THE SENTINEL.

ROCKVILLE, MD.

FRIDAY, ... MARCH 8, 1861.

The Inaugural.

We lay before our readers this week the inaugural address of Mr. Lincoln. This address has been looked for with intense anxiety, in all parts of the Country, and has doubtless been read with more interest than any other similar document ever was. And now that it is before the people we invite our readers to more than an ordinary careful reading of it. We do not propose to criticise its merits. We have neither the time or disposition to comment on it at length, we regard it with horror and utterly repudiate the warlike and coercive policy it promulgates. Our readers are as capable of judging what it is worth, and what it means, as we are.

It is clothed in choice and elegant language yet is full of craft and cunning, it is clearly intended to admit of a double meaning, or indeed of any interpretation. But it means coercion and war or it means nothing.

Mr. Lincoln denies the right of secession, says the Union is whole entire and unbroken, and that he intends "to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the government, and to collect the duties and imposts." He promises that beyond what may be necessary for these objects, no force will be used against or among the people any where, plainly saying, that as much force as is necessary, will be used. This language applies directly to the seceded States and emancipates war with the Confederate States, as clearly as language can do it, unless they submit to his authority. Our worst apprehensions are realized and with painful anxiety we will await events.

MR. LINCOLN'S CABINET NOMINATED AND CONFIRMED.—*Who They Are and What They Are.*—President Lincoln, on Tuesday last, communicated to the U. S. Senate, in Executive Session the names of the Cabinet officers who were confirmed unanimously, excepting Messrs Bates and Blair. Four or five Senators voted against these two gentlemen, on the ground that they were unfriendly that any of the slave States should be represented in the cabinet.

William H. Seward, of New York, Secretary of State.

Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, Secretary of the Treasury.

Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, Secretary of War.

Gideon G. Wells, of Connecticut, Secretary of the Navy.

Caleb B. Smith, of Indiana, Secretary of the Interior.

Montgomery Blair, of Maryland, Postmaster General.

Edward Bates of Missouri, Attorney General.

Five of these gentlemen are from the free States and two from slave States. As regards all party divisions, Messrs. Chase, Blair, Cameron and Welles, were formerly democrats and Messrs Seward, Smith and Bates were Whigs, but all of them now are Republicans.

THE INAUGURATION BALL.—The ball which took place in Washington on Monday night is said to have been splendid. There was a brilliant array of beauty and fashion. One of the ladies is represented to have been dressed in two thousand dollars' worth of lace and twenty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds. A letter says:

"At 10 o'clock the president's party came in, Senator Anthony and Vice-President Hamlin supported the President. Senator Douglas escorted Mrs. Lincoln; Senator Mrs. Hamlin; Gen. Yates, Mrs. Brady; and Mr. Robinson Miss Edwards. The band struck up Hail to the Chief, and the party marched from one end of the hall to the other, and ascending stairs of the amphitheatre, took an area of tremendous good feeling. After a brief promenade, the President, with Mrs. Hamlin, took stations at the upper end of the room, and a large number of persons availed themselves of the opportunity of being presented to Mr. Lincoln, who shook hands with everybody. At 11½ o'clock, the President and suite went into the supper room in the same order as they entered the hall. At 12½ o'clock the quadrille of the evening was danced—Douglas and Mrs. Lincoln, Hamlin and Mrs. Edwards, Mayor Berret and Mrs. Bergman, Mr. Barrett and Mrs. Baker composing the set. Miss Edwards, niece of Mrs. Lincoln was acknowledged to be the belle of the evening. The ladies and the Presidential party were dressed exquisitely, and in perfect taste.

DEATH OF MASSACHUSETTS.—Massachusetts is dead. Certainly she did. On the 26th of March, 1845 the legislature of Massachusetts passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That Massachusetts hereby refuses to acknowledge the act of the government of the United States authorizing the admission of Texas as it legal act in any way binding her from using her utmost exertions in cooperating with other States, by every lawful and constitutional measure, to annul its conditions and defeat its accomplishment.

☞ It is reported that Lord Lyons, the British Minister, has notified the government at Washington that his government will not recognize merely a proclamation of the blockade of the southern ports on the part of Mr. Lincoln's administration, but that a blockade, to be considered such, must be effectual. It is stated, too, that the French government, also, will soon give similar official notification, and that this course will probably be followed by all the leading European powers having commercial interests at stake.

THE FLAG OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.—The flag of the Confederate States has been determined upon. It is made with three stripes red—white and red—with a Union blue field and seven stars. It was raised on the capitol at Montgomery, Alabama, on the 4th instant.

☞ The Commissioners from the Southern Confederacy, Messrs. Crawford, Forsyth and Roman, have arrived in Washington City, and were expected to make known the object of their mission to the President on yesterday.

☞ The Texas secession ordinance has been ratified by a majority of over forty thousand. It is reported that Gov. Houston has resigned his position as Executive of the State.

☞ The Commissioners of Tax have been in session during the week. On Monday they elected John W. Jones, Esq., Clerk, who immediately entered upon the duties of his office.

☞ Capt. M. C. Meigs has returned from Florida and resumed charge of the Washington Aqueduct.

