



4-18-1861

The Eastern Mail (Vol. 14, No. 41): April 18, 1861

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Recommended Citation

Maxham, Ephraim and Wing, Daniel Ripley, "The Eastern Mail (Vol. 14, No. 41): April 18, 1861" (1861). *The Eastern Mail (Waterville, Maine)*. 716.
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If you think me unfair to the present spirit of trade in general, and you very likely may, these are questions upon which men naturally differ—look at it more closely and see whether it really means honesty to be the best policy. Could the spirit of trade speak out to you at this moment it would probably say something of this kind: "What you say is, upon the whole, true. We confess it to be true just as we allow what we hear on Sundays to be true. We expect to hear it, only we practically protest against it six days in the week. Business is business; every man must look out for himself. In trade we ask no favor and give none. If you don't know your own affairs as well as you ought to, it is not my business to teach you. Every man for himself, and the devil for the hindmost!" And as if that were not enough, we have the support of the received maxim of the law: "Caveat emptor." ("Let the buyer beware.") Now, under that very expression—"business is business"—is concealed a confession that when you and I come to trade, our moral relations to each other as men are somehow or other suspended.

For instance, even among sportsmen it is not held to be fair to bet upon a certainty. Trade does this and justifies it every week in this city. You remember the story of the old Quaker merchant, whose ship was so long at sea that he became alarmed and went to get it insured. The officer of the insurance company was equally wary. Pending the negotiation, the merchant heard that his ship was lost. He wrote to the secretary of the company: "If this last news made out the policy, then need not it, because I have heard from the ship. The secretary raised the lid of his desk, filled up the policy, and handed it to the messenger to take back. One sees the delighted secretary, chuckling and rubbing his hands, thinking what a service he has done to the company, and so he chuckles and rubs till the messenger returns from the merchant with another note saying: "Since the ship had already made out the policy, it is all right. I have heard from the ship, as I told thee—he is lost." Now this contest of wits is, of course, entirely justified by what we all understand to be commercial morality.

I know a trader, not a hundred miles from here, who bought into a company then doing an admirable business—shares at par and business controlled by a majority of shares. He gradually possessed himself of that majority, and one pleasant morning said to his associates: "I am now the master of this business. I will give you eighty dollars a share for what you own. Mark! you are not obliged to accept my terms; but, if you decline, the operations of this company stop today." They were dismayed; but eighty dollars were better than nothing, and so they sold. They gave up their property, precisely as you give your purse on a lonely road to a highwayman, who holds a pistol to your head; because you value your life more than money. The trader is applauded; the highwayman is hung.

For my part, I do not believe "jockeying" is any more respectable in the case of millions than in the value of a horse, or that dishonesty is any more respectable in the counting room than in the stable. In the name of honesty, and humanity I protest against this jockeying in trade. I claim that we may all be just as noble in trade as in any relation of life. Why? Because I believe God made nine tenths of the world traders in the sense I have explained it, but I do not believe that at the same time he instituted that they should be liars. And our political economy is false until it shows that trade in the just sense is a vast reciprocal system of honest demand and supply, corresponding to the laws of the natural world, and that the individual profit which you and I seek from every transaction in trade is to be yielded from those laws as simply and naturally as wind scatters seed, or fish rise with the tide and come into the fisherman's net. The humming bird can build its nest and the squirrel can store his winter's garner as honestly as the sun rises and the water falls. "You may be as sure as you will; I shall not believe that you as a merchant need be less honest than the humming bird or the squirrel."

Now we might in the same way analyze the honesty of other pursuits, and I think we should find the same practical infidelity. We might stop at the lawyer's office, but we will pass him by, remembering what was said by Lord Brougham, that "to have no conscience but his client's interest is the key to the practice of the law."

But we will stop with the clergyman, and the more because his profession is the most respectable and intelligent, and because in this country we have a sort of nervousness about speaking of clergymen, as if they were not precisely the same kind of men as the rest of us.

A friend of mine, who intended to study for the ministry presently, relinquished his plan and went to lay his heart before his worthy pastor. There he poured out his hopes, his fears, his doubts. The old gentleman listened to him with a kind of pitying smile, and, when he had spoken, comforted him by exclaiming:—"Hut-tul! What a pity! What a great pity! Now don't you mind it at all. My dear young man, we all go through that sort of thing. Just begin to study, and you will get into the jog trot of the profession and go round as comfortably as any of us." I do not, of course, make one case stand for all; but the policy of the pulpit is clearly not honesty of thought and speech in the broadest sense, but agreement with the pews. That agreement may be just as nice as that of a man with his wife, but it is agreement, not honesty. I contend, that makes the policy. In this country, and at this time, the pews will not allow the pulpit to preach what they do not want to hear. Let the preacher undertake to do it, and he soon finds that the interests of the church require him to withdraw.

But let us turn to politics. As its name imports, it is the very essence of policy. In the State of New York, we have all long ago learned that when a man is called a politician, it means an honest man. How much money do you suppose was spent in this State during the late election? We all know what it was. Ask any man who spent a thousand dollars what he did for, and he will reply—"Ob! room rent; printing posters; procuring speakers—all kinds of expenses." And there is not a single man, woman or child in this State, who does not know that it was to pay for sundries also. For we may as well own the pluffiest thing—since we all know it—that our political life, with splendid exceptions that shine like the sun and rekindle the fading faith in the hearts of the observers, has become synonymous with leaviness.

In the State of New Jersey, at the recent election, men stood at the polls buying up votes; and in Rhode Island it was said that the tariff for free independent voters was one dollar. I love Rhode Island, and I do not wish to believe it; but I know Rhode Island, and I cannot help believing it. Many voters felt so grossly insulted that their suffrages were thought worth only a dollar, that they

went indignantly and cast them for the opposite party—which, I have no doubt, paid two dollars.

It is universally conceded that our best men generally avoid politics as they would a pestilence, until the word has come to mean something not to be touched without defilement. It is reported that in the late political campaign a congressional candidate, whose success was put in doubt by a rival, offered that rival \$20,000 to withdraw, on condition that he would not mention it until a day or two before the election. The sum was accepted and the secret kept, and the buyer made such use of his own time in betting on the election that he cleared \$75,000 in a single week.

Now I shall not make one case stand for all cases, but you know as well as I whether our elections represent the opinions of the voters or the advantage of the candidates. It is high time that every man should consider how long his country can be safe when its government represents its dollars and not its opinions. Therefore I denounce it as a high crime in any man, anywhere, to stand up coolly and say he does not consider it respectable to mix in politics. If intelligence stays at home and lets ignorance govern, be sure the government will reflect the governor. The general corruption of our politics at this moment is to be found in the indifference, timidity and sloth of the parlors of the land, and in the positive activity of the grog shops.

You will have nothing to do with politics. You will not soil your fingers by touching the foul hands of politicians. You hope that things will somehow settle themselves and come right. In vain did the old carter call on Jove to lift his wheels from the mire; only when he jumped in and put his own shoulder to the wheels and tugged and strained, did he lift his car from the mire and send it on its way. And only when the men of intelligence in this land, everywhere comprising the great mass of American citizens, jump into the mire, knowing that whose is anointed with holy patriotism, him no stain of filth can touch—only then putting our shoulders to the wheel, as by the grace of God we are now doing, shall we lift the wheels from the mire and send the car that bears our hopes, and the hopes of our children's children forever triumphant down the ages, as the sun wheels his superb course thro' the heavens.

