

Congress.

On Monday the 12th inst., the following interesting proceedings took place in the House: Mr. Dean desired to lay before the House, and asked unanimous consent for that purpose, a matter which at this time is of great importance to the commerce of the country. He had been instructed to offer the following by the committee on foreign affairs:

Resolved, That in the war which now seems impending in Europe, it is the duty as well as the manifest interest of the Government of the U. S. to observe and maintain a strict neutrality among all the belligerents, and, in the event of a war, the rights of our citizens, and the security of our commerce demand the maintenance of the principle heretofore asserted, and strenuously contended for by this Government, but not hitherto admitted or established as the law of nations, that free ships make free goods, except as to articles clearly known as contraband of war, and that the neutral flag protects from unreasonable search and seizure the ships bearing it; and also that neutral property on board a vessel of any of the belligerents is not subject to seizure and confiscation.

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interests, to communicate to this House whether any, and if any, what arrangements have been made, or what correspondence has taken place between this government and any of the governments of Europe, to establish the foregoing principles, as international law, and to protect the neutral commerce of the United States in the event of a war between any of the powers of Europe.

Objections were made to the reception of the resolution. Mr. Dean moved a suspension of the rules. Agreed to—yeas 103, nays 41. Mr. Dean said he did not desire to debate these resolutions, but to state to the House their contents and the principles they are intended to enunciate.

The first resolution is a plain and distinct statement of our duty to maintain neutrality in the war between the different powers of Europe. It then re-asserts the doctrine that has been so often asserted by the people and the executive department of this government, but which the judiciary has failed to sustain. The executive branch of the Government has from its foundation, beginning with the Congress of the Confederation, and from that time to the present, constantly in its action and its diplomacy, contended that free ships make free goods, and that the goods of neutrals on board the ships of belligerents are not liable to seizure and confiscation. The importance of this subject at the present crisis cannot be estimated or expressed. It has been recently discussed in the British Parliament. The Ministry have been called upon to state what would be the action of that Government, and they have not fully met or answered the question, though they intimate that a liberal policy will be pursued.

The second resolution calls for any arrangement or correspondence between our Government and Foreign Powers upon this subject. I will state here as important to be known, and what I think will prove correct, that our government has for some months been engaged in endeavoring to secure the admission and establishment of this principle as an international law, and that our representatives, at the Court of St. James in particular, has ably, and I believe successfully, accomplished it, so far as its recognition depends upon that government, and it is universally admitted that if Great Britain, which is the power that has at all times prevented its adoption, agrees to it, not by treaty, but proclamation and action during the war, it will forever be placed on the firm basis of precedent as well as natural right and justice.

I am informed that as the action of our government is not known, merchants and others interested feel much anxiety. It is due to them that they should have all the information in our possession, and also know that Congress is determined to carry out this doctrine at all hazards. I think that the Executive and Congress ought now to take its stand, and say to the world that this is our principle; that we will not be driven from it; that we will legislate to assert it; that we will negotiate to secure it, and, if need be, that we will fight to maintain it. And, sir, the day that we establish this principle will be one of the proudest in American history; and, in my judgment, the time for action has now arrived.

Mr. Boveck.—This is an exceedingly important proposition, as it undertakes to define the position this government occupies in the pending war. If it means to do any thing, it means to fix the position of this government in the controversy. If this is the design, it ought to have the sanction of deliberate action. It is intended to produce an effect on our own merchants and on the actions of other countries, but this cannot be done simply by a resolution not requiring the joint action of the two Houses. He moved it be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, that careful consideration may be given to the subject. The motion was agreed to.

SLAVERY AND COTTON.—Greely and Co., only betray their gross ignorance of facts when they imagine that slavery would be abolished if the cotton culture of the U. States were abandoned. Even if this were so, the notable schemes they rely upon to dispense with cotton are about as wise and practicable as might be expected from such great philosophers. The East India plan so far is a great failure, and for the flax substitute, the soil of the slave States is peculiarly well adapted. Nearly two thirds of the whole flax crop of the country is produced by Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia. Unfortunate philanthropists! Nature has conspired with man to thwart the benevolent spirit of this age!

When these philosophers suppose that there is no department of industry but the cotton culture in which slave labor is profitable, they commit an egregious error. Statistics now before us show that 15 millions of dollars are invested in the Southern States in the manufacture of cotton, iron and wool, and 25,000 operatives employed; that the South produces nearly one fourth of the wool grown in the United States, that its corn crop amounts to 271,000 bushels, about one half of the whole corn product; that its live stock is worth more than \$250,000,000, or nearly half the whole product of the country. There are four or five Southern States, either of which produces ten times the provisions and live stock of New England. Not more than one third of the slaves of the South are engaged in making cotton for market. So it is very clear that the abandonment of the cotton crop would not involve the abolition of slavery.

