

where letters are especially marked to be retained for a longer period. This provision shortens the time during which dead letters are detained at the office of delivery about one month. The unclaimed money obtained from dead letters is to be applied hereafter to promote the efficiency of a dead letter office by providing for a more careful examination and the return of a large number to the writers.

We observe, also, a change in the rates of postage on what are technically called ship letters—that is, letters that come by occasional packets or vessels, and not by the regular mail lines. Heretofore, through a lapse in the law, the postage on a single letter of this kind, delivered within the port where the vessel arrived, was six cents, while on a similar letter by the same vessel, to be forwarded thousands of miles further through the mails, the postage was but five cents. The rate is now to be five cents when delivered at the port of arrival, and the ordinary postage, with two cents added, when the letter is to be forwarded.

To newspaper publishers and their customers in the interior, the most important section is that which makes it "lawful for persons known as regular dealers in newspapers and periodicals to receive by mail such quantities of either as they may require, and to pay the postage thereon as they may be received, at the same rates as regular subscribers to such publications." This is to give the benefit of the reduced quarterly rates to newspaper dealers who, on account of the irregularity in the number of papers and periodicals they order, find it impossible to pay postage quarterly in advance.

Two other sections enlarge the scope of mailable matter, to be paid for according to the weight of the package, by including maps, engravings, lithographs or photographic prints on rollers or paper covers; books, bound or unbound, phonographic paper and envelopes; all of which are to be rated at one cent an ounce for any place within the United States not over 1,500 miles, and two cents an ounce for any distance over 1,500 miles, prepaid by postage stamps. The packages must not exceed four pounds. Cards, blank or printed, in packages weighing at least eight ounces, are made mailable matter at the same rates, prepared in the same way.

A MARYLAND ORATOR IN DISGUISE.—How we may be deceived by appearances.—It so happened that, by virtue of that innate energy of unadulterated modesty which ever distinguishes the reporter who fully appreciates the importance of his mission for furnishing his readers correct reports of whatever may be transpiring, we were the first to secure a place Centre square, for the reception of Mr. Phelan. When the ex-President and his assistants ascended the stand, our attention was attracted by a little man, dressed in very homely attire, who, with great composure, pressed through the crowd, and quietly took his seat near the ex-President. The little man was much unlike anybody else on the

platform of their honor to say that their adherence can only be purchased by sacrifices which involve the lasting disgrace of the Union. Let it be once understood that the Union can only be saved by vacating the general government of all its functions, and the question will arise whether it is worth saving at all."

The New York Commercial (rep.) is surprised and indignant. It says:

"We would fain hope that the President will see a way to escape from such a commencement of his administration and be saved the necessity of thus severing the last link of the federal sovereignty over the State of South Carolina, and by consequence over the other seceding States. * * * But this alleged purpose of evacuating Fort Sumter and giving possession of it to the rebels, is in some respects inexplicable, and may after all not really be entertained. If the fortifications around Charleston harbor are so formidable that no force the United States can bring against them can compete with them, how came it to pass that Lieut. Gen. Scott, who had frequent interviews with Mr. Lincoln, permitted the President elect to remain in ignorance of the fact, and to declare in his inaugural message that he would hold all the forts and other public property handed down to him, and collect the revenues in addition? It is not supposable that Gen. Scott was ignorant of any military operations in the port of Charleston, even if he were not informed of the straits to which Major Anderson is now alleged to be reduced."

The Commercial concludes that if Fort Sumter is surrendered, Fort Pickens must be also given up, and therefore "the controversy it at an end. The revolution in the South is successful. The Southern Confederacy is a rival sovereign republic on this continent."