So I claim that in all the great departments of our active life, our practice deliberately discredits our dogma that honesty is the best policy. I do not mean to say that we are consciously knaves, but that the spirit of our society, in all its departments, deliberately invites a man to be dishonest, if he would certainly succeed. Public opinion does not require honesty of any man, only conformity. If your honesty happens to conform to the requirement, all right; if not you will find it all wrong. For instance, we may all say what we humbly think of Gaillard, because we are all of one opinion; we all believe that history will write his name by the side of that of Washington. And so you may say what you think of John Brown, if you honestly think him a bloody miscreant and a hoary-headed villain; but if you happen to think him half as good a man as the rest of us you had better not mention it in Wall street, or State street, or in Tremont Temple in Boston.

Do you think, ladies and gentlemen, that I dampen the ardor of youth or injure public morals by saying that honesty is not always the path of policy? So I do if the present selfish advantage of the individual be the true end of life; so I do if the doctrine "the devil take the hindmost," which we now daintily call an enlightened-selfishness, is to be the governing principle. Do you remember who first enunciated that doctrine? It is he who asked the first question in the world: "Am I my brother's keeper?" And against the image of Cain, cowering beneath the eye of his Maker, and symbolically washing his hands of his brother's blood, I oppose the image of Christ on the Cross symbolically bathed in his brother's blood. There you have the only two philosophies of life, for you and I, everywhere and always, in all conceivable circumstances and events—the doctrine of enlightened selfishness and the doctrine of self-renunciation.

If any youth asks me whether honesty will make him a richer man, I cannot answer, nor can anybody else. We can only say that as many knaves are rich as honest men. If he asks whether it will make him a better man, I say that there is nothing else under heaven that can do it. It is the one supreme quality going before all others—the one supreme quality that I have a right to demand of you, and you of me, though we never meet again in the world, simply because we each have an interest in the other as being constituent parts of human society; and while we cannot demand of any man genius and success, we may ask, in the interest of all, that every man shall be honest.

And that leads me to the last question that you may ask me, namely: "Is honesty enough? May not a very honest man be a very dangerous and mistaken man? Did not Marcus Aurelius, for instance, honestly persecute the Christians? Did not Queen Isabella, of Spain, honestly torture men by the inquisition? And did not the Puritans honestly hang the witches at Salem? Ought not a man to be right as well as honest, and can be honestly wrong?"

This seems to me to be an old and bewilderling error, which confounds honesty of thought and speech with honesty of action, which is subject to entirely different conditions and explains half the confusion in the world. When a man thinks and speaks—as I am doing now—he is only personally concerned; but when his thought flows from his brain into his hand, or into the hand of others, then it becomes an act, and of course, he injures other people, and therefore acts at his peril.

There may be the greatest diversity of action. If I do not go to church, you may honestly think I ought to go. All right, we will discuss it. You think I may be honestly made to go. All right, we will discuss that. Still further, you may try to make me go, by sneering at me, denouncing or insulting me, if you choose. All right; I can laugh at you. But the moment you and the neighbors come and try to take me up bodily, and carry me to church, be sure I shall kick you all out of the house if I am able, for my right of action is just as good as yours, or any man's in the world.

Any honest thought in the world may become a devilish institution. I suppose I have

thus Loyola was an honest man, and Queen Isabella an honest woman. She had a perfect right to think inquisition as much as she chose, but when she began to act inquisition, she invaded the rights of other people that were as sacred as hers.

And yet while we resist such acts to the last, we may often enough honor the motives of the actors. Honesty of motive while it does not and cannot change the deed, must always affect our estimate of the actor. Isabella caused ten thousand more to be murdered in cold blood, than did Hicks the pirate; and yet it would be wrong to say that each is equally detestable. How grievously do we forget and confound the motive with the act! Grant that Virginia honestly took the life of John Brown, and in self-defense, too; do you think that said old man was less honest in doing what he believed to be his duty? Grant that the substitution of African for Indian slaves on this continent was a detestable error; do you think Bishop Les Cases a villain for doing it? Nay, since the greatness of every nation must be rooted in the conscience of the individual, therefore, if this or any other nation proposes to be substantially great, it can only be so by cherishing that same honesty of purpose which led Les Cases, mistakenly (as I think) to establish, and John Brown equally mistakenly to attack, the system of African slavery.

While everybody acts at his peril, there should be no peril whatever in the extreme liberty of thought and speech; and the man, in this country or any other, who directly or indirectly strikes at any other man's opinion or word, however unsavory or untrue or unfriendly it may seem to him, that man is the deadliest foe to our prosperity and progress, and when he hits the mouth of a solitary citizen, he strikes at the heart of the commonwealth. For the progress and development of society is dependent upon that of the individual which is itself dependent upon honesty and not rightfulness of thought. To say that a man should be not only honest but right, is to say that he should not go into the water until he can swim.

Honesty is "Jacob's ladder" let down from heaven into the heart of every man, upon which angels of God are ascending and descending. We can only require of each other, as constituent members of society, that we shall be honest; for no man can decide, for any other man, that which is right. And having honesty, then we must take the risk of reaching the right; as when a man is placed in a jungle, and knows that outside there is daylight, it is for him to hack and hew on every side until he reaches daylight; or as a captain nearing an unknown coast, sails up to the topmast the sharpest sighted sailor to detect the shore, he must take the risk of mistaking the cloud for the shore, for if he does make that mistake, the ship goes on the rocks.

In all intelligent human society, the right of honest speech is to the general welfare; what oxygen is to the atmosphere. What then? Shall we tolerate incendiary harangues, and allow the stirring up of sedition? We forget, when we ask this question, that ours is a government of opinion; that there is only one power in it, and that is the people. The government and the people are not enemies. Do you not see that in this land—and herein we are peculiar, what is called license of speech even must be risked; and that the danger of the freest speech is never so great as that of allowing any body or party of men to determine what shall and what shall not be said? Take an extreme case: An orator is persuading a rebel to go and burn a man's house. How much better the system which allows a man openly to urge it because, in so doing, he advertises the man whose house is to be burned, and enables him to prepare to meet and oppose the incendiary. But beyond that, if people think your wrong speaking will lead to wrong doing, they have two courses open to them. Let them resist it by right speaking, and if that will not suffice, let them make ample and thorough preparation to resist the consequences of your speech. But do not do a palpable wrong to oppose a possible wrong.

At this moment the American nation is really a bridge built here and now, across which the lightning train of human progress shall sweep to its grand destiny, and all loyal hearts intend that it shall be no slight trespass to work stuck in a swamp, shaking nervously when a train crosses over it. I see the future of this land unrolled like a June heaven at morning. I see a people prosperous, contented, and happy, because loyal to liberty, regulated by law. I see our children's children's home as our fathers in religious faith built it and gave it to you and I to give over to them—

"Like some tall cliff that rears its awful form,
Swells from the vale and midway leaves the storm;
Though round its base the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

BEHIND THE SOUKS.—A mother observing that the fruit-dish was rather prematurely empty, said to her little daughter, "Why, Lizzy, what has become of all the apples? Have you eaten them?" "No," answered Lizzy, "I haven't eaten one." Now, Lizzy's mother had seen her eating more than one, and she was somewhat shocked at what she thought was Lizzy's falsehood, but Lizzy persisted that she "hadn't eaten one." After a good deal of twisting and turning, it came out that what Lizzy meant was, that there was one apple which she had not eaten, but her little stammering tongue found a difficulty in conveying the idea.