Why don't Greely, Beecher, Stone & Co., set an example of dispensing with the use of cotton. Let them divest themselves of their cotton garments, and go forth among mankind in the unadorned simplicity of nature.

The Mexican Treaty. We see it stated with confidence, day by day, that the Gadsden treaty is dead and cannot be re-announced. It is scarcely necessary to say that such announcements are entitled to but little consideration. The time devoted to the subject by the Senate furnishes the best proof that the several questions involved are engaging the earnest investigations of that body, and we should think it wholly unwarrantable to conjecture that in a body composed of statesmen of so much experience and patriotism it would not be practicable to agree upon a basis of adjustment which would be so fair, just and reasonable, that it would be acceptable to Mexico. What if it should be found that the treaty negotiated by Mr. Gadsden, cannot command the requisite vote for its ratification, (and on this point we have no information that induces us to make such a supposition,) but upon that supposition it is to be inferred that such amendments and alterations cannot be made as will result in an amicable and satisfactory settlement of all difficulties with Mexico?

It is known that the treaty as made by Mr. Gadsden, was not satisfactory to the President. Our Minister to Mexico did his duty as well as it was practicable under all the circumstances. The President frankly pointed out his objections to the treaty, and suggested such amendments as seemed to him to be proper, and submitted the whole matter to the Senate. It is fair to presume that the Senate is actuated by the same patriotic considerations, and with equal frankness will deliberate upon the subject, and if they cannot agree to the treaty as submitted, in the exercise of their prerogative as part of the treaty-making power, they will be found making such suggestions and amendments as will remove their objections. Our confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of senators induces us to disregard the announcements as to the probable defeat of the treaty. The President and the Senate have the same great object in view, and it is wholly unreasonable to suppose that this object will be allowed to be defeated because of any disagreement as to the details of the proposed treaty. Our observation teaches us that when statesmen come together in the true spirit of devotion to the national interests, and deliberate and consult with a common purpose, they seldom fail to reach a satisfactory solution of all minor difficulties. For such a result we look in regard to our relations with Mexico, and in bringing about such a result we know that the same spirit pervades the President and the Senate.—Union.

The Commercial Convention. The New York Herald holds the following language in relation to the South: "Northern merchants come to her largest ports, set up business, grow wealthy, and then retire to Northern States to spend the remainder of their lives in the enjoyment of their gains. As strange as it may appear, one-half of the largest merchants and capitalists of the southern cities are northern men, who are temporarily there to seek their fortunes; and New York drummers are as thick as flies in the summer time in Charleston, Savannah and N. Orleans. After enumerating the proper objects of the Convention, it says: "The question then is, which stands first of all these and demand special attention? The railroad surely is the marrow of them all; and being called into existence at once bids the rest arise. It is to the locomotive then, particularly that these southern gentlemen should direct their attention. This is the great republican of the age and impartially scatters wealth throughout the land. A great deal has already been done in this respect in Georgia, Tennessee and several other southern States; but much remains to be done. Let this be a railroad Convention, and then some practical benefit may arise from it; but not until the south equals us in the thunder of her steam engines, she will have her line of steamers, her continental depot, her importing market, in opposition to New York, or be commercially independent."

"There is no reason why the south should not rival the north in all that constitutes national prosperity, if she goes properly to work.—She boasts of a climate where every breeze is fragrant with flowers, and every day drops fruit upon the ground. Her scenery is to the highest degree sublime, and her numerous rivers, streaming from the summits of her mountains with delightful music, leap down from precipice to precipice, till they are heard no more. Her soil as rich as any the sun ever shone upon, is bountiful in its yield, and thousands upon thousands of her fairest acres wait for the hands of the husbandman to clothe them with rice fields and the cotton's bloom. It would not be difficult to make such a land attractive to emigrants, and the rival of any state or nation. Whatever may be done, let us bury all sectional feeling, remember that the South is a portion of the same great commonwealth with us, in whose welfare we all should feel alike interested, from Maine to the Rio Grande. Let us all rejoice in this rivalry in the arts of peace, which must end at last in building up and making stronger, the republic."

A DUEL.—On Sunday a duel was fought between two gentlemen from New Orleans. The scene of it was in the grove south of the buildings known as the "Six Sisters," in the lower part of the city. The parties were Chas. Roman, son of ex-governor Roman, and W. H. Bouigny, son of a late Senator from Louisiana of that name. The fight commenced at one o'clock, with small swords for weapons. The first pass was made by Mr. B. whose sword struck upon the suspender button of his antagonist, and broke in two. In the pass of Mr. R., made simultaneously, the sword penetrated the side of Mr. B. inflicting a slight but not dangerous wound. The swords being broken, the parties resorted to pistols, at five paces. At the first fire Mr. B. received the ball of his antagonist back of the hip. The wound we learn, was painful but slight. The shot of Mr. B. passed on without touching.

