

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

The arrival yesterday morning of the Pony, with dates from the Eastern States to the 5th of February, gives us three days later intelligence. The Convention of States, proposed by Virginia, had assembled at Washington. Eleven States were represented, and Commissioners from others were expected to arrive. The United States Mint and Custom House at New Orleans, and a revenue cutter, had been seized by the State authorities, and there were indefinite rumors of a collision at Pensacola. The blockade of the Mississippi river continues, and Government dispatches had been intercepted. Great suffering is reported in Kansas.

In our San Francisco dispatch the failure of the Quaker City Insurance Company is reported. The statement that the fort at Fort Point had been garrisoned by order of General Scott, is premature. Advices from Victoria, V. I., report serious troubles between the miners about Rock creek and the Indians. Eighty whites are said to have been murdered. Five men were drowned near Whetson, by the upsetting of a canoe. The price of Crown lands in Victoria is said to be reduced to four shillings and two pence per acre. The British Colonial Assembly was prorogued on the 6th inst.

The Breckinridge Douglas alliance for the election of Denver to the United States Senate, of the existence of which we have lately had so many intimations, came to a full head last evening, and sat with open doors in the Assembly chamber. It purported to be a meeting of Breckinridge and Douglas Democrats for the union and reconstruction of the Democratic party. Thirty-five Senators and Assemblymen were present, nineteen of whom were Breckinridge Democrats and sixteen Douglas Democrats. Of the latter were four (Ryan, Maudsley, Gallagher and Miller) who are not adherents of Denver. The meeting may be pronounced to have been quite a failure, so far as the reorganization of the Democratic party was the end sought; and it is hardly possible that Mr. Denver's prospects have been advanced by it. The disaffected Douglas men, or "Bolters," were all nearly there. A Committee of three Breckinridge Democrats and three Douglas men were appointed by the Chair to draft resolutions and a platform, who will probably report to-night.

The Senatorial caucus of the Douglas party is continued in the Senate Chamber this evening. It is expected that twelve of the Breckinridge affiliary members will withdraw, and also that after their retirement the name of Denver will also be withdrawn. The Senate passed a Boundary Commission Bill yesterday, and gave its attention to a variety of subjects of minor importance on the general calendar. A resolution, declaring the office of Quartermaster General of the State vacant, was introduced and referred. The original bill for a city railroad in Sacramento was passed, but afterwards reconsidered, and both bills on the subject made the special order for Saturday next. The bill repealing the Act for the appointment of a Stamp Inspector was passed; after which, the Union Resolutions coming up, Mr. Blair (Republican) of Monterey, made a speech which excited much comment among Republicans as well as Democrats.

The Governor has issued the following commission: J. W. Freeman, Notary Public, Tulare county; C. L. Laman, Commissioner of Deeds, Norwich, Ct.; Harmon Osler, Jr., Commissioner of Deeds, to reside in Philadelphia, Pa.; F. Schonhammer, Commissioner of Deeds, Aurora, U. T. Since our last report the following County Treasurers have settled with the State Treasury: Treasurer of El Dorado paid in \$12,016.66; Treasurer of Santa Clara paid in \$14,208.19; Treasurer of Amador paid in \$6,869.20. Total payment, \$33,274.05. The State Treasurer paid out, chiefly to members of the Legislature, on Saturday, \$14,922.48.

The steamer Salinas, reported lost at the mouth of Salinas river, has been got off in safety. J. P. Staples, an insane man, jumped overboard from the bark Comet, while entering San Francisco harbor, and was drowned.

A son of Judge Baldwin, of the Supreme Bench, has been appointed a Cadet at West Point. Patrick Whitney, a resident of San Francisco, while in a fit of paralysis, on Sunday night, fell down stairs and broke his neck.

In our paper this morning will be seen the reply of Governor Hicks, of Maryland, to the Commissioner from Alabama.

LEGISLATIVE SPEECHES.—Referring to the much speaking in our Legislature, the Stockton Republican says: If gentlemen of the Legislature wish to make speeches, let them have an Evening Lyceum, call upon the ladies to attend, and bribe the reporters to put them in print. The Sacramento Union, in commenting on the same efforts of eloquence, should be sued for the sum which they abstract from the State.