"I don't believe Mrs. Smith is very much of a lady," said one of a new neighbor. "She was talking so loud this morning, that I heard her plainly as I went by the house, till I got clear up to the corner." After Mrs. Smith had been in town awhile, it transpired that her mother, who lived with her, was very deaf, and the loud words were probably addressed to her.

A poor old woman who was never sensitive about her poverty, age, or ailments, used to cause a good deal of mirth in the minds of certain young people, because, though she pretended to be very lame from rheumatism, and seemed to walk with great difficulty, when she first arose, yet, no sooner was she a few rods from the house, and tolerably out of sight than she stepped off as sprightly as need be. The young people have now grown up into rheumatism themselves, and have ascertained from doleful experience that "it is the nature of rheumatism, and not of 'Aunt Harriet,' to be stiff and unwieldy, after long inaction, and gradually to recover suppleness by exercise."

So, if we only had eyes to see, there is something behind everything.

Two inferences may be drawn; one that since we cannot know all the premises, we shall be guiltless, even, if we do arrive at wrong conclusions; the other, that since we do not know all the premises, we should leave large margin for the unknown. Which of the two inferences we act upon will depend on whether our object is to justify ourselves or arrive at truth.—[Congregationalist.]

Hints.

Farmers, spring is upon you. Its demands and duties will crowd upon you thick and fast. Amid the greater demands do not overlook the smaller ones. Least you should, let one of your kind suggest a few hints.

As to your year's stock of wood, if you have not cut and piled that under your woodshed, you may as well let that pass; you can haul one load at a time during the season, and cut it each night and morning, Sundays excepted, for it will be green and chop easy; it does not burn out so fast as seasoned wood; then there is something so interesting about going out to the wood pile and pitching in an hour or so in harvest time, to say nothing about the good humor that such an arrangement keeps the women in.

Those shade trees in front of the house and along the street that have never been set might as well be postponed to some other time; you can get along as well without them as you have done heretofore; they might get broke down, and it would take some trouble to get the elder bushes and other rubbish out of the fence corners.

Those old dead apple-trees that you were going to reset with thrifty grafted ones, and the fixing up the orchard fence to keep the cattle and sheep out, might be left to some other time, or when all the old trees are dead, so that you could set the whole orchard at once.

As to fixing up fences, it is a bad time to do it in the spring, farmers are so busy; then the cattle have got such a notion of jumping the fences that they will jump them anyhow. "Old Bosq" is a better remedy than high fences; it is far easier to say "sic," "take 'em;" lug 'em; than to always be laying up rails and nailing on boards.

If your gates have settled so as to require the strength of a man to tug them around, all the better; they will not be opened only when necessary, and then only by men who will not forget to shut them; the wind never blows open such gates, neither do boys injure them by swinging on them.

If your smaller gates have a hinge or the fastening off never mind; you can do that some odd spell; if the hogs get into the garden and eat up the early peas and vegetables, or the old sow gets among the sheep and eats up a half dozen lambs, take a club, call the dog, and settle the account at once; it will give you more real satisfaction than the fixing a half dozen gates could.

If any boards have got off from the barn, never mind such trifles; it must be a poor barn that cannot stand having a half-dozen boards off. If you run for every such trifle, what will become of your leisure moments?

If the banks of your ditches, by freezing and thawing, have slid in and filled them, you had better not clean them out, for they will surely fill up again, sooner or later.

A very convenient place for old and new implements, such as wagons, sleds, sleds, plows, harrows, scrapers, rollers, and old bits of boards, timber, plank, refuse brick, cobble stone, apple-tree brush, etc., is along the street in front of the house. How can a man afford to shelter such things? Why it would require nearly a half-acre roofed over.

The place for whiff trees, chains, clevises, axes and hoes, is to drop them where last used. Many a farmer knows better than to make a fool of himself running to carry such things to some hiding place for shelter. Mowing-machines, horse-rakes, cradles and scythes, should always be left in the field where last used; for ten chances to one if they do not require to be used in that very place the next time.

Plow shallow—plant and sow late.

Your manure should be piled against the sides of your barns and stables to preserve them from rotting. If the heaps get so large as to be troublesome, move your buildings, or do as another man did—make a bee, and haul and scrape the manure into the river.

Take no agricultural papers, unless you want to be humbugged with "book farming." They have come to be filled with all manner of stuff, such as short horned bulls, shagbark chickens, china geese, gaunt gotted horses, deep plowing, compost heaps, made of boggy deep leaves and dung, ashes, lime, hair, rinds and hen roost scrapings, all mixed pell mell, and soaked with guano, poudrette, and nobody knows what. And then they are brimful of under-draining, tile-draining, and machines for digging potatoes, catching rats, and sucking cows; telling how to make flip-jacks, nice cake, roasting turkeys, and stuffing chickens. Strange pass, surely; but my space is up.

SLEEP-KILLING DOGS.—Many remedies have been prescribed to prevent dogs killing sheep—such as bells on some of the flock; chaining a block to the dog's neck; cutting their tails off just back of the ears, etc. The latter, no doubt, will always prove effectual when practiced; but since this remedy does not command general favor, we will venture to prescribe another, which we believe will answer every purpose. It is simply fastening a small bell upon the dog's neck. "Mordant" choose to do their bloody work in silence. The dog, with a bell on his neck, appears to know that the perpetual tinkle, tinkle, which always accompanies him, would betray him, and consequently stays at home.

[Corr. Genesee Farmer.]

WRITING INKS.—The following recipes for making good black inks are taken from the London Chemical News. The first is an ink much used in France, and said to be one of the best in use.—1st. Aleppo galls, in coarse powder, 8 ounces; logwood chips, 4 do.; sulphate of iron, 4 do.; powdered gum arabic, 5 do.; sulphate of copper, 1 do.; crystallized sugar, 1 do. Boil the galls and logwood together in 12 lbs. of water for an hour, or until the water has evaporated; strain the decoction through a hair sieve, and add the other ingredients; stir until the whole, especially the gum, be dissolved, and then leave at rest for 24 hours, when the ink is to be poured off into glass bottles and carefully corked. 2d.

Tricarbonate in a mortar 36 grains of gallic acid with 31 ounces of strong decoction of logwood; put it into an 8 ounce bottle, together with 1 ounce of strong ammonia. Next dissolve 1 ounce of sulphate of iron in half an ounce of distilled water by the aid of heat; mix the solutions together by a few minutes' agitation, when a good ink will be formed, perfectly clear, which will keep good any length of time with out depositing, thickening or growing moldy, which latter quality is a great desideratum, as ink undergoing that change becomes worthless. It will not do to mix with ordinary ink, nor must grey paper be used for writing on with it.

DR. HALL ON SLEEP.—The subjoined moreau is from the pen of Dr. W. W. Hall, editor of Hall's Journal of Health.

One of the very worst economies of time is that which is flung from necessary sleep. The wholesale but blind commendation of early rising is as mischievous in practice as it is an error in theory. Early rising is a crime against the noblest part of our physical nature, unless it is preceded by an early retiring. Multitudes of business men in large cities count it a saving of time if they can make a journey of a hundred or two of miles at night by steamboat or railway. It is a ruinous mistake. It never fails to be followed by a want of general well-being for several days after, if, indeed, the man does not return home actually sick, or so near it as to be unfit for a full attention to his business for a week afterward. When a man leaves home on business, it is always important that he should have his wife about him; that the mind should be fresh and vigorous, the spirit lively, buoyant, and cheerful. No man can say that it is thus with him after a night on a railroad or on the shelf of a steamboat. The first recipe for sound, connected, and refreshing sleep is physical exercise. 'Tis the price of sleep. We caution parents particularly not to allow their children to be waked up of mornings. Let nature wake them up; she will not do it prematurely; but have a care that they go to bed at an early hour; let it be earlier and earlier, until it is found that they wake up of themselves in full time to dress for breakfast. Being waked up early and allowed to engage in difficult or any studies late and just before retiring, has given many a beautiful and promising child brain fever, or determined ordinary ailments to the production of water on the brain."