We learn that the duel originated in an old misunderstanding, but after both parties had stood steel and fire, they conceived a higher respect for each other, and left the field reconciled. They returned to New Orleans in the steamer Oregon yesterday.—Mobile Tribune.

BUREAU OF VACCINATION.—The New York Academy of Medicine have reported in favor of a Bureau of Vaccination, in New York city as likely to prove of particular service in increasing the facilities for vaccination to the poor of the city, in furnishing a body of reliable statistics concerning vaccination and revaccination, and insuring at all seasons a plentiful supply of vaccine matter to physicians.—From the report it appears that in five months there have been a total of 598 deaths from small pox in that city, and as the rate of the disease has been about ten per cent. of the cases, the whole number of cases in the five months has been 5,980.

South-Carolina Press Association. CHARLESTON, April 13. The Association, in pursuance of notice from the President, met to-day at the Pavilion Hotel. In the absence of the Secretary, W. B. Johnston was appointed Secretary pro tem. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The President then read the Constitution of the Association, also a letter from Carrollton, Ga., signed by a number of citizens of that place, stating that the establishment of a weekly paper at that point would be very desirable. Received as information.

Letters of application from the following gentlemen were received:—John Heart, Charleston Mercury; H. Judge Moore, Yorkville Remedy; Joseph Walker, publisher; L. W. Spratt, Charleston Standard; F. McIntosh, Charleston Zeitung; R. W. Habersham, Self Instructor; W. Y. Paxton, Charleston Evening News; John Cunningham, do; A. Carroll, Charleston Courier; W. Laidler, do; W. M. Thomas, Greenville Mountaineer; J. R. Haynesworth, Sumter Watchman. An election having been entered into for the above-named gentlemen, they were unanimously elected.

On motion of W. B. Carlisle, Esq., it was unanimously resolved "that this Association, as a body, contribute in some suitable form to the Calloun Monument now proposed." The mover was appointed and requested to report on the proper form and manner of carrying out the resolution. The President then extended an invitation to the Association to meet him at his residence on Saturday evening next. Before the adjournment, the President also announced that Mr. Butterfield, of the Pavilion, had prepared for the members of the Association a collation, to which the members adjourned. It was a handsome compliment from Mr. Butterfield to the Press. After the discussion of the good things furnished by Mr. Butterfield, the Association adjourned. R. YEADON, President. W. B. JOHNSTON, Secretary.

The Camden Weekly Journal.

Tuesday, April 18, 1854. THEO. J. WARREN, Editor.

Southern Commercial Convention. As every thing this week has been, as it were, merged into the one grand idea—the Commercial Convention of the South and Southwestern States—our letter on the present occasion will be chiefly composed of the sayings and doings of this numerous and respectable body.

Among the distinguished arrivals are Senator Wm. C. Dawson, of Georgia, President of the two last Conventions; Governor C. C. Clay, of Mississippi; Ex-Governor Jones, of Tennessee, and now United States Senator from that State; Governor Mosley, of Florida; Governor Manning, of our State; Lieutenant Maury of the National Observatory, Washington; Lieutenant Hermon, of Washington; Lieutenant Gibbon, of Washington; Hon. W. T. Colquitt, of Georgia; Hon. W. Polk, of Tennessee; Hon. D. F. Whitner, of Florida; Judge Baxter, of Tennessee; Gen. Leslie Combs, of Kentucky; Gen. W. S. Harding.

I have had a considerable desire to see Mr. Colquitt, of Georgia, but have not had that pleasure. I see his name announced in the Standard among distinguished arrivals, but have not seen him, and therefore take it for granted there must be a mistake in the announcement of his arrival.

Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina are very largely represented, and this fact shows the interest which these States take in the matter. Senator Dawson was again chosen President of the Convention, and upon taking the Chair, made an excellent speech, in which he referred to the general subjects which would likely occupy the attention of the Convention. He dwelt at some length, and with much force and clearness upon the duty of the South to itself—protecting its own interests, and peculiar institutions, and relying more fully upon its own resources, and the necessity for the greater development of the means which lie within our reach, of an agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing character. He mentioned this fact, a strong figure in support of his various propositions, that the amount of money expended last year abroad, by people from the Southern States, was equal, if not greater than the value of the whole cotton crop of the Southern and Southwestern States, which money spent at home would add infinitely to our prosperity.