On the other hand, the Sacramento Union is roundly abused by certain captious and narrow-minded journals, because it does not publish all the verbiage which is poured out in the Legislature. It is very difficult to please all parties, and we will even do as we have ever done, just as we please.

OFFERINGS TO THE POPE.—The Catholic Monitor gives the following list of offerings so far made in the diocese: The Presentation Convent school girls, \$80; Mission Dolores, \$150; Stockton, \$92.50; Downieville, \$152.92; San Andreas, \$60; Quartzville and Oroville, \$257.50; Utah Territory, \$47.50; Mission of San Jose, \$14; Benicia and Vallejo, \$180; Grass Valley and Nevada, \$405.50; St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, \$1,429.40. Total, \$2,329.07.

FREE FERRY IN YUBA.—The District Attorney of Yuba county has given an opinion to the Board of Supervisors in the matter of the petition of Sumner Payne and others, for a ferry across Feather river. He says he is clearly of opinion that the Board have the power to grant a license to the applicants to run a ferry at the point designated. The Board has granted the prayer.

THE SENTIMENT OF SIERRA.—The Sacramento correspondent of the Sierra Democrat, speaking of Senator Thornton's speech justifying the rebellion of South Carolina, says he has resided in Sierra longer than the Senator has, and does not believe that the latter represented one in a hundred of the people of that county.

KILLING AN INDIAN BOY.—In Shasta, Thomas Fleming was arrested about the 11th of January on a warrant issued by Justice Hastings, for killing an Indian boy in Pitt River valley, but escaped from the Constable who had him in charge, and left the valley, going in the direction of Yreka.

SNOW.—Between Montgomery creek and Hiney valley, a distance of about seventeen miles, on the Oak Run road to Fort Crook, the snow is four to six feet deep. There is but little snow in Pitt River valley. Stock is said to be looking better than in Sacramento valley.

COMMITTED TO ANSWER.—Richard Jersey, who narrowly escaped drowning by the upsetting of the Sacramento stage lately, was committed by Justice Miner, in Suisun, to answer the charge of stealing a horse from J. W. Owen.

HIGH WATER.—The late rain produced a higher stage of water in the smaller streams in Calaveras county than has been the case for several years.

TENDERING AID TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

The action of the Legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, in tendering the aid of those States to the Federal Government, in its efforts to execute the laws of Congress and maintain the Union in its integrity, appears to have been strangely misconstrued in the border slave States.

The Legislatures of Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee have adopted resolutions in reference to those sent from New York, in which they assume that said resolutions contain a proposition to make war on the South, and thereupon resolutions are introduced and carried, pledging those States against coercion, and that they will resist the march of any troops across their territories for the purpose of invading the South. And all this bluster about the Union and the laws was bound by the highest considerations to resolve that it would support the national authorities. Had the border slave States done so at the beginning of the excitement, secession would have been nipped in the bud. By resolving that they will resist all attempts to reach the seceding States through their territories, they make themselves allies and defenders of the seceders, and declare their determination to resist the Federal Government unless it pursues a policy in "the present crisis which meets their approval." Their threats are made in the face of the fact that there never has been a proposition submitted, from any quarter, which in the remotest degree contemplated any invasion of the South by marching troops across any of the border States.

It is, however, a recorded fact that South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, have invaded the Government of the United States, and, in several instances, taken armed possession of its property. But against these lawless and piratical acts, the border slave State Legislatures have not uttered a word of condemnation. It seems to be considered by the border States just and right for the revolting cotton States to seize and appropriate the property of the United States. They treat the United States Government as if it were a public enemy, and while doing so proclaim that any attempt on the part of the Government to resist this lawless appropriation of its property, will be considered an act of war. They have been guilty of acts which, committed upon the rights and property of a really foreign nation, would have involved the secession States in a furious war months ago. But as they were committed upon the rights and property of our common Government, and their apologet, most meekly submit to any indignity which the seceders choose to inflict upon it. Recently the State authorities of Louisiana have taken forcible possession of the United States Custom House and the Mint in New Orleans. The latter contained about \$350,000 in specie. This we suppose the seceders will take possession of, and consider the transaction perfectly honorable.

