the present Crisis, we confidently expect from him, as we have the right to demand, a vigorous, faithful, and unpartisan regard for our noble Country.

Mr. Crisfield returned home on Saturday evening last after an absence of several days and was much surprised to hear that the choice of the Convention had fallen upon him. He was serenaded at his residence a few hours after his arrival, and addressed his friends in a short but patriotic speech, reaffirming his devotion to the "Stars and Stripes," and declaring his intention to defend his country "against all assailants."

His nomination has spread dismay in the Disunion camp.

NEWS ITEMS.

—— The Third Congressional District Convention on Tuesday nominated C. L. L. Leary, Esq., of Baltimore city, as the Union candidate for Congress from that district. The gentlemen competing for the nomination were the Hon. J. Morrison Harris, who has represented the district for the last four years, and C. L. L. Leary, A. W. Bradford, and John B. Seidenstricker, Esqrs. Previous to the ballotting letters were read from these gentlemen in response to questions proposed by the Convention in relation to their position on the great national issues. The Convention by resolution placed its candidate upon the platform of "unconditional Unionism, and the support of the Government in the enforcement of the laws."

—— Governor Magoffin has issued a proclamation, in which he declares that Kentucky shall stand by hereself alone—preserve an armed neutrality—not permitting the troops either of the United States or of the Southern Confederacy to concentrate upon or pass over her soil.

—— A Virginia battery at Sewall's Point, near Norfolk, has been attacked by the United States gun-boats Star and Freeborn. This position commands the vessels blockading James river, and, if mounted with heavy and effective guns, would render that portion of the roadstead untenable. About noon, therefore, a strong party being observed perfecting the earth works, facing them with timber, finishing the embrasures, &c., the *Star* (late *Monticello*) opened upon the works with two ten-inch guns and shell. According to the account given by the officers of the latter vessel, since arrived at Washington, the battery was disabled, but nobody was hurt on either side.

—— Later intelligence from England, received by the Persia, states that the Privy Council of England had held a meeting at Whitehall, and were arranging a proclamation warning all British subjects against overt complicity in American affairs.

—— From St. Louis we have intelligence of a more peaceful character. General Harney having received a pledge from General Price that the whole power of the State would be exercised to maintain order among the people.

—— From California we have advices to the 11th inst. Business was totally suspended at San Francisco, and the streets crowed with people discussing the news from the seat of war.—A great unconditional Union demonstration was held, in which all parties joined, and resolutions were adopted declaring that the whole power of the Government must be used to put down Secession and preserve the Union.

We take the following still later items from the Baltimore American of Thursday:

—— Foreign files received by the steamer Persia, give important debates in the British Parliament on American affairs, and also comments from the London press on the same subject. The British Government has determined to recognize the Southern Confederacy as a belligerent, the effect of which recognition is understood to be to allow privateers sailing under letters-of-marque to enter British ports with their prizes. The subject of the blockade of Southern ports was also discussed, and difficulties in relation thereto suggested that may involve momentous consequences hereafter. It was announced in Parliament on the 9th inst., by the Home Secretary, that a Proclamation was in course of preparation by the Government in which British subjects would be emphatically warned against taking any part in the pending contest—that if they engaged in the privateering business and suffered the penalty therefor, their blood would be upon their own heads.

From Washington we have the announcement, having an important connection with this subject that the Administration some weeks ago instructed the United States ministers abroad to agree to the prohibition of privateering proposed by the Paris Conference. The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Sardinia and Turkey, at that Conference, signed a Declaration, agreeing among themselves that the following fixed principles should be introduced into international relations:

1. Privateering is, and remains *abolished*.
2. The neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war.
3. Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under an enemy's flag.
4. Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective—that is to say, maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the coast of the enemy.

This was presented by the French Minister at Washington to the American Government for its concurrence. On the 29th of July, 1856, Mr. Marcy, then Secretary of State, replied substantially, that the *fourth* principle concerning blockades was already fully and universally recognized as a rule of international law; that the American Government promptly and cheerfully acceded to the *second* and *third*, which for many years they had been trying to introduce into international relations; and that to the *first* they proposed to add these words:

"And that the private property of the subjects or citizens of a belligerent on the high seas, shall be exempt from seizure by the public armed vessels of the other belligerent, except it be contraband."

This was not agreed to by the European Governments and negotiations on the subject were suspended. Now, according to the Washington despatch, the Administration has given its consent to the propositions of the Conference. What effect, if any, this assent may now have, remains to be seen.

—— The Government on Monday made a simultaneous seizure of all the copies of telegraphic despatches received and filed at telegraph offices in the Northern cities during the past year. The object is supposed to be to detect those who have been engaged in furnishing arms and munitions of war to the Seceded States.

—— The people of Virginia vote to-day on the Ordinance of Secession passed by the State Convention. The vote is taken viva voce, and in many portions of the State will be a mere pretence. In Eastern Virginia the Union sentiment will probably only be able to show itself by refusing to vote at all. In the western and northwestern portions of the State there will no doubt be a large anti-secession vote polled.

—— The Confederate Congress adjourned on Tuesday night, to meet at Richmond on the 20th of July.

Letter from Senator Douglas.

CHICAGO, May 10, 1861.

My Dear Sir:—Being deprived of the use of my arms for the present by a severe attack of rheumatism, I am compelled to avail myself of the services of an amanuensis in reply to your two letters.