He spoke with admirable point and effect, upon the necessity of educating the children and youth of the South, at home—that there was absolute necessity that the rising generation should be indoctrinated properly into the systems and principles of government peculiar to the States of the South. We listened to Mr. Dawson with interest and attention, and were highly pleased with his plain, practical common sense view of things. A general Committee, composed of three members from each State represented, was appointed to prepare business for the Convention, which committee have a large amount of matter before them in the shape of innumerable resolutions upon a variety of subjects. On Tuesday the Convention was addressed by Mr. Marshall, of Miss., upon some resolutions offered by a delegate from Georgia, proposing that Congress be urged to offer the mediation of this Government to Russia and Turkey, in order to prevent, if possible, a general European war. We heard only a part of Mr. Marshall's extraordinary speech, which was a perfect telegraphic operation, and so fast that the most expert reporter had to lay down his implements and gaze and wonder in mute astonishment. It is said that Col. Keitt would hardly be able himself to take notes, and he is about as fast a talker as people generally come across. Mr. Marshall's definition of a practical man is quite original and amusing. One who would plant dig, boil, and eat his potatoes, without troubling himself about other people—the visionary man, would be troubled about what future generations would eat.—Mr. W. G. Brownlow, of the Knoxville Whig, was loudly called for on Tuesday, and after mounting the rostrum, made a very droll speech; in fact he is an odd character, and what may be termed a singular genius. On Wednesday the Pacific Rail Road scheme was discussed at considerable length by General Combs, of Kentucky, Mr. Pike, of Arkansas, and Senator Jones of Tennessee; the speech of Mr. Pike, so far, has been the speech of the Convention, and was by odds the ablest speech upon the Pacific Rail Road question.—Mr. Pike is an original and independent thinker; his motto is to help yourself and others will help you.—We like his notions well, and regret that our limits forbid an extended notice of this or any other speech. Senator Jones is an animated and interesting speaker, and was listened to with considerable attention. He is rather too national for us, but after all it is the most popular side to be in the favor of, and we suppose there is no use in objecting to good union speeches.—General Combs represents himself to be the son of an old Kentucky rifleman, as a friend remarked to us yesterday, he uses himself, a scattering gun. His speech although rather scattering, was an amusing and pleasant one. The ladies showered bouquets upon the General. We hope he will pardon the word. On Wednesday a resolution was passed conferring upon the reporters of the New York Herald, Tribune and Express, now in attendance upon the Convention, the privileges of the same as honorary members. This singular and out of place resolution, we are glad to know, was rescinded on Thursday, after exciting an animated discussion. The discussion on Thursday was mainly upon resolutions proposed by the General Committee through their Chairman, Lt. Maury, which were laid over from Wednesday, and are as follows:

Resolved, That a Committee of — be appointed to memorialize Congress in the name of this Convention, and in the most earnest manner to urge the importance of, and to pray for, the following measures, viz: 1. The remission of duties on railroad iron. 2. The passage of an Act for the improvement of the merchant service, by encouraging boys to go to sea, and for preventing desertion. 3. To send one or two small naval steamers up the Amazon, for the purpose of exploring the tributaries of that river, which the States owning them, have declared to be free to the commerce and navigation of the whole world. 4. To encourage the establishment of a line of mail steamers between some Southern seaport town and the mouth of the Amazon, or some other port Brazil. 5. And also to encourage the establishment of a direct mail route by steamers, between some Southern port and Europe. 6. Upon the improvement of harbors and navigable rivers.

These were amended and discussed at considerable length, and the last, the 6th, occasioned another resolution to be offered by the Hon. Mr. Polk, of Tennessee, upon the necessity of the acquisition of the Island of Cuba, as important to the proper defence of our Southern Coast. Mr. Polk maintained that it was as competent to memorialize Congress on the subject of acquiring Cuba as upon the improvement of harbors and navigable rivers. These resolutions were discussed by Messrs. Polk and Jones, of Tenn., Ex-Gov. Clay, of Ala., Gen. Winslow, of N. C., &c. There are so many resolutions and amendments, and points of order, and their splitting technicalities in the proceedings of the Convention that it is not only impracticable, but really impossible, for us to find room for a faithful report of its proceedings, which would occupy four times the space which we could allow for such a purpose.—We can only give the general outlines of the most important, and let our readers fill up the particulars from their own imaginations or resources. One thing we may learn here the difference between *toe dille dee* and *toe dille dum*, really often a distinction without a difference.

The Press Association met on Thursday, and after electing several new members, and passing a resolution that the Association contribute as a body in some suitable form to the Calloun Monument now proposed, adjourned without transacting any business of importance. Our President invites the press to meet at his residence on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock.