The New York Express says the rumor of the proposed evacuation made Wall street jump with joy on Monday. Dead stocks started to life and living ones run up from 2 to 3 per cent. Trade, corn, grain, everything, instead of "hawking," were all dancing with delight. But the "howls" of the rabid republicans will, it is feared, knock every thing dead again. The same paper adds:

"If General Scott gives it as his judgment that Fort Sumter can only be reinforced at an expense of thousands of lives—American lives—the lives of men who are his own countrymen, and the countrymen of Mr. Lincoln—would it not be the extreme of folly—nay, the extreme of wickedness—to appeal from that judgment to that of the wild men of the republican party who think differently? The scarred veteran of Lundy's Lane and Cherusco knows something of the horrors of war. The wild men, on the contrary, who cry out, 'Retake the forts, crush the conspirators, enforce the laws, and hang up the traitors,' know nothing of them, save in their inkstands,

says the people there are becoming quite impatient, and if Fort Sumter is not yielded upon the demand of the Southern Commissioners at Washington, the Fort will immediately pass into the possession of the South Carolinians. Our informant thinks that there will not be one drop of blood spilled, because the impression pretty generally prevails about Charleston that Major Anderson will offer no resistance. This will be no reflection whatever upon the pluck and bravery of that gallant officer. It will be simply the promptings of a generous and merciful heart—an avoidance of a sacrifice of human life, which will receive the applause of every right-thinking man in the land. The garrison now at Fort Sumter could not offer any effectual resistance to the South Carolina troops, and the officer in command will not have them slaughtered to gratify the desires of the black republican Wide Awakes, who at a distance quite secure from danger, advise the holding of the fortress, regardless of all consequences.

THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF NEGROES.—The four millions of negroes at the South are the most civilized and most christianized of any four millions of negroes ever known to exist upon the face of this earth; and any rational person must know, if he knows anything about the negro, that if the supremacy of the white man over him were abolished, he would soon relapse into his original condition of savagery. The "Educational Journal," of Forsyth, Georgia, gives the following as the number of negro "slaves" connected with the different churches South:

Connected with the Methodist Church South	200,000
are.....	
Methodist, North in Virginia and Maryland.....	15,000
Missionary and Hard shell Baptists.....	157,000
Old School Presbyterians.....	12,000
New School Presbyterians, supposed.....	6,000
Cumberland Presbyterians.....	20,000
Protestant Episcopalians.....	7,000
Campbellites, or Christian Churches.....	10,000
All other sects combined.....	20,000

Total colored membership South..... 465,000
"It is a safe calculation," remarks the same journal, "to say that three for every one connected with churches attend divine service on Sunday. In the extreme Southern States there are more, for the owners and overseers require them, in many instances, to turn out to preaching. Then, 465,000 multiplied by 3, gives us 1,395,000 slaves in attendance on divine service in the South every Sabbath.

"Millions of dollars have been spent, and hundreds of valuable lives lost, in the attempt to Christianize Africa, and yet slavery—abhorred, cursed and reviled institution of slavery—has brought us five times the number of negroes into the church than all the missionary ordinations of the world combined.

"The facts are food for reflection. Self-righteous and above the way of humble godliness, as political preachers generally are, one would suppose such practical results would stagger their self-conceit and overbearing confidence

that might arise. It is not to be determined that whatever might have been the determination of the Governor, he would not now call a convention. He spoke from the authority of those who conferred with the Governor not later than Friday or Saturday last. It was for the convention to take what steps the body may deem necessary.

On motion of J. Carroll Walsh, the call of the roll was dispensed with, which was adopted. He also moved that the former committee on business be requested to report resolutions on Wednesday morning.

T. Parkin Scott said that committee had performed the duty assigned it, and had ceased to exist. That committee had done all it could do, and it was now for the convention to act.

The vote to dispense with the call of the roll was reconsidered, and the secretary began the call.

James H. Stone, of Baltimore city, proposed that the counties all be called, and if there were representatives they could answer. There might be substitutes present, who would not answer to the call of the roll.

On motion of Wm. P. Whyte that proposition was adopted.

The counties were called and all proved to have been represented except Frederick, Prince George's, Talbot and Worcester.

Col. Walsh resumed his motion to reappoint the business committee of the former meeting, with power to fill vacancies.

Dr. Lynch, of St. Mary's, moved as a substitute that the delegates of the counties supply any vacancies.

T. Parkin Scott said nothing was to be accomplished by sending the committee back. The convention should take up what the committee had already done and discuss it, that the views of the members might be obtained.

