

ing and is nearly impracticable with all that I deem it better to forego for the time the uses of such offices. The mails, unless repelled, will continue to be furnished in all parts of the Union.

So far as possible the people everywhere shall have that sense of perfect security which is most favorable to calm thought and reflection.

The course here indicated will be followed, unless current events and experience shall show a modification or change to be proper; and in every case and exigency my best direction will be exercised according to circumstances actually existing, and with a view and a hope of a peaceful solution of national troubles, and the restoration of fraternal sympathies and affections.

That there are persons in one section or another who seek to destroy the Union at all events, and are glad of any pretext to do it, I will neither affirm or deny, but if these persons I need address no word to them! To those, however, who really love the Union, may I not speak?

Before entering upon so grave a matter as the destruction of our national fabric, with all its benefits, its memories and its hopes, would it not be wise to ascertain precisely why we do it?

Will you hazard so desperate a step while there is any possibility that any portion of the ills you fly from have no real existence? Will you, while the certain ills you fly to are greater than all the real ones you fly from—will you risk the commission of so fearful a mistake?

All I propose to be content in the Union, if all constitutional rights can be maintained. Is it true, then, that any right, plainly written in the constitution, has been denied? I think not.

Happily the human mind is so constituted that no party can reach to the audacity of doing this. Think, if you can, of a single instance in which a plainly written provision of the constitution has ever been denied.

If by the mere force of numbers, a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might in a moral point of view justify revolution; certainly would it such a right were a vital one.

But such is not our case. All the vital rights of minorities and of individuals are so plainly assured to them by affirmations and negations, guarantees and prohibitions, in the constitution, that controversies never arise concerning them.

But no organic law can ever be framed with a provision specifically applicable to every question which may occur in practical administration.

No foresight can anticipate, nor any document of reasonable length contain express provisions for all possible questions. Still fugitives from labor be surrendered by national or by State authority? The constitution does not expressly say. Must Congress prohibit slavery in the Territories? The constitution does not expressly say. Must Congress protect slavery in the Territories? The constitution does not expressly say.

From questions of this class spring all our controversies, as we divide upon them into majorities and minorities.

If the majority will not acquiesce, the majority must, or the government must cease.—There is no other alternative; for continuing the government is acquiescence on one side or the other.

If a majority in such a case will secede rather than acquiesce, they make a precedent which, in turn, will divide and ruin them.—For a majority of their own will secede from them whenever a majority refuses to be controlled by such a minority.

For instance, why may not any portion of a new confederacy a year (or two hence) arbitrarily secede again, precisely as portions of the present Union now claim to secede from it.—All who cherish dissensional sentiments are now being educated to the exact temper of doing this.

Is there such a perfect identity of interests among the States to compose a new Union as to produce harmony only and prevent renewed secession? Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy.

A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments is the only true guardian of the people's rights.

Whoever regards it as necessary to secede by force, is despoiling the people of their rights, and is introducing anarchy. I do not forget the position assumed by

If the Almighty Ruler of Nations, with His eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal—the American people.

By the frame of the government under which we live, the same people have wisely given their public servants but little power to do mischief, and have, with equal wisdom, provided for the return of that little to their own hands at very short intervals.

While the people retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration, by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years.

My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any of you in hot haste to a step which you will never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time, but no good object can be frustrated by it.

Such of you as are now dissatisfied still have the old constitution unimpaired; and, on the sensitive point, the laws of your own framing under it, while the new administration will have no immediate power, if it would, to change either. If it were admitted that you, who are dissatisfied, hold the right in the dispute, there still is no single good reason for precipitate action.

Intelligence, patriotism, christianity and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulties.

In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assault you.

You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.

I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chords of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be by the better angels of their nature.

The reading of the address occupied about half an hour. Its delivery was loud, earnest and emphatic, and though but few of his words reached further than the middle circle of the multitude by which he was surrounded, yet the whole mass evinced their interest by frequent outbursts of applause.

THE OATH OF OFFICE.

As soon as Mr. Lincoln concluded, Hon. Roger B. Taney, the venerable Chief Justice of the United States, rose, and in a solemn and impressive manner administered the oath of office to Mr. Lincoln, to the effect that he will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will do the best of his ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States.

Having administered the oath, Judge Taney congratulated Mr. Lincoln, amidst the loud applause of the assembled spectators, and the stirring music of several bands.

END OF THE CEREMONIES.