The Convention Hall at Military Hill came off on Wednesday night, and the great dinner in honor of the delegates came off at the Hibernian Hall on Thursday afternoon, which lasted till about ten o'clock at night—neither of which we attended. On Friday, the Convention was mainly occupied in the consideration and discussion of the foregoing resolutions, which had been laid over from the day previous, and also in the consideration and discussion of other resolutions offered by the Committee on Resolutions, which are, in effect to promote Southern and Western manufactures and mining operations—Direct trade with Europe, and an exemption from taxation for a limited time of the goods imported, &c.—the establishment of a direct line of steamers with Europe from some Southern port or ports, without further delay—recommending to the Government of the U. States the formation of reciprocal treaties with foreign Governments for the admission of their respective products at reduced and equal rates of duty. These embraced the substance of the resolutions offered and considered.—There were so many amendments and substitutes, and suggestions that it was almost impossible to keep pace with them, and with all the experience of the reporters of the New York Herald and the Charleston Mercury and Courier, who take down notes in short hand, they gave up the task in despair, contented to report the resolutions when amended and passed. It is like sifting a bushel of chaff in order to find a grain of wheat, to report correctly, the proceedings of this Convention. We do not attempt the task.

Mr. Polk withdrew his resolution on the acquisition of Cuba, upon the sixth resolution (which offered to memorialize Congress on the improvement of our rivers and harbors) being rejected. The cause, he said, having been removed, he would withdraw his resolution. Mr. Polk is very persevering in his notions, and hangs on with remarkable pertinacity, until he carries his point. He says he seems asking favors of Congress, and is clear for demanding our rights, and accepting no favors as a suppliant. In that he is right. There was a plenty of good speaking on these matters, but we have not time to give even a passing notice.

In the afternoon of Friday, the delegates were delighted with an excursion around the harbor. The Steamers Nina, General Clinch and Charleston having been chartered for that purpose, were each provided with an excellent band of music, whose concord of sweet sounds, seemed to enliven and animate the occasion. In the evening an exhibition of Fire Works took place at the Battery, which was crowded with thousands of all ages, sexes and colors. We have never seen such a mass of living beings at any one time before. It would not be amiable, perhaps, to find fault with the exhibition, but candour compels us to say that it was rather a *show* from beginning to end. However, the intention was good, and that, we ought to take as a sufficient excuse.

Mr. Pike, the Arkansas delegate has made great favor with the whole Convention and the people generally. His views are sound and admirably correct on matters generally. He is an orator and poet, and altogether physically and mentally, a full grown man.—Mr. Marshall, of Mississippi is a perfect telegraph at speaking, and is an admirable orator, but we do not compare him to Mr. Pike—he is more imaginative and theoretical.—Mr. Pike is more solid and practical. Either of them however, will always be able to talk their way through the world.

The Convention was engaged to-day in the consideration of Mr. Pike's resolutions on the Pacific Railroad and kindred measures. We had the pleasure of hearing Mr. P. in part, on this interesting subject, which he treated with great ability. He is, beyond dispute, a strong man and an able speaker, and has won for himself here, a most enviable reputation. He wears well, and as an evidence of the high appreciation in which his ideas and sentiments are held, we need not mention the fact that his resolutions which will be found in another part of our paper this morning, were adopted by the Convention with great unanimity.

We believe the delegates to this Convention have been delighted with their visit, and surely they ought to be, for we have never seen any occasion so well provided for, and such admirable order and arrangement as the several Committees charged with the duty of providing for the reception of delegates, and their amusement during the session of the Convention have made. It has been a proud week for Charleston, and we are glad that our city has done up matters so handsomely. Complimentary resolutions have been passed by the Convention, tendering the city its thanks for the elegant hospitalities which have been extended to the members during the session of the Convention, and a resolution has also been passed in favor of making a tribute on the part of the Convention, to the Calloun Monument fund in honor and appreciation of our eminent and distinguished statesman.

The Convention adjourned this afternoon, to meet in the City of New Orleans in January next. Saturday, April 15, 1854.

Pacific Railroad.

The following resolutions offered by Mr. Pike of Arkansas, were passed with great unanimity by the Commercial Convention on Saturday: 1. Resolved, That it is vitally important to the progress and prosperity of the United States, to have one or more railroads connecting the States on the Atlantic with those on the Pacific Ocean. 2. Resolved, That the Southern route ought to commence at suitable points on the Mississippi river, between New-Orleans and St. Louis, thus connecting itself with the various similar improvements made and contemplated in the Atlantic States, and concentrating at some point in Texas or near the thirty-second parallel of north latitude—thence to the Rio Grande, on the western border of Texas, by the route designated by that State at the last session of her Legislature, charting the Mississippi, El Paso and Pacific Railroad, and thence to the Pacific Ocean or Gulf of California.