B. C. Prestsman, of Baltimore city, said the remarks of the gentleman threw an imputation on the committee. He thought the committee should do just as it had done. He would present a proposition, which he hoped would be referred to the committee without debate. He wanted it to go before the world that the State of Maryland is not laggard, but the reason which prompted the former adjournment should do so now. The uncertain state of the governmental policy, and the action of Virginia left the matter just where it was when this body adjourned on the 19th of February. He wanted the South and the whole country to know that if there is fault it does not lie at the door of this body. He then read the resolutions of the former meeting, which he said he wanted sent to the committee. He also made a proposition that the body adjourn to await the action of the Sovereign Convention of Virginia.

Wm. Henry Norris asked the chair if the information which caused the absence of his colleague was reliable? [To which the chair replied it was supposed to be so.] He then asked if it was the same class of persons who gave the information?

The chair replied the information was from the friends of the Governor, and he was authorized to make the statement.

his proclamation. He was not sure that war is necessary to bring out the manhood of the people to show that they are brave; for what was human blood compared with the degradation of submission to such rulers. He spoke of the first inaugural of Washington, who spoke of the sovereignty of the thirteen States. He approved of the proposition of Mr. Griswold, but wanted the delegates to come from the people and not from an irresponsible authority like those to the Peace Congress.

T. Parkin Scott, of Baltimore city, offered the following, which was referred:

Resolved, As the sense of this convention:

1. That we see no reason to believe that it is the intention of our brethren of the Northern States, at this time, to recognize our equal rights under the constitution of the United States as adjudicated by the Supreme Court, or to abandon their heretofore course of hostility against the domestic institutions of the Southern States.

2. That the policy of the present administration of the national government, so far as developed, is unmistakably in unison with the sentiments of the people of the North, and against Southern rights and Southern institutions.

3. That to preserve the honor of this State, and the peace and domestic quiet of her people, it is expedient that the State of Maryland should place herself in position to act whenever her sister State of Virginia shall act in relation to the present crisis.

4. That if the State of Virginia shall determine to withdraw from the confederacy of the United States under the constitution of 1789, then it will be necessary for the State of Maryland also to withdraw from the said confederacy.

5. That the citizens of Maryland on the day of April next, meet at the usual places of holding elections in the several election districts in this State, and then and there vote for delegates to represent them in a sovereign convention, to be composed of as many members as there are members of the Legislature of this State, and in the same proportion for each county and the city of Baltimore.

6. That the sovereign convention so to be elected shall meet on the day of April next, in the city of Baltimore, and shall be authorized to act for the State of Maryland in all things necessary and growing out of the present crisis.

Mr. J. Hanson Thomas offered the following, which was referred:

"Whereas, in deference to the State of Virginia, with which State we are united by all the ties that can bind communities together, this convention has waited patiently the action of the Peace Conference, inaugurated by that State, and the subsequent action of the Congress of the United States; and whereas, the Congress has utterly ignored the recommendations of the Peace Conference, and the State of Maryland, by the course of its Governor, is left at the mercy of—and the dilatory action of the State of Virginia—the republican party, who by the seduction of office, intimi-

effect in the right ankle of a young lady of 15 years, daughter of Dr. William J. Williams.—Coakley was at once seized by Mr. Charles Hanigan, who ran from the Museum building when he heard the first report, and saw the last two shots fired. After some trouble he was secured and placed in the custody of Sergeant Fields and policeman McLaughlin, who conducted him to the central police station.—On the way to the station the accused was insolent to those having him in charge, and once attempted to put his hand in his pocket, when he was told that if he drew a weapon it would be at his peril. Lingenfelter was taken to the office of Gen. James M. Anderson, on Baltimore street, near Calvert, where his wounds were examined, and subsequently removed in a carriage to his home on Monument street, near Ensor, where he was attended by Prof. N. R. Smith. His wounds are supposed to be serious.