A PRACTICAL SERMON.—At Kinghorn ferry, Scotland, it was the practice of the boat men, whose turn it was to sail, to call the loungers and passengers from their potatoes and lurking places by bawling from end to end of the town. "The boat, ah! to Leith, ah!" Mr. Sharra was preaching in the Burgher tent at Kinghorn on a Fast day; and observing that Mr. Gallaway, with some boatmen and passengers, in the boat of passing down to Pettycur, he stopped short in his discourse, and addressed them with an energy peculiar to himself, "Boatmen, ah!" The boatmen and attendants stopped. "Downmen, you cry, 'the boat, ah! to Leith, ah!' You sail aneath Christ! We have Christ for our skipper, the Holy Ghost for our pilot, an' God himself at the helm! Your boat, let me tell ye, is but a bit o' deal frae Norway; the best o' our boat was laid in Bethlehem, built in Judea, rigged in Jerusalem, launched on Mount Calvary, we have the Cross o' Christ for a helm, a Cedar of Lebanon for a mast, an' the redemption o' mankind, for a freight. Your voyage, under your earthly skipper, short as it is, may end in shipwreck and disaster; but our voyage, long as it may be, wi' Christ for our skipper, will end in everlasting joy and glory unspeakable! Ship awa, noo, for time an' tide will one man bid; but mind what I've said 'ye—dinnae swear nor tak' the holy name o' God in vain, as ye woom to do, an' I'll pray for ye."

PRaise AND BLAME.—Who was praised for the successful trips made by the Baron Rutenfrew over the different railroads in our country? The conductor.

Who deserved the praise? The engineer. Who was applauded by the newspaper reporters when President Lincoln traveled from Springfield to New York? The conductor.

Who should have been? The engineer. Who had all the credit of the safe transportation of the Seventh Regiment, when they visited Richmond? The conductor.

Who should have had it? The engineer. Who is often the most to blame, inasmuch as he started the train out of time? The conductor.

Who is invariably censured if his engine breaks down? The engineer.

Who is sometimes the true culprit? The mechanic who built it.

Who is sure to be blamed by the reporters, and never praised? The engineer.

[American Engineer.]

NEW THEORY OF GOVERNMENT.—The secessionists have invented a new theory of government to justify their usurpation of power. Dr. Bow's Review, their literary organ says:—

"All government begins with usurpation, and is continued by force. Nature puts the ruling elements uppermost, and the masses below are subject to those elements. Less than this is not a government. The right to govern resides with a very small majority; and the duty to obey is inherent in the great mass of mankind. It is, of course, in accordance with this theory of the right of the minority to govern that the great majority of the nation are called upon to adopt the extreme Southern platform on the subject of slavery."

QUIET.—My youngest boy came to me in a great rage once, said Mr. Lincoln in one of those speeches which particularly shocked our democratic contemporaries, and complained that his big brother had his knife, and would not give it up. I found on inquiry that he had sold the knife to his big brother, getting a fair equivalent in candy; having eaten which he now insisted on having the knife returned. The little fellow hung on and insisted on my interference. Bob sat still with the knife in his pocket. At last getting impatient at the row, I said, "O! Bob, give him the knife. He needs it to make him quiet."

"Yes," replied Bob, "but I need it more, father, to keep me quiet."

play into the hands of the Southern traitors by this plan. Give them what they want, and then they will be quiet; say these gentlemen. Don't disturb them—only let them have their will—just give them what they want, even if it is not right or constitutional—what does it matter? they need it to make them quiet."

But the loyal Union men North and South need something to keep them quiet, too, and they need it more than the traitors.

[N. Y. Evening Post.]

HOW TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF FRUIT.—Prof. Dubreuil, in an article in the Journal de l'Academie d'Horticulture de Gand, points out some of the principal operations whereby the size of fruits may be increased:

1. Grafting the trees on a weak species of stock—for instance, the pear on the quince. 2. Pruning so as to deprive the tree of a certain portion of its shoots. By this means, the sap which would have been absorbed by the parts cut off, goes to increase the size of the fruit. Summer pruning, which has for its object the removal of a large number of shoots by disbudbing and pinching, has the same effect. 3. Let the bearing shoots be as short as possible, and in immediate connection with the main branches. Fruit growing on the stem is always larger than that situated at the extremities of long, slender branches. 4. Thinning out the fruits when too numerous.

5. Shortening the principal branches, at the winter pruning; and checking, in the summer, the vigorous shoots. 6. Supporting the fruits so that their weight may not become a strain upon the footstalk. 7. Moderating the amount of evaporation from the fruit. Fruits covered by leaves are larger than those on the same tree not shaded. It is necessary, however, in order that shading may not affect the quality of the fruit, to expose it when full grown to the direct action of the sun. To diminish evaporation must be attributed the considerable increase of size which always takes place in fruit introduced into bottles soon after it is set. The mouth of the bottle being closed after the portion of the branch with the young fruit is introduced, the latter is secluded from the dry action of the air, and is constantly surrounded with a moist warm atmosphere, which keeps the epidermis pliable, and stimulates the growth of the tissues.

8. Moistening the fruit with a solution of sulphate of iron (copperas). One of Prof. Dr. Pupils, by moistening an Easter Pear, from the time it was fairly set, once a fortnight, obtained a fruit so large that it could scarcely be recognized. 9. Ringing the shoot or branch immediately below the flowers. This should be done when the flowers are opening; the longer it is delayed after this period, the less is the effect produced. The incision should penetrate to the wood; and the ring of bark removed should have a width equal to half the diameter of the shoot. The width, however, should not exceed one-fifth of an inch, otherwise the wood will not close up.

10. Inserting on vigorous trees fruit buds, with a portion of wood attached. A tree which in consequence of excessive vigor has never produced blossom buds, may, by this means be made to produce fruit of large size, from the abundant supply of sap which the inserted blossom buds will receive. But it will be necessary to pinch the shoots of the tree in summer, which would otherwise absorb the larger portion of sap, to the injury of the fruit.

A SHREWD FARMER.—The other day, says the *Age Advertiser*, in a not unknown part of Carri-c, an exhibition of meal took place, and two prizes were promised to the first and second best samples. When the time for exhibiting arrived, there was only one sample of meal forwarded. But the owner of this solitary lot did not relish it being taken away as it came, without gaining any deed of "praise or pudding." So with canny caution, he thought he do but divide his sample of meal into two portions, and getting a neighboring farmer to exhibit the other half, he obtained from the judges the first prize for the one portion, and the second for the other.

POOR COLORED PEOPLE.—Notwithstanding all the harsh words so easily spoken about the improvident character of the poor colored man, says the *N. Y. Courier*, though he is shod, and shod by every coward, rich or poor, and then denounced for not possessing all the virtues—in all this State the number of colored paupers, as reported by the Secretary of State, is but 137! while the whole number of white paupers exceeds 200,000.