3. Resolved, That in the deliberate judgment of this Convention, the Gadsden Treaty with the Government of Mexico, as published in the newspapers, ought to be ratified by the Senate of the United States, so far, at any rate, as to secure the best route for the proposed Southern Railroad on the western limits of Texas to the Pacific Ocean. 4. Resolved, That in order to make provision for the construction of said road, this Convention respectfully recommend that a Southern organization be effected, if practicable, of the States of Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, and of the different cities, and the railroad companies and corporations in those States, for the purpose of building a Southern railroad to the Pacific Ocean or Gulf California, by the route and from one or more of the points indicated in the second of these resolutions—negotiating for the right of way, if necessary, with the Government of Mexico. 5. Resolved, That to effect this organization, this Convention respectfully advises the incorporation, by the Legislature of the State of Virginia, of a Southern Pacific Railroad Company, with a capital sufficient to build such road from the point or points and by the route indicated in the second resolution—of which corporation the several Southern States above mentioned, the several cities therein, and the several railroad companies therein, shall be invited to be incorporated, together with such other companies and individuals as may choose to subscribe for stock, including, if they desire it, the Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek nations of Indians, west of the Mississippi. That said States be invited to take stock in such corporation to the amount of not less than two millions of dollars each, to be raised and secured in such manner as the Legislature of each such State shall direct. That each of said cities and railroad companies be invited to subscribe for stock to such amount as its means will admit. That the existence of said corporation be recognized by each of said States, and such powers be vested in it, and such franchise and capacities granted to it by the Legislature of each such State, as may be necessary to effect the object of the organization; and that in its Directory, each such State be equally represented. 6. Resolved, That this Convention respectfully recommends that, if necessary, special sessions of the Legislatures of such States be called for the purpose of taking into consideration this plan; and that a committee of one member from each State represented in this Convention, be appointed to draft a charter of incorporation for such company, and lay the same before the Governors of the said States, and the National General Councils of the Cherokee, Creek and Choctaw nations, requesting each of said Governors to convene the Legislature of his State, in order to consider the same, and take such other steps in regard to such road as may be necessary and proper, if, in his opinion, it should be expedient to do so; and especially praying the Governor of Virginia to lay said draft of a charter before the Legislature of that State, with his views in regard thereto; and requesting said Councils of the Cherokee, Choctaws and Creeks, to act therein, to recognize such company, grant rights of way through their national lands for any branch or branches of said road that may pass through the same, and enact such other laws as shall secure to the South, so far as may be in their power, the exclusive benefits and advantages of the commerce of the Pacific and of the wealthy provinces of Mexico intended to be traversed by said road. 7. Resolved, That this Convention recommend that power be given to said corporation by its charter, to negotiate with Mexico for and purchase, if necessary, a right of way through her territory to the Pacific ocean, or to some point on the Gulf of California; to stipulate with that government that in the event the same is granted no higher rates or charges shall ever be imposed or exacted for passage or transportation over said road on citizens of Mexico than on those of the United States; and to agree that the company will maintain military posts along said road, will in all time submit to the jurisdiction and laws of Mexico, and claim no political rights nor attempt to colonize the country. 8. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the Southern States, corporations and people are entirely able to build said road and that no time should be lost in doing so; that it is easy to commence it now as ten or twenty years hence, and it can as easily be completed in ten years as in a century; and that it is the duty of every Southern man, to himself, his children and his country, to engage earnestly in this great and indispensable measure of security, as well as of wealth, and of political and commercial power to the South.

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I have had a considerable desire to see Mr. Colquitt, of Georgia, but have not had that pleasure. I see his name announced in the Standard among distinguished arrivals, but have not seen him, and therefore take it for granted there must be a mistake in the announcement of his arrival.

Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina are very largely represented, and this fact shows the interest which these States take in the matter. Senator Dawson was again chosen President of the Convention, and upon taking the Chair, made an excellent speech, in which he referred to the general subjects which would likely occupy the attention of the Convention. He dwelt at some length, and with much force and clearness upon the duty of the South to itself—protecting its own interests, and peculiar institutions, and relying more fully upon its own resources, and the necessity for the greater development of the means which lie within our reach, of an agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing character. He mentioned this fact, a strong figure in support of his various propositions, that the amount of money expended last year abroad, by people from the Southern States, was equal, if not greater than the value of the whole cotton crop of the Southern and Southwestern States, which money spent at home would add infinitely to our prosperity.