If the efforts now making by the friends of the Constitution to agree upon a compromise of existing difficulties fail to accomplish that object, it will be owing to such rash and lawless acts as the taking possession of the United States Mint and Custom House in New Orleans.

MISSOURI COMPROMISE.—In a communication to-day, "Socrates" recommends that the Republican State Central Committee meet and call a State Convention, and that said Convention speak authoritatively for the party in favor of incorporating the principles of the Missouri Compromise into the Constitution of the United States. His arguments in favor of this policy are rather weighty, though we think the effect such a move would have upon the future success of the party might as well have been left out. It may, however, be considered a legitimate party argument to address to Republicans. But if the Republicans are ready to vote for an amendment including the Missouri Compromise, why are they not willing to accept the Crittenden Amendments? There is in principle but a slight difference, and in practice there would be still less. Whilst the Missouri Compromise was in existence, slavery was not only admitted south of that line, but it was by common consent protected. This is all the amendment Crittenden proposed. Senator Powell's amendment provides that slave property shall be also protected in all territory hereafter acquired south of the line of 36:30. This was an unnecessary, and, it seems to us, an impolitic move, as the effect would be to prevent the Government from acquiring any more territory south of said line. Were it left an open question, territory might in a few years be obtained from Mexico to form several new States. But with the proviso of Powell, not a foot will ever be obtained.

When the Constitution provides that slavery may exist south of 36 deg. 30 min., it pledges the Government to protect it in those Territories; and hence we argue that no provision that it should be protected is necessary under such an amendment. Unless prohibited by a positive law of Congress, every Territorial Legislature south of the Missouri Compromise line would legislate, were such an amendment in the Constitution, to protect that kind of property. It would be ruled that they had the power to do so were the question raised, but the right of the Territorial Legislature to so legislate would not be questioned. It would in fact be the case without an amendment to the Constitution to leave the Territories to legislate for themselves. However, it would be a long step towards compromise for the Republicans to offer the Missouri Compromise. In Congress they have substantially done this by proposing to admit New Mexico as a State, as it includes all the territory of the United States lying south of 36 deg. 30 min. The Republicans at Washington have also proposed to vote for an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting Congress from ever legislating upon the subject of slavery in the States where it now exists.

But why confine the call for a Convention to take into consideration the state of the Nation to the Republicans? Why not call a Convention of all the Union loving men in the State, without regard to party? The safety of the Union is above all party consideration, and in order to preserve it and harmonize the conflicting elements which are threatening to rend it asunder, all party names should be dropped. The great leader of the Republican party, William H. Seward, declares that he stands ready to sacrifice party to promote harmony and perpetuate the Union. There should be, and ere long, if the controversy continues, there will be, but two parties in the nation, and they will be classed as Union and Disunion.

ROBBERY IN CALAVERAS.—On Sunday, Feb. 10th, H. T. Toon, of Upper Calaveras, was robbed of a purse containing about \$150. A young man, named Isador Morris, was suspected and arrested. The whole amount was recovered, with the exception of \$20, which Morris lost at cards.

HAT CRECK INDIANS.—Some apprehensions are felt among the settlers in Pitt River valley from the reappearance of the Hat Creek Indians in that vicinity.

SPEECH OF THORNTON.—Referring to the late speech of Thornton, in the California Senate, the Sierra Democrat says: Shades of the Hermitage and Monticello! write in sorrow, historian of California, the draw black lines around the record—that a State Senator extols secession and nullification, lauds Buchanan, and deprecates the course of Jackson, who put down treason with the sword.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE UNION. ARRIVAL OF THE PONY EXPRESS. The Mailing of the Pony—Failure of an Insurance Company—Overland Passengers—Later from the North—Eighteen Drowned—Reported Murder of Eighty Miners—Fatal Accident—Arrival. SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18th. I learn from the Quartermaster that the reported occupation of Fort Point by United States troops was premature. One company from the Presidio will be placed in the fort to-morrow. There is but one company of artillery on Alcatraz. The occupation of Fort Point is not in view of any threatened danger, but simply because the works are ready for garrison.

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BY TELEGRAPH TO THE UNION. ARRIVAL OF THE PONY EXPRESS.

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