THE KEROSENE QUESTION.—Presuming that everybody is interested in determining the nature of the illuminating oils, now used in almost every family in the country, we copy further, in relation to the matter, from a recent communication of Dr. Hayes to the Boston Journal:—

"Kerosene" is a term applied by the earlier manufacturers to coal oil purified in a special manner, and as a trade name. But by the public generally this term is applied to all oils made from coal and petroleum.

The purified oils—when properly manufactured—obtain from different kinds of coal, or from petroleum, (native oil of the oil springs.) has nearly the same constant characters in its finished state. Its character of non-explosiveness, its value for illuminating purposes, and entire safety in use ordinarily, depend entirely on the skill of the manufacturer, his knowledge, and moral sense in his business transactions.

By the processes of the manufacture, the standard oils are deprived of their more volatile and inflammable parts; they have high boiling points, and in the character of fixity, approach to sperm and other oils, known as "fixed oils." Like lard and similar oils, they do not emit volatile explosive vapors at common temperatures, and they will extinguish small flames, when these are forced into them, being thus distinguished from kerosene oils.

Only after they have been heated to the point at which their vapors rise freely in the air, will flame communicate with them and continue to burn. This burning of the vapor is a simple inflammation not attended by explosion; nor can explosion be produced with the vapor, excepting when we mix a little vapor with a large volume of air and heat the mixture. Hence, practically, the standard oils from the different sources named, may be considered safe as fuel for lamps used under all ordinary exposures, and no accident has been traced to the consumption of such oil, notwithstanding the very great extension of its application at present, in this way.

The accident which occurred at Wallham has been the subject of public comment, and has excited fears in relation to the safety of coal oils in use.

A sample of the oil which caused the burning at Wallham, taken with the precautions necessary to a legal inquiry, has been placed in my hands. Analysis at once demonstrated that it was not Kerosene or standard oil, but

a mixture which was readily inflammable at 70 deg. F., emitting copious vapors, and composed in large part of spirits of turpentine. This accident, therefore, was doubtless the result of the sale of a falsified oil, and the affliction and loss which followed its inflammation, are chargeable to the fraudulent practice of mixing substances of unlike values which is becoming every day more common, and which renders the procuring of pure articles difficult.

The consumers of the standard oils obtained from coal and oil springs should be assured that their supplies were purchased from well known, reliable manufacturers, and all mixtures of light spirits with alcohol, kerosene and turpentine, under the numerous fancy names now so common, should be rejected without hesitation. Any one may apply a simple test of inflammability by allowing two spoonfuls of the oil contained in a tea-cup warmed to 75 deg. or 80 deg., to be brought in contact with the flame of a lamp lighter. No danger attends the trial, and if the vapor or the oil will inflame, great risk will be incurred in consuming it.

True, explosions occur with the vapors of burning fluid, the light naphtha of oil-spring oils and their mixtures; the use of which, since pure coal oils have been introduced, is no longer economical, and has always been attended by wanton sacrifice and exposure of human life.

The Eastern Mail.

EPH. MAXHAM, J. DANIEL WING, EDITORS.

WATERVILLE, APR. 18, 1861.

AGENTS FOR THE MAIL.

S. M. PATTENGILL & CO., Newspaper Agents, No. 10 State Street, Boston, and 110 Nassau Street, New York, are Agents for the Eastern Mail, and are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, at the same rates as required at this office.

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ALL LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Relating either to the business or editorial department of this paper, should be addressed to "MAXHAM & WING," or "EASTERN MAIL OFFICE."

The War Commenced.

Fort Sumter taken—the Capital threatened—the North rallying 75,000 men to be raised—general preparations for war!

On Saturday last telegraphic dispatches received here, and issued in extras from this office, announced that a vigorous attack had been commenced upon Fort Sumter by the Confederates in the Southern States. Hour after hour the details of the firing on both sides continued to arrive, till at 9 o'clock in the evening it was known that Fort Sumter was in the hands of the enemy! Of these details we give but a brief summary.

The fire of the Confederates commenced on Friday morning—the demand having been previously made upon Maj. Anderson to evacuate the fort. It was kept up, at intervals of 20 minutes, during the night. At 6 in the evening Maj. Anderson ceased to return the fire and was engaged during the night in repairing damages. At 7 o'clock Saturday morning, he again commenced returning the fire, and his shots told well upon the fortifications of the enemy. The federal fleet was in sight outside, but the weather made it impossible for them to come to his aid.

Several explosions of Anderson's ammunition gave him great distress, and embarrassed the working of his guns. The roofs of the barracks was set on fire, and the little force of the fort was almost exclusively required to contend with the flames. About noon on Saturday, all hope of aid from the fleet being gone, Maj. Anderson lowered the Stars and Stripes and displayed a white flag! At one o'clock an unconditional surrender was made. Up to this time not a man had been killed on either side, though four or five were reported wounded. In marching out of the fort an explosion of shells killed two men and wounded several others. This is the extent of the loss of life by this important but very singular battle.

The Boston Journal has the following description from an eye-witness:

Standing on the Charleston battery and looking seaward, you have on the right a mortar battery and Fort Johnson, distant 2½ miles. Half a mile from Fort Johnson is the iron battery at Cummings Point, mounting three ten inch columbads, three sixty-four pounders, three mortars, and one rifle cannon. Cummings Point is only 1500 yards from Fort Sumter, and so any one can imagine what havoc the regular fire of the battery there must have created. The men working the guns made them terribly effective. The sand-reboubt was scarcely injured by the weak fire Maj. Anderson kept up on the battery. It was commanded by Major Stevens of the Citadel Cadets. Under his direction, each shell that was fired found a destination within Fort Sumter, and during the entire bombardment scarcely one missile of this character missed its mark.

On the other side of the harbor, directly opposite Fort Sumter, is one of the strongest sides of Fort Moultrie. During the last three months it has been strengthened by every appliance that military art could suggest. Its masonry, moats, glacis and embrasures are perfectly protected. The weak walls of the fort were made perfectly secure for the gunners while at work. From this point throughout the engagement vast numbers of shot and heavy balls were discharged. Behind this and near Sullivan's Island, the floating battery was stationed, with two sixty-four and two forty-two pounders. Its sides of iron and palmated logs were impenetrable. Every shot from it told on Fort Sumter, and the men in charge of it were so secure in their position that some of them indulged in soldier's pastimes, while others played five cent ante, euchre and bluff.

The mortar battery at Mount Pleasant was 500 yards from the floating battery, and was mounted with two mortars within excellent range of Fort Sumter. The shells from these mortars were thrown with great precision.

All through Friday morning the greatest activity at all points was displayed. Three times Maj. Anderson's barracks were set on fire, and twice he succeeded in putting out the flames, and to do this it was necessary to employ all his force passing along water. To get water, it was necessary for some of his men to go outside of the walls and hand the buckets in through portholes, during all which time they were exposed to a most terrific fire from the various batteries. This last expedition was not reported to until the fort was on fire for the

third time, and the flames had increased to an alarming pitch. Meantime Maj. Anderson's guns were silent. He allowed his men to be exposed to the galling fire upon them but for a few moments, and then ordered them in and shut the batteries, as the smoke was too thick to work them. At noon the flames burst from every quarter of Fort Sumter, and the destruction of it was complete.

Thus the war is begun, and the authors of the treason have struck the first blow. In spite of all the conciliatory measures of the government, the torch of civil war is lighted, and both parties are rallying for the contest. An attack upon Washington is threatened and expected, and the whole North are rallying for its defence. The President has issued his proclamation, calling upon the several States for an aggregate of 75,000 men for the defence of the government, and the most hearty and encouraging responses are coming in from the free States in all directions. The enthusiasm with which all parties unite is beyond all expectation, and warrants the belief that the war will be prosecuted with all the vigor the government can command.