He spoke with admirable point and effect, upon the necessity of educating the children and youth of the South, at home—that there was absolute necessity that the rising generation should be indoctrinated properly into the systems and principles of government peculiar to the States of the South. We listened to Mr. Dawson with interest and attention, and were highly pleased with his plain, practical common sense view of things. A general Committee, composed of three members from each State represented, was appointed to prepare business for the Convention, which committee have a large amount of matter before them in the shape of innumerable resolutions upon a variety of subjects. On Tuesday the Convention was addressed by Mr. Marshall, of Miss., upon some resolutions offered by a delegate from Georgia, proposing that Congress be urged to offer the mediation of this Government to Russia and Turkey, in order to prevent, if possible, a general European war. We heard only a part of Mr. Marshall's extraordinary speech, which was a perfect telegraphic operation, and so fast that the most expert reporter had to lay down his implements and gaze and wonder in mute astonishment. It is said that Col. Keitt would hardly be able himself to take notes, and he is about as fast a talker as people generally come across. Mr. Marshall's definition of a practical man is quite original and amusing. One who would plant dig, boil, and eat his potatoes, without troubling himself about other people—the visionary man, would be troubled about what future generations would eat.—Mr. W. G. Brownlow, of the Knoxville Whig, was loudly called for on Tuesday, and after mounting the rostrum, made a very droll speech; in fact he is an odd character, and what may be termed a singular genius. On Wednesday the Pacific Rail Road scheme was discussed at considerable length by General Combs, of Kentucky, Mr. Pike, of Arkansas, and Senator Jones of Tennessee; the speech of Mr. Pike, so far, has been the speech of the Convention, and was by odds the ablest speech upon the Pacific Rail Road question.—Mr. Pike is an original and independent thinker; his motto is to help yourself and others will help you.—We like his notions well, and regret that our limits forbid an extended notice of this or any other speech. Senator Jones is an animated and interesting speaker, and was listened to with considerable attention. He is rather too national for us, but after all it is the most popular side to be in the favor of, and we suppose there is no use in objecting to good union speeches.—General Combs represents himself to be the son of an old Kentucky rifleman, as a friend remarked to us yesterday, he uses himself, a scattering gun. His speech although rather scattering, was an amusing and pleasant one. The ladies showered bouquets upon the General. We hope he will pardon the word. On Wednesday a resolution was passed conferring upon the reporters of the New York Herald, Tribune and Express, now in attendance upon the Convention, the privileges of the same as honorary members. This singular and out of place resolution, we are glad to know, was rescinded on Thursday, after exciting an animated discussion. The discussion on Thursday was mainly upon resolutions proposed by the General Committee through their Chairman, Lt. Maury, which were laid over from Wednesday, and are as follows:

Resolved, That a Committee of — be appointed to memorialize Congress in the name of this Convention, and in the most earnest manner to urge the importance of, and to pray for, the following measures, viz: 1. The remission of duties on railroad iron. 2. The passage of an Act for the improvement of the merchant service, by encouraging boys to go to sea, and for preventing desertion. 3. To send one or two small naval steamers up the Amazon, for the purpose of exploring the tributaries of that river, which the States owning them, have declared to be free to the commerce and navigation of the whole world. 4. To encourage the establishment of a line of mail steamers between some Southern seaport town and the mouth of the Amazon, or some other port Brazil. 5. And also to encourage the establishment of a direct mail route by steamers, between some Southern port and Europe. 6. Upon the improvement of harbors and navigable rivers.

These were amended and discussed at considerable length, and the last, the 6th, occasioned another resolution to be offered by the Hon. Mr. Polk, of Tennessee, upon the necessity of the acquisition of the Island of Cuba, as important to the proper defence of our Southern Coast. Mr. Polk maintained that it was as competent to memorialize Congress on the subject of acquiring Cuba as upon the improvement of harbors and navigable rivers. These resolutions were discussed by Messrs. Polk and Jones, of Tenn., Ex-Gov. Clay, of Ala., Gen. Winslow, of N. C., &c. There are so many resolutions and amendments, and points of order, and their splitting technicalities in the proceedings of the Convention that it is not only impracticable, but really impossible, for us to find room for a faithful report of its proceedings, which would occupy four times the space which we could allow for such a purpose.—We can only give the general outlines of the most important, and let our readers fill up the particulars from their own imaginations or resources. One thing we may learn here the difference between *toe dille dee* and *toe dille dum*, really often a distinction without a difference.

The Press Association met on Thursday, and after electing several new members, and passing a resolution that the Association contribute as a body in some suitable form to the Calloun Monument now proposed, adjourned without transacting any business of importance. Our President invites the press to meet at his residence on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock.

The Convention Hall at Military Hill came off on Wednesday night, and the great dinner in honor of the delegates came off at the Hibernian Hall on Thursday afternoon, which lasted till about ten o'clock at night—neither of which we attended. On Friday, the Convention was mainly occupied in the consideration and discussion of the foregoing resolutions, which had been laid over from the day previous, and also in the consideration and discussion of other resolutions offered by the Committee on Resolutions, which are, in effect to promote Southern and Western manufactures and mining operations—Direct trade with Europe, and an exemption from taxation for a limited time of the goods imported, &c.—the establishment of a direct line of steamers with Europe from some Southern port or ports, without further delay—recommending to the Government of the U. States the formation of reciprocal treaties with foreign Governments for the admission of their respective products at reduced and equal rates of duty. These embraced the substance of the resolutions offered and considered.—There were so many amendments and substitutes, and suggestions that it was almost impossible to keep pace with them, and with all the experience of the reporters of the New York Herald and the Charleston Mercury and Courier, who take down notes in short hand, they gave up the task in despair, contented to report the resolutions when amended and passed. It is like sifting a bushel of chaff in order to find a grain of wheat, to report correctly, the proceedings of this Convention. We do not attempt the task.