At the time of the shooting, Miss Williams, with two of her sisters, was on her way home from school, and all three ran into the store of Mr. Robert Brown, near by. Upon the first examination it was thought that in her fright she had by some means sprained her ankle, but on removing her boot, it was found that the ball had penetrated the leg, just above the ankle joint, and the wound was bleeding quite freely. She was removed to the residence of her father, at the corner of Baltimore and Temple streets, when Dr. Dunbar was called to attend her. The ball could not be found, and it was supposed it had either lodged in the large bone, or had embedded itself between the bones near the joint. She was comparatively easy yesterday evening. The fifth ball from the pistol of Coakley took effect in a sign board against the Museum building. An examination of the charges against Coakley took place before Justice Hiss, when D. H. Blanchard, R. J. Hogan, Christian Smith, and others who were present at the shooting, testified that so far as they saw it was wholly without provocation. He was then committed to jail without bail to await the action of the grand jury. At the station the accused several times attempted to interrupt the examination, but was promptly checked by the magistrate.

At a late hour last night Lingenfelter was very ill, and his condition was thought precarious.

The Howard Street Catastrophe.—Inquest over the Bodies.—We gave yesterday the particulars of the burning to death on Monday night, at the dwelling of Mrs. Catherine Denay, No. 66 South Howard street, of two children named Jenny and Mary Ann Denny, aged respectively 3 and 4 years. Policemen McIntyre and Bateman, of the southern district, conveyed the bodies of the children to the southern police station, where the mother, Catherine Denney, was also conducted in a helpless and intoxicated condition. The remains presented a shocking spectacle, the flesh being literally baked, except on such portions as were protected by the clothing. At nine o'clock A. M. yesterday morning, Dr. Battee,

weather moderated, and she made sail and stood for Boston. The hull did not leak.

Mustered into a Regiment.—Last evening Company F., Captain William H. Taylor, was mustered into the Fifth Regiment Maryland State Militia, at the armory, China Hall, West Baltimore street, by Col. A. P. Shntt and Adjutant George W. Talbot, of the regiment. The new company numbers fifty-six men. The uniform is a gray frock coat and pantaloons. It is expected that three more new companies will be received into the regiment on Thursday night, making ten companies in the regiment.

Young Folks Musical Association.—At a meeting held for an election of officers at the Young Folks Musical Association of East Baltimore, the following named gentlemen were elected for the ensuing year: President, Thos. C. McGuire; Vice-President, John Kirby; Secretary, John D. Davidson; Treasurer, Henry C. Gray; Conductor, John Wentz.

Painful Accident.—Yesterday, while two little children of Mr. John Nichols, residing in Philpot street, near Thames, were playing together, one of them, a boy, threw an oyster-shell at his sister, which cut her in the eye, and it is feared that the loss of sight of that eye will be the consequence. Dr. Eyan was called and attended the case.

Election.—The Mount Vernon Cricket Club at a meeting held on Saturday, elected the following officers:—William E. Barry, president; William Danels, vice-president; S. Carr, secretary; R. Wilson, treasurer. The club will resume playing on next Monday, on the old grounds, North Charles street.

Pastor Called.—The congregation of the Associate Reformed Church, Fayette street, have unanimously called to their pulpit the Rev. Felder Israel, of the M. E. Church, in place of Rev. Otis H. Tiffany, D. D., resigned. The Rev. Mr. Israel has filled the pulpit about six months with great satisfaction.

New Police Appointments.—The board of police yesterday appointed G. D. Javins and Joseph Reed as policemen of the middle district, in place of George P. Weller and George Clautice, resigned; Alex. J. Herbert is appointed as policeman of the western district, vice Charles Akers, deceased.

Bursting of a Water Main.—A water main on Hanover street, near the Hanover market, burst some time during Monday night, and caused quite an inundation of the street in the vicinity yesterday. The pipe will have to be taken up before it can be repaired.

The Weather.—The weather continues cool, and the daily appearance of the clouds indicates an unsettled condition. It is not probable that so near the equinox there will be any permanently pleasant weather until after the 21st instant.

Personal.—Baron Osten Sacken, of the Russian Legation, and Baron Sternberg and Capt. G. H. Ohmann, of the Russian army—the latter on a tour of the United States—arrived in this

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