AT WATERVILLE!—Smaller places than Waterville are sending over the wires evidence of their loyalty to the country. Here and there the stars and stripes are thrown to the breeze, to declare that no lurking treason skulks among the free and true men of the Dirigo State. On Sunday morning—a good day for a good deed—the national flag was spread from the highest point in our village, the flag-staff of Three Engine Co.; and we have yet to learn that there lives in our town or vicinity a man so mean that he will not "do it reverently." All the old out-and-out democrats, men who never dreamed of anything but of opposition to the republicans, come up shoulder to shoulder, with pledges to stand by "the Union and the Constitution" so long as Uncle Sam has a shirt to his back! Nobody thinks of turning his back upon a government that has always been thought the best on the face of the earth; and sooner than be charged with such heartlessness, let all party creeds be blown to the four winds. Let it be known to all the world who are the men who stand by the Union at the last pinch. History will make her mark of these things, as she did of the scenes of Bunker Hill; and we shall have a new catalogue of "torians" in the names of the men who in this second war of revolution are false to their country. In this catalogue old Kennebec wants no place—not a line!

STRANGE!—It will hardly be credited, that at a time like this, when the great scheme of traitors threatens ruin to a government that has been the admiration of the world, there should be heard a single voice in the whole North grating the harsh discord of treason. The Bangor Democrat seems destined to the loathsome immortality of doing voluntarily, and for nothing, the work for which Benedict Arnold demanded ten thousand pounds. Loud and strong, in the full lungs of treason and falsehood, that paper is calling upon the few followers it yet claims, to throw their whole strength in with the South, and do all they can to weaken and defraud the government. "When the government at Washington calls for volunteers," says that paper, "let every democrat fold his arms, and bid the minions of a tory despotism do a tory despot's work!" No matter how much of such exhortation he utters to the democrats of Maine. They may have been deceived by false leaders, but they will never go the length of open treason to their country. When that country is in danger, party bitterness will be cast aside till her safety is certain—to be resumed again, if must be, when we have a whole country to contend for.

At present it may be to the credit of the people of Bangor that they suffer this organ of treason to utter its abuse. It is said that respect for the owners of the building, who have displayed a splendid American banner from their attic, alone protects the office from the tender mercies of a mob.

IS IT SO?—A writer in the Boston Traveller, in discussing the question what sect of Christians shall have control of the divinity school at Harvard College, says—"Three-fourths of all the Christians in the world are Roman Catholics, and they are increasing very rapidly in this country, and particularly in New England." If this be true, who should wonder at an effort to transfer a moiety of the dying "temporal power" of the pope to our shores, just at this time, to be hawked at by the scheming politicians who are now busy in working mischief to our country! Catholicism increasing in New England!—does anybody believe it?

ADVENTISTS IN BOSTON.—Boston papers represent the meetings of the Second Adventists in that city to be rapidly growing in interest. Their peculiar belief is freely discussed—that the long-predicted reign of Christ on earth is about to commence. They believe the present warlike preparations going on among the kingdoms of the earth, the developments of Spiritualism, the falling away among professors of religion, the distress of nations, and many other events transpiring in this age are fulfillments of the prophecies relative to the near approach of the next dispensation—the thousand years reign of Christ on the earth.

FOREIGN.—Warlike indications are increasing in Europe, and it is quite probable that hostilities may be recommenced between Austria and Italy at an early day. It is said that Garibaldi has requested his officers to assemble within fourteen days. The people of Poland are still uneasy—the concessions of the Czar not having proved satisfactory—and the concentration of the military in that quarter continues. The Emperor of Austria rejected the democratic programme of the Hungarian leaders, who demand absolute separation of the Hungarian administration from that of Austria, but he abides by reforms already granted.

OUR TABLE.

GODLEY'S LADY BOOK for May, is a rare combination of the entertaining and the useful. Another double exposure of fashion plate appears, with a superb steel picture, and wood engravings more than we care to enumerate. The usual amount of good reading, too,—stories, essays, art recreations, knock-knocks, novelties, &c., &c. Published by L. A. Godey, Philadelphia, at \$3 a year.

PETERSON'S MAGAZINE.—Heart Confessions' is the title of the steel engraving in the May number, which also contains a beautifully colored fashion plate, and numerous engravings of patterns and designs of what ever is novel, pretty and useful in the fashionable world, at present. The stories are good, of course; they always are in 'Peterson's.' Published by Chas. J. Peterson, Philadelphia, at \$2 a year.

That Horse's Foot.

I think from Mr. Wyman's description, that his horse has accidentally torn the hoof from the laminae, or sensible part within. Such cases are not uncommon, and if carefully treated will be restored. I recommend the following treatment. If the foot is inflamed, apply a poultice composed of three parts of linseed meal and one part of powdered charcoal. After the inflammatory symptoms disappear, apply a lotion composed of two parts tincture of aloes and one part tincture myrrh.

H. P. COVINGS.

Mr. Wyman writes us, that finding the foot of his horse inflamed, he cut through the hoof at the toe, when about a glass of watery fluid was discharged. The condition of the foot has since been improving. He says there are two other horses in that vicinity apparently suffering from the same cause.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO THE VIRGINIA COMMISSIONERS.—The following is the reply of Mr. Lincoln to the Virginia Commissioners:

To Messrs. Freston, Stuart and Randolph.—Gentlemen:—As a Committee of the Virginia Convention, now in session, you present me a preamble and resolution, as follows: "Whereas, in the opinion of this Convention, the uncertainty which prevails in the public mind as to the policy which the Federal Executive intends to pursue toward the seceded States is extremely injurious to the industrial and commercial interests of the country, tends to keep up an excitement which is unfavorable to the adjustment of the pending difficulties, and threatens a disturbance of the public peace; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three delegates be appointed to wait on the President of the United States, present to him this preamble, and respectfully ask him to communicate to this Convention the policy which the Federal Executive intends to pursue in regard to the Confederate States."

In answer I have to say that having, at the beginning of my official term, expressed my intended policy as plainly as I was able, it is with deep regret and mortification I now learn there is a great and injurious uncertainty in the public mind as to what that policy is, and what course I intend to pursue.

Not having as yet occasion to change, it is my purpose to pursue the course marked out in the inaugural address. I commend a careful consideration of the whole document as the best expression I can give to my purposes. As I then and therein said, I now repeat, the power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess property and places belonging to the Government, and to collect the duties on imports, but beyond what is necessary for these objects there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere.

By the words property and places belonging to the Government, I chiefly allude to the military posts and property which were in possession of the Government when it came into my hands, but if, as now appears to be true, in pursuit of a purpose to drive the United States authorities from their places, an unprovoked assault has been made upon Fort Sumter, I shall hold myself at liberty to possess it, if I can, like places which had been seized before the government was devolved upon me, and in any event I shall to the best of my ability repel force by force.

In case it proves true that Fort Sumter has been assaulted, as is reported, I shall perhaps cause the United States mails to be withdrawn from all the States which claim to have seceded, believing that actual war against the Government justifies and possibly demands it.

I scarcely need say that I consider the military posts and property situated within the States which claim to have seceded as yet belonging to the United States Government, as much as they did before the supposed secession. Whatever else I may do for the purpose, I shall not attempt to collect the duties and revenues by any armed invasion of any part of the country, not meaning by this, however, that I may not land a force deemed necessary to relieve a fort upon the border of the country. From the fact that I have quoted a part of the inaugural address, it must not be inferred that I repudiate any other part—the whole of which I reaffirm, except so far as what I now say of the mails may be regarded as a modification.

