

# THE PEACE CONFERENCE

## Return of President Lincoln and Mr. Seward to Washington.

## The Rebel Commissioners Gone Back to Richmond.

## Various Rumors in Regard to the Conference and Its Results.

## The Rebel Propositions Said to have been Inadmissible.

## Reported Appointment of Thirteen Commissioners on Either Side.

## Rumors of a Truce of Thirty Days.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Saturday, Feb. 4.

President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD arrived here from Fortress Monroe, at 10 o'clock this morning.

They had an informal conference with Mr. STEPHENS and his associates, Messrs. HUNTER and CAMPBELL, on board the *River Queen*, in Hampton Roads.

The conference occupied four hours, and is positively known to have resulted in no change of attitude, either of the Government or of the rebels. In other words it was a failure.

The *Star* has the following particulars of the return of President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD.

"President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD arrived in Washington at 9:15 this morning, by special train from Annapolis, on their return from Fortress Monroe."

The President, who left here on Thursday at 11:15 A. M., accompanied by Mr. GEORGE KOONTZ, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, arrived at Annapolis at 1:15 P. M., and, in company with Mr. KOONTZ, proceeded to the Naval Academy, where the steamer *Colyer* had steamed up, and, going on board, left immediately, and arrived at Fortress Monroe at an early hour yesterday morning.

The two boats, the *Mary Martin*, bearing the rebel deputation to Fortress Monroe, and the *River Queen*, on which Mr. SEWARD went down, were lashed side by side, during which time the President and Secretary of State, and the rebel deputation, had a protracted interview.

The boats separated about dusk, and the *River Queen* started immediately for Annapolis, where she arrived early this morning.

The special train which was in waiting for the party left that place at 7:30 this morning, and arrived here, as stated above, at 9:25.

Gen. WILLIAMS and INGALL'S, who came up on the *Colyer* last night, were on board the same train, as were also Mr. B. S. CREW, of the State Department, who went down with Mr. SEWARD, and Major ECKERT, Superintendent of the United States Military Telegraph, and CHARLES FORBES, attaché of the White House, who accompanied the President."

REPORTS FROM BALTIMORE.

FIRST DISPATCH.

BALTIMORE, Saturday, Feb. 4.

President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD, accompanied by Gen. INGALLS, arrived at Annapolis this morning, and left at 6 o'clock for Washington.

Nothing is yet known as to the result of their conference with the Confederate Commissioners.

SECOND DISPATCH.

BALTIMORE, Saturday, Feb. 4.

A special dispatch to the *Baltimore American*, from Annapolis, this morning, after announcing the arrival there of President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD on board of Gen. GRANT'S flag-of-truce boat, says:

The prospect of an early settlement of our National difficulties are brighter.

It was rumored on board of the steamer that an armistice of thirty days would take place, but this, of course, is only mere rumor.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, Feb. 4.

The special Washington correspondent of the *Ledger* says:

"President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD left Fortress Monroe yesterday afternoon, for Washington, and the Confederate Commissioners returned to Richmond. For the present, at least, the Conference is ended.

THE LATEST.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 4.

Much surprise was occasioned this morning by the early return of President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD, and it was not long before many conflicting reports were circulated regarding the result of their mission.

The antagonistic positions of the two Governments were known on the return of Mr. BLAIR from Richmond—one one desiring peace on the basis of unconditional submission to the Union, and the other on the basis of separate independence and recognition.

It was clear that the rebels themselves did not anticipate a ready compliance with their demands, while there was an earnest desire on the part of the President to do all that was compatible with honor and public expediency in the premises, and who evinced not a little anxiety to induce an accommodation.

It was briefly announced by telegraph, this morning, that President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD had returned to Washington, after a conference with the rebel commissioners, which resulted in no change of the attitude of the Government or of the rebels.

Private telegrams have since been received, making inquiry as to the truth of this statement, because the whole truth had not been stated with regard to the prospective and immediate results from Richmond.

Now, that brief telegram sent over the wires this morning is reliable, and it was obtained from the best authority.

No details have yet been made known, nor is it probable that they will transpire, the President and Secretary SEWARD being the only parties present on our side, and the conference being entirely informal, more in the character of a general conversation to elicit the views of all who composed it, than a grave diplomatic discussion.

Beyond this, whatever may be said, must be mere speculation.

The conversation did not result in any agreement.

The main feature involving the questions of separation of, and submission to the Union having been left undecided, of course those of a minor character could have no existence, and so the parties separated.

As far as can be ascertained nothing was said as to future meetings, and the issue seems to be left precisely where it was before the conference.

There is no verification of the report circulating to-day, that they had agreed upon a general exchange of prisoners.

Various Statements About the Peace Conference.

Special Dispatch to the *Commercial Advertiser*.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 4.

In pursuance of a notification by telegraph from the President, the Cabinet assembled at 11 o'clock this morning. The President has, doubtless, laid before the members the result of his mission.

The general opinion here is that the rebel emissaries presented four propositions, all of which were positively inadmissible.

Some pretend that thirteen commissioners are to be appointed on either side.

The President and Mr. SEWARD are very reticent about the result of their negotiations with the rebel "commissioners," and no particulars are yet known of the details of the interview. There is, however, a general feeling of satisfaction among those in the President's confidence, and the result of the negotiations is regarded as highly favorable to peace. Senators, who have seen Secretary SEWARD this morning, express the utmost assurance that peace is only a question of days.

From what a member of the Cabinet intimated at the Capitol this afternoon, Mr. LINCOLN went down firmly believing that the rebel envoys are prepared to make Union and emancipation a base of operations.

Correspondence of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Feb. 3.

Gov. DENNISON, Attorney-General SPEED and Secretary SEWARD are believed to be the only Cabinet Ministers in full communion with the rebel chief, and, with the exception of the two BLAIRS, none outside, are cognizant of the purposes of the negotiations. Many leading Senators who at first would not listen to such a thing as Mr. LINCOLN treating with them, are now strong in the belief that this move will bring about a speedy peace.

Gen. DIX left to-night for New-York, after having been all day in consultation with Secretary STANTON. Attorney-General SPEED said to him, just before leaving, that if the rebels were only acting in good faith, the final conclusion was certain.