Mr. Polk withdrew his resolution on the acquisition of Cuba, upon the sixth resolution (which offered to memorialize Congress on the improvement of our rivers and harbors) being rejected. The cause, he said, having been removed, he would withdraw his resolution. Mr. Polk is very persevering in his notions, and hangs on with remarkable pertinacity, until he carries his point. He says he seems asking favors of Congress, and is clear for demanding our rights, and accepting no favors as a suppliant. In that he is right. There was a plenty of good speaking on these matters, but we have not time to give even a passing notice.

In the afternoon of Friday, the delegates were delighted with an excursion around the harbor. The Steamers Nina, General Clinch and Charleston having been chartered for that purpose, were each provided with an excellent band of music, whose concord of sweet sounds, seemed to enliven and animate the occasion. In the evening an exhibition of Fire Works took place at the Battery, which was crowded with thousands of all ages, sexes and colors. We have never seen such a mass of living beings at any one time before. It would not be amiable, perhaps, to find fault with the exhibition, but candour compels us to say that it was rather a *show* from beginning to end. However, the intention was good, and that, we ought to take as a sufficient excuse.

Mr. Pike, the Arkansas delegate has made great favor with the whole Convention and the people generally. His views are sound and admirably correct on matters generally. He is an orator and poet, and altogether physically and mentally, a full grown man.—Mr. Marshall, of Mississippi is a perfect telegraph at speaking, and is an admirable orator, but we do not compare him to Mr. Pike—he is more imaginative and theoretical.—Mr. Pike is more solid and practical. Either of them however, will always be able to talk their way through the world.

The Convention was engaged to-day in the consideration of Mr. Pike's resolutions on the Pacific Railroad and kindred measures. We had the pleasure of hearing Mr. P. in part, on this interesting subject, which he treated with great ability. He is, beyond dispute, a strong man and an able speaker, and has won for himself here, a most enviable reputation. He wears well, and as an evidence of the high appreciation in which his ideas and sentiments are held, we need not mention the fact that his resolutions which will be found in another part of our paper this morning, were adopted by the Convention with great unanimity.

We believe the delegates to this Convention have been delighted with their visit, and surely they ought to be, for we have never seen any occasion so well provided for, and such admirable order and arrangement as the several Committees charged with the duty of providing for the reception of delegates, and their amusement during the session of the Convention have made. It has been a proud week for Charleston, and we are glad that our city has done up matters so handsomely. Complimentary resolutions have been passed by the Convention, tendering the city its thanks for the elegant hospitalities which have been extended to the members during the session of the Convention, and a resolution has also been passed in favor of making a tribute on the part of the Convention, to the Calloun Monument fund in honor and appreciation of our eminent and distinguished statesman.

The Convention adjourned this afternoon, to meet in the City of New Orleans in January next. Saturday, April 15, 1854.

Pacific Railroad.

The following resolutions offered by Mr. Pike of Arkansas, were passed with great unanimity by the Commercial Convention on Saturday: 1. Resolved, That it is vitally important to the progress and prosperity of the United States, to have one or more railroads connecting the States on the Atlantic with those on the Pacific Ocean. 2. Resolved, That the Southern route ought to commence at suitable points on the Mississippi river, between New-Orleans and St. Louis, thus connecting itself with the various similar improvements made and contemplated in the Atlantic States, and concentrating at some point in Texas or near the thirty-second parallel of north latitude—thence to the Rio Grande, on the western border of Texas, by the route designated by that State at the last session of her Legislature, charting the Mississippi, El Paso and Pacific Railroad, and thence to the Pacific Ocean or Gulf of California.

3. Resolved, That in the deliberate judgment of this Convention, the Gadsden Treaty with the Government of Mexico, as published in the newspapers, ought to be ratified by the Senate of the United States, so far, at any rate, as to secure the best route for the proposed Southern Railroad on the western limits of Texas to the Pacific Ocean. 4. Resolved, That in order to make provision for the construction of said road, this Convention respectfully recommend that a Southern organization be effected, if practicable, of the States of Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, and of the different cities, and the railroad companies and corporations in those States, for the purpose of building a Southern railroad to the Pacific Ocean or Gulf California, by the route and from one or more of the points indicated in the second of these resolutions—neg