VIRGINIA.—At the latest dates the convention was in secret session. It was the current belief that the ordinance of secession had passed. We can hardly doubt that Virginia will at once join the secessionists, or take direct steps toward that position. Her leading fire-eaters are no doubt intensely excited. Her vacillating course and uncertain position were doubtless intended to embarrass the North, and when she finds her power in this respect is broken, her extreme wrath will make her an easy prey to secession.

SYMPATHY WITH THE SOUTH.—There can be no doubt that the leaders of the Southern Confederacy have been led into a great and fatal error in counting upon the aid and sympathy of the Northern democracy. They have deceived themselves in concluding that those who would not go with the republicans as a party would desert their country in the hour of her greatest need. Most nobly are this class of men coming forward to meet the emergency.

First and most prominent is Mr. Douglas, who frankly tells the president that he lays aside, for the time being, all party questions, and give all his strength to aid him in the defence of the country from threatened ruin. Mr. Buchanan gives the same assurances, and in all earnestness. Gov. Sprague of Rhode Island, the only democratic governor in New England, is behind no other in the pledges he

makes of the most zealous aid in defending the government; offering if need be to go with his forces himself. Gen. Butler, of Massachusetts, who was a member of the Charleston Convention, and went over to the South with the Breckinridge wing, tenders to the government his own services and those of the brigade he commands. Col. Smart of Maine says "the government must be sustained if it costs a million of lives." The Boston Post and Herald, leading democratic papers, step squarely into the government harness; and the Irish Pictorial, the organ of the Irish in Boston, takes the same position. Everywhere, with exceptions not worthy to be mentioned, the strong backbone of democratic patriotism stands as it stood at Bunker Hill, upright and firm.

THE BANNER ON THE OUTER WALL.—The Stars and Stripes wave over Waterville College, by unanimous consent, from President to Freshman; and the students are awake to the patriotic sentiments that animate everybody. They called out from his lodgings, last evening, Hon. Lot M. Morrill, who happened to be here, and were addressed in that gentleman's usual eloquent style. The storm prevented a large audience.

THE SOMERSET FARMER.—Bro. Patten, of Skowhegan, has changed the name of his paper from Somerset Telegraph to that given above, and presents a well filled and handsome looking sheet. He has always devoted a liberal share of his paper to agricultural reading, and the new name is well chosen.

Mrs. James's Concert, announced for last evening, we are sorry to learn has been indefinitely postponed.

Gov. Washburn has issued his proclamation convening the legislature of Maine on Monday next. In reply to the requisition for troops, Governor Washburn's answer was, "Maine will respond promptly to your call. The people of this State of all parties will rally with alacrity for the maintenance of the government and the defense of the flag."

The report that Gen. Scott threatened to resign is flatly contradicted—probably originated South.

The following are the regimental requisitions on the different States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, one each.

Massachusetts and Tennessee, two each; Ohio, three; New Jersey, Kentucky and Missouri, four each; Indiana and Illinois, six each; Pennsylvania, sixteen; New York, seventeen.

The bill in the New York Legislature appropriating \$3,000,000, and raising 30,000 men at once for three years' service, has passed and been signed by Gov. Morgan.

A private letter from Gov. Curtin states that Pennsylvania can have 100,000 men in Washington in forty-eight hours, if required. The Governors of Kentucky and North Carolina refuse their quota of troops. Virginia and Missouri will probably do the same. From Maryland all reports look well—she will stand by the Union. One thousand volunteers from Baltimore have tendered their services to the Government in Maryland's quota.

Mr. Toombs has received a dispatch from Messrs. Breckinridge and Magoffin of Kentucky, stating that the people are greatly excited and sympathizing with the people of South Carolina.

Seven thousand men of the border States are under arms and ready at a moment's order from the War Department at Montgomery.

At Washington information from what is deemed reliable sources was received, to the effect that the secessionists of Delaware, whose headquarters are reported to be in Virginia, were about to make a sudden attack upon Fort Delaware, opposite Delaware City, for which they were preparing last month. Immediate steps have been taken by the Secretary of War to prevent the consummation of the plot.

The Legislatures of Vermont and Rhode Island are forthwith to convene in extra sessions.

The Secretary of War says tenders of money enough have been made to carry on a raging war for two years.

The second regiment, Irish, a thousand strong, have tendered themselves to the government from Philadelphia.

MAIL AGENTS IN MAINE.—The Portland Argus announces the following:

"Mr. Alvin Kimball of Auburn, has been appointed Mail Agent on the route from Portland to Bangor, over Grand Trunk, A. & K. and P. & K. Railroads, in place of Mr. George F. Mellen. Mr. Webb of Waterville, has been appointed on the same route, in place of Mr. W. J. McDonald."

Mr. A. P. James of Bethel, is appointed on the route from Portland to Island Pond, over G. T. Railroad, in place of Mr. George Gibson.

Mr. Andrew Jack of Gardiner, and Mr. Kennison of Palmyra, have been appointed on the route from this city to Skowhegan, over the K. & P. and S. & P. Railroads, in place of Mr. Daniel C. Church and Mr. Bernard Emond.

Mr. Hoyt of Wilton, is appointed on the route from Leeds Junction to Farmington, over the Androscoggin Railroad, in place of A. B. Caswell."

WINTER FLOWERS.—Flowers, birds, music, painting, pets,—how they mark the characteristics of a household. Genius, kindness, affection, taste, refinement,—it will be strange if they are not found under the same roof, though sometimes smothered by untoward circumstances. Where the flowers smile from the windows and the birds sing in their cages, there is no frown upon the snowdrifts and no discord in the storm. By the winter fireside all flowers have the language of love; and the hearts that cherish them are gradually tuned in harmony with them. Commend us to the birds and the flowers, and to the household that loves them. (A pretty bouquet of fresh and sweet winter flowers suggested these thoughts.)

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Whereas, the laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by a combination too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in Marshals by the law, now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws have thought fit to call forth and hereby do call forth the militia of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress said combinations and to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details of this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate and aid this effort to maintain the honor, integrity and the existence of our national Union and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress the wrongs already long enough endured. I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places and property which have been seized from the Union, and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction or of interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country. I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o'clock noon, Thursday, the fourth day of July next, and there to consider and determine such measures as in their wisdom the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord 1861, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
By the President,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Sec. of State.

FROM WASHINGTON.—We take the following from the correspondence of the N. Y. Times:

Mr. Seward and the President have consulted frequently with the foreign diplomats here concerning the present condition of our national affairs, and the course of their governments. On the part of the representatives of England and France, it is well understood that there is no sympathy whatever for the South. Lord Lyons says that he sees no benefit to be derived by the English government or any foreign power from the supremacy of its people; that there is, of course, no prospect of foreign supremacy on this continent in any event; while England and the United States have become so strongly united in mutual interests, that misfortune to one is disaster to the other in all points of material interest. The Southern Commissioners had reason to discover these facts while in Washington, and have probably given Davis and his compatriots some new ideas not at all flattering to their vanity and visions of ultimate success.

Gen. Sumner has gone to take charge of the Pacific division, thus superseding Gen. Johnston, who has been some time in command, and who is a kinsman of Mr. Floyd. Unpleasant reports have reached here of late of a probable defection of the army there, and of correspondence carried on between high officers and Jefferson Davis. These facts, and others which may not be referred to, induced the change. Gen. Sumner is a proved man, and will meet all the responsibilities of his position.