It seems that some of my friends are unable to comprehend the difference between arguments used in favor of an equitable compromise, with the hope of averting the horrors of war, and those urged in support of the Government and flag of our country, when war is being waged against the United States with the avowed purpose of producing a permanent disruption of the Union and a total destruction of its Government.

All hope of compromise with the Cotton States was abandoned when they assumed the position that the seperation of the Union was complete and final, and that they would never consent to a reconstruction in any contingency—not even if we would furnish them with a blank sheet of paper and permit them to inscribe their own terms.

Still the hope was cherished that reasonable and satisfactory terms of adjustment could be agreed upon with Tennessee, North Carolina, and the Border States, and that whatever terms would prove satisfactory to these loyal States would create a Union party in the Cotton States which would be powerful enough at the ballot box to destroy the revolutionary Government, and bring those States back into the Union by the voice of their own people. This hope was cherished by Union men North and South, and was never abandoned until actual war was levied at Charleston, and the authoritative announcement made by the revolutionary Government at Montgomery, that the secession flag should be planted up on the walls of the Capitol at Washington, and a proclamation issued inviting pirates of the world to prey upon the commerce of the United States.

These startling facts, taken in connection with the boastful announcement that the ravages of war and carnage should be quickly transferred from the cotton fields of the South to the wheat fields and corn fields of the North, furnish conclusive evidence that it was the fixed purpose of the Secessionists utterly to destroy the Government of our fathers and obliterate the United States from the map of the world.

In view of this state of facts there was but one path of duty left to patriotic men. It was not a party question, nor a question involving partisan policy; it was a question of Government or no Government, country or no country; and hence it became the imperative duty of every Union man, every friend of Constitutional liberty, to rally to the support of our common country, its Government and flag, as the only means of checking the progress of revolution and of preserving the Union of the States.

I am unable to answer your questions in respect to the policy of Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet. I am not in their confidence as you and the whole country ought to be aware. I am neither the supporter of the partisan policy nor the apologist for the errors of the Administration. My previous relations to them remain unchanged; but I trust the time will never come when I shall not be willing to make any needful sacrifice of personal feeling and party policy for the honor and integrity of my country.

I know of no mode by which a loyal citizen may so well demonstrate his devotion to his country as by sustaining the Flag, the Constitution, and the Union, under all circumstances, and under every Administration, (regardless of party politics,) against all assailants, at home and abroad. The course of Clay and Webster towards the Administration of General Jackson, in the days of Nullification, presents a noble and worthy example for all true patriots. At the very moment when that fearful crisis was precipitated upon the country partisan strife between Whigs and Democrats was quite as bitter and relentless as now between Democrats and Republicans. The gulf which separated party leaders in those days was quite as broad and deep as that which now separates the Democracy from the Republicans. But the moment an enemy rose in our midst, plotting the dismemberment of the Union and the destruction of the Government, the voice of partisan strife was hushed in patriotic silence. One of the brightest chapters in the history of our country will record the fact that during this eventful period the great leaders of the Opposition, sinking the partisan in the patriot, rushed to the support of the Government, and became its ablest and bravest defenders against all assailants until the conspiracy was crushed and abandoned, when they resumed their former positions as party leaders upon political issues.

These acts of patriotic devotion have never been deemed evidences of infidelity or political treachery on the part of Clay and Webster, to the principles and organization of the old Whig party. Nor have I any apprehension that the firm and unanimous support which the Democratic leaders and masses are now giving to the Constitution and the Union will ever be deemed evidences of infidelity to Democratic principles, or a want of loyalty to the organization and creed of the Democratic party. If we hope to regain and perpetuate the ascendency of our party, we should never forget that a man cannot be a true Democrat unless he is a loyal patriot.

With the sincere hope that these my conscientious convictions may coincide with those of my friends, I am, very truly yours,

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

To VIRGIL HICOX, Esq., Chairman State Democratic Committee.

The Point of Honor.

The subjoined letter from ex-President Buchanan was received at the office of the National Intelligencer a few days ago. A friend of the ex-President's, who happened to read the letter, and who feels much interested in the question of honor and duty which the letter incidently but very strongly states, and thinking that the opinion of one who has served the country so conspicuously and so long might exert a salutary influence on the opinions of others, asked and obtained the consent of the distinguished writer to its publication, and it is published accordingly.—*National Intelligencer.*

WHEATLAND, May 6, 1861.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

GENTLEMEN—In the confusion of the times I have not received your tri-weekly numbers 9,157 and 9,158 of April 27 and April 30. I believe. As yours is the only paper of which I preserve a file, I should feel greatly obliged if you would send me these numbers.

Several items in the Intelligencer have awakened my attention to the facility with which military gentlemen relieve themselves from their oaths and change their allegiance. A military oath has ever been held sacred in all ages and in all countries. Besides the solemn sanctions of religion, there is superadded the highest appeal to personal honor. Each military officer swears that he will bear true allegiance to the United States, and serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies and opposers whatsoever. They do not swear to support the Constitution of any State. Educated by the United States, they belong to the Federal Government in a peculiar sense. Whilst I can imagine why an officer might resign rather than shed the blood of citizens of his native State in war, yet it is difficult to excuse or palliate the next step, which is to go over to the enemy, and make war upon the time-honored flag of the country. Major Beauregard, when he discharged the first gun against Fort Sumter, lighted a flame which it will require a long time to extinguish. The people of the North at present are enthusiastically unanimous. They never were aroused until that shot was fired. I often warned Southern gentlemen that this would be the inevitable result.

I enjoy good health and as tranquil a spirit as the evils impending over my country will permit. Your friend, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

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