On the conclusion of the ceremonies the various military organizations retired to their respective armories, and the multitude returned to their dwellings, hotels and other quarters without any serious incident or disturbance to mar the enjoyment of the day.

THE POLICE.

The police of Washington city, under their chief, Captain John H. Goldard, all in full uniform, rendered very efficient aid in facilitating the general movements, and, by judicious action, preventing any disturbance. Several persons, however, had their pockets picked during the day, and a number of intoxicated persons were seen on the street.

THE INAUGURATION HALL.

The building seemed to vibrate with the grand inauguration ball which was attended by a considerable array of fashion and beauty from numerous sections of the country.

MR. BUCHANAN AND HIS LINGERING VISIT.—The ex-president, Mr. Buchanan, and his family, who had been in the city since the inauguration, were seen on the street, and introduced into the world by the press.

Monument streets, have resulted in an addition of two hundred and ten members. The church was commenced scarcely a year ago with three members, and now numbers two hundred and sixty members.

The German Society of Maryland.—The annual meeting of this benevolent society was held recently in this city. An extract of the treasurer's report shows that the society has expended during the year 1860 the sum of \$1,148 17, as follows: Remunerations to physicians, \$300; medicines, (3,753 prescriptions,) \$671 86; purchase of surgical appliances, cupping, leeching, etc., \$78 25; orders of managers to 1,174 objects of charity, \$2,018 30; forwarding emigrants, agent's salary, advertising, &c., \$413 18; intelligence office, \$300 80; sundries \$6 08. The officers elected for the year 1861 are as follows:—President, A. Schumacher; vice-presidents, J. W. Lentz, Justus Bräbel, G. W. Larman and Wm. Numson; treasurer, Israel Cohen; secretary of the society, H. Von Kanff; secretary of the officers, D. H. Meier.

Fire.—The alarm last night about half-past 8 o'clock was caused by the burning of a bed in the attic story of the dwelling of Mr. John Smith, on the east side of Central avenue, below Lombard street. It appears that a Mrs. Gearing occupied the room, and she was lying on the bed, when an ethereal oil lamp exploded and set it on fire. She is a cripple, having but one leg, and was unable to save herself, and was only rescued from being burnt to death by the other inmates of the house, who were alarmed by her screams. As it was she was badly burnt on her hands, arms and lower extremities. Dr. Parretti was called in and dressed her injuries. The damage to the house is trifling. The fire department, though promptly on the spot, did not go to work.

Movements of Mr. Buchanan.—The City Guards, under command of Lieut. Col. Joseph P. Warner, will leave for Washington to-day, to act as an escort to ex-President Buchanan, on his travel to Wheeling. The special train will leave Washington at three o'clock this afternoon, with the party, and from the Camden station the ex-President will be escorted to the residence of Zenda Barnum, Esq., Mt. Vernon Place, at the corner of Monument and Cathedral streets, where he will spend the night. On to-morrow morning he will take the half-past eight o'clock train for Lancaster. The City Guards will be accompanied by Voland's color band, and the battalion expect to muster two hundred men in the escort.

Saved from Thieves.—On Sunday afternoon Sergeant Short and policeman Maguire, of the southern district, observed at the Camden station a well-dressed, gentlemanly-looking man, too much intoxicated to take care of himself, and a horde of suspicious thieving characters around him, evidently seeking for an opportunity to rob him. The man was rescued from their snare, and taken to the southern police station, when the sum of \$200 and a gold watch worth \$200 more, was found on his person.—He gave his name as Joseph L. Dickson, of North Carolina. His property was returned to him yesterday morning, when, with many thanks to his protectors, the stranger departed in the Wheeling train for Indiana, his original destination.

Police Work in February.—During the month of February the police made 1,031 arrests. Of the whole number but 80 were for penal offenses, the others being for breaches of the peace, violations of the ordinances of the city and misdemeanors. Among the lesser offenses, were 473 for intoxication and 54 for vagrancy. The whole number committed to jail during that time was 804—showing that but 215 of the whole number arrested, were admitted to bail. The persons accommodated with lodgings at the several police stations numbered 1,006, or nearly thirty-six persons per night.

The Work of Demolition Commenced.—We stated some days since that it was in contemplation to pull down the old building on the southwest corner of Baltimore and Gay streets, for the purpose of erecting thereon a handsome three-story store. The work of demolishing this old building was commenced yesterday by Mr. E. Follett, the contractor, for the new building, and in a day or two it will be no more. The building is supposed to be worth about \$100,000.