A CHARMING PROSPECT.—MR. BRECKINRIDGE.—Mr. Breckinridge made a speech a week ago at Frankfort, before the Kentucky Legislature, in which he advocated a border slave State Convention, and the presentation to the North, as an ultimatum, of the Crittenden proposition, "not emancipated," but to apply to all future acquired territory. Mr. Breckinridge did not intimate, however, that he should advise Kentucky to remain in the Union, if this ultimatum should be accepted, small as the chance of its acceptance is. Quite the contrary. Whether this remarkably modest ultimatum is accepted or rejected, Mr. Breckinridge is still for secession, "unless the cotton States can be brought back into the fold." At all events, according to this Democratic candidate for the Presidency, the South will keep together, and if the Gulf States will not return, the border States must go out with them. This is really the view of all the secessionists in the border States, and it is merely by way of blind, that they propose compromises and conferences. A dozen Crittenden platforms would leave them just as dissatisfied with the Union as they are now, unless the Gulf States can be brought back by such platforms, as notoriously they cannot be. National Era.

ALGERINE COTTON.—The Paris Constitutionnel, ministerial Journal, closes a long article on the cotton question and the American crisis—an article in which the capabilities of Algiers and other sections of Africa for the culture of cotton are pointed out—with the following striking commentary:

"What a singular turn of human affairs! It is the culture of cotton which has injected into the veins of American society the hideous sore of slavery, by which it is now convulsed and threatened, with dismemberment. It may be that it is reserved for our young and free colony of Africa to furnish the world with this great cotton product, without any sacrifice of the dignity of labor or the dignity of man."

Advices from St. Domingo state that the surrender of the Republic to Spain took the people by surprise, and it is hinted that there will be bloody retribution. The English and French Consuls protested and struck their flag. Up to the 22d, our representative had made no move.

COUNTERFEITS.—Counterfeit 2's and 5's on the State Bank, Augusta, Me., have recently been put in circulation. Two's altered, by boy with palette and boy with globe; playing over silver dollars; 2 in each corner, horses drawing hay on right, female in oval on left. 5's spurious—viz. a square in centre enclosing a boy, a girl and dog, farm scene in the background, 5 each side of fig., milk maid on rock on right, female bust on left.

TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS.

Dispatch from Col. Waite commander of the Texas force states that a strong Union feeling is growing there. Gen. Houston predicts the return of the secessionists to allegiance; they are terribly taxed. Gov. Houston has been offered armed support by the Germans in every part of the State, but refused to accept it.

New York, 18.

The Herald's special dispatch from Charleston, says that Major Anderson saluted with his flag the company present. He formed his command on parade ground and marched out on the wharf with drum and life, playing "Yankee Doodle." During the salute a pile of cartridges burst in one of the casemates, killing 2 and wounding 4. One of the dead was buried in the fort with military honors; the other will be buried by the South Carolinians. The wounded men will be taken to Charleston. The Fort has been burned to a mere shell; the guns on one side of the parapet are entirely dismounted, others are split, and the gun-carriages knocked into splinters. Major Anderson is reported to have ordered not to sight men, but to silence batteries.

Providence, 18.

The Directors of the Bank of Commerce have informed Gov. Sprague that they are ready to advance a loan of \$30,000 to the State, for aiding in the outfit of troops. Larger offers from private citizens have also been made to Gov. Sprague for a similar purpose. The Globe Bank this morning, tendered to the State, \$50,000.

Philadelphia, 18.

An excited crowd assembled before the office of a paper called the Palmetto flag, threatening to demolish it, the proprietors saved the building by displaying the American flag, and throwing the objectionable papers out of the window, good humor then prevailed.

Fort Kearney, 14.

The Pony Express from San Francisco, 34, has arrived.

Mr. Douglass has again been elected Senator, receiving 77 to 89 votes for Nugent, the rest are scattering. The Republicans and most of the Douglass members support Mr. Douglass.

New York, 18.

Mayor Wood has issued a proclamation calling on the people to preserve peace and order, and to unite in obedience to the laws for the protection of property.

The proprietor of the Herald yesterday afternoon was hooted in the streets, but was protected by the police.

There were rumors of an attack on the Herald last night, but the rain storm and the police prevented. The Herald displayed its American flag in the afternoon.

The Governor of Kentucky emphatically refuses to respond to the requisition for his quota of troops. It is supposed that the other Border States will do likewise.

Norfolk, Va. 16.

There was a salute fired here and general rejoicings over the capture of Fort Sumter. Orders have been received to fit out the Merimac immediately, and to tow out all the war vessels from the port.

Camden, Me.

All parties in this town hoisted the Stars and Stripes today.

The Democrats cut from their flag the name of Johnson of Georgia, and substituted a strip of black erape. Numbers have offered to volunteer.

Col. Smart, the Democratic candidate for Governor at the late election, says the union of all the States must be preserved, and that it is worth a million of lives.

Maj. Moor, of the Custom House has also hoisted the American flag.

Concord, N. H. 16.

New Hampshire responds to the requisition of the General Government, and will furnish the troops required.

The Union Bank of this city has tendered to the Governor the loan of \$20,000. All the Directors together with the Cashier agree to contribute \$100 each, towards the support of such families of volunteers from the city of Concord needing aid, who may fall in the defence of the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws of the Country.

New York, 18.

The National Zouaves of this city tendered their services to Gov. Morgan today. A regiment of volunteers is forming here, and in Brooklyn, Green Point, Jersey City, and other places. The recruiting offices are filled with applicants, both for the army and navy.

The Washington correspondent says the Boston Flying Artillery have been accepted, and ordered to report at Washington.

Portland, 17.

The Rifle Guards of this city voted last night to tender their services to the Government, as part of our State regiment. Gov. Washburn has convened the Legislature to meet at the 22d of April.

New York, 17.

The Rumor about Fort Pickens was attacked, is doubtful. It is understood that 2 regiments of Union men were raised in Baltimore tonight. It is reported that the Clipper office is threatened by disunionists. A dispatch from Louisiana says that Price's Journal is threatened with attack, but continues to stand out boldly for the Union.

The Secretary of War will accept a regiment of volunteers from any State, whose Governor refuses to respond to the call of the Government, and two each from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri, are expected tomorrow. Gen. B. F. Butler is to have command of the Massachusetts Brigade.

The Herald says that the order for northern troops to proceed immediately to Washington, has not been countermanded, and Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Ohio Regiments are expected to be encamped here by the last of this week.

Recruiting in this city is brisk, and Government regiments are rapidly filling up. Large numbers of sailors are applying for Naval service. Work at the Navy Yard is progressing rapidly, and the Wabash, North Carolina, Savannah and Perry are fast being put in readiness for service. The Navy Yard was closed yesterday to visitors. All the city regiments announce a determination to respond to duty when needed, but there are individual cases in most of them against serving against the south. Several recruiting offices have been in the city for raising volunteer regiments. Regiments unanimously voted last night to tender their services to the Government. Drills are daily and nightly held by the various regiments, which are fast filling up as well as the volunteer companies.

At a meeting of the merchants and brokers this forenoon, it was resolved to call a meeting on Saturday, in Union Square, and that all business be suspended. A subscription was opened and liberally responded to for forenoon by merchants, to fit out the 7th Regiment for any duty required. The sentiment among the merchants is for sustaining the government.