FALSE ALARM.—The inhabitants of our village were thrown into a state of great excitement on Tuesday night last. About 9 o'clock, a horseman came into town and announced that a body of negroes numbering one hundred or more, were marching under arms towards Rockville, and only a few miles off. Connected with the rumors which had been afloat for several days previous, it was well calculated to alarm our citizens, and call all to prepare for defense. Soon the news spread throughout the town, and soon more than a hundred loaded guns were in the hands of as many men, determined to defend themselves, and punish the invaders. sentinels were stationed at various points around the town, while others remained about the center; all were prepared for the attack, and so remained all night. But no attack was made, and we are at a loss to account for the assemblage of negroes at the place where they were seen; perhaps it was accidental or for no improper or insurrectionary intention; yet it requires investigation, and we have no doubt our vigilant officers will ferret out the leaders and their motives. We were pleased to witness the promptness with which our citizens rallied for mutual protection, and in their behalf, express many thanks to those of the county, who so kindly volunteered their assistance.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The March Term of the Circuit Court for Montgomery county, Hon. Judge Brewer presiding, has been in session during the week, and will probably continue its session several days next week. No cases of great interest are for trial, and but few persons are in attendance.

The following is a list of the Grand and Petit Jurors:

GRAND JURORS.

Thomas Griffith	Samuel C Young
Nathan Clarke	William Bird
James Wickes	William Riley Gibson
Benj White Jr.	Charles Sellman
Samuel C Thompson	Charles A C Higgins
John H Culver	Otho Offutt
Enos Clements	James M Crawford
Benjamin F Shreve	James Noland
George W Hilton	Robert G Dove
Horace Waters	Walter M Talbott
Wm H Magruder	John B Davis

John D Poole.

PETIT JURORS.

Benjamin S White	Green Owens
John Whitesides	Enos Riley
Charles M Murphy	Henry W Pumphrey
Basil W Waters	P W Hill
S F Lansdale	James Wm Campbell
William W Watts	Stephen M Hartlane
Joshua Pardoe	Henry West
Wm H Lamdin	Rezin Davis
Leonard Hays	Charles H Gudgeon
Isaac Veirs	George H Clements
Wm B Barnesly	Benjamin H Mathew
Charles H Crabbs	Jonathan B Pierson

Richard Creed.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Fellow Citizens of the United States:

In compliance with a custom as old as the government itself, I appear before you to address you briefly, and to take, in your presence, the oath prescribed by the constitution of the United States, to be taken by the President before he enters on the execution of his office.

I do not consider it necessary at present for me to discuss those matters of administration about which there is no special anxiety or excitement.

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican administration their property and peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed the most ample evidence to the contrary has all along existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I have no purpose directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them, and more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution, which I now read:

Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions, according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depends, and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or territory, no matter on her what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

I now reiterate these sentiments, and in doing so I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible, that the property, peace and security of no section are to be in any wise endangered by the now incoming administration.

I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the constitution and the laws can be given, will be cheerfully given to all the States, when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause, as cheerfully to one section as to another.

There is much controversy about the delivering up of fugitives from service or labor. The clause I now read is as plainly written in the constitution as any other of its provisions:

"No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

It is scarcely questioned that this provision was intended by those who made it for the reclaiming of what we call fugitive slaves; and the intention of the law giver is the law.

All members of Congress swear their support to the whole constitution—to this provision as much as to any other. To the proposition, then, that slaves whose cases come within the terms of this clause "shall be delivered up," their oaths are unanimous.

Now, if they would make the effort in good temper, could they not with nearly equal unanimity, frame and pass a law by means of which to keep good that unanimous oath?

There is some difference of opinion whether this clause should be enforced by national or by State authority. But surely that difference is not a very material one.

If the slave is to be surrendered, it can be of but little consequence to him or to others by which authority it is done. And should any one, in any case, be content that his oath shall go unkept on a merely unsubstantial controversy as to how it shall be kept?

Again, in any law upon this subject ought not all the safeguards of liberty known in civilized and humane jurisprudence to be introduced, so that a free man be not in any case surrendered as a slave?

And might it not be well, at the same time, to provide by law for the enforcement of that clause in the constitution which guaranties that the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States?

I take the official oath to-day with no mental reservations, and with no purpose to construe the constitution or laws by any hyper-critical rules. And while I do not choose now to specify any particular acts of Congress as proper to be enforced, I do suggest that it will be much safer for all, both in official and private stations, to conform to and abide by all those acts which stand unrepealed, than to violate any of them, trusting to find impunity in having them held to be unconstitutional.

It is seventy-two years since the first inauguration of a President under our national constitution. During that period fifteen different and greatly distinguished citizens have, in succession, administered the executive branch of the government.

They have conducted it through many perils, and generally with great success. Yet with all the scope for precedent, I now enter upon the same task for the brief constitutional term of four years under great and peculiar difficulty. A disruption of the federal Union heretofore only menaced is now formidably attempted. I hold that in contemplation of the universal law and of the constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied if not expressed in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination.

Continue to execute all the express provisions of our national constitution, and the Union will endure forever, it being impossible to destroy it except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself.

Again, if the United States be not a government proper, but an association of States, in the nature of contract merely, can it, as a contract, be peacably unmade by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate or break it, so to speak, but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?

Descending from these general principles, we find the proposition that in legal contemplation the Union is perpetual, confirmed by the history of the Union itself.

The Union is much older than the constitution. It was formed in fact by the articles of association in 1774. It was matured and continued by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It was further matured and the faith of all the then thirteen States expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual by the articles of confederation in 1778.

And finally, in 1787 one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the constitution was to form a more perfect Union. But if the destruction of the Union by one or a part only of the States be lawful, some of the parties to the new compact may, according to their own pleasure, dissolve it and may lawfully do this any number of times in succession.

Fully conceding that the great body of the people of the States do not wish to dissolve the Union, we can but see that there is some ground for supposing that in some parts of the country influential persons do entertain the idea of disunion. These persons perhaps seriously contemplate a separation and make preparations with the avowed object of seceding from the Union, soon as they shall think they have sufficient strength for the purpose. To meet such an action, should it occur, seems to be the object of military preparations which exist in the country.

To such persons, if any such there be, I have only to say that my mind is clear, that there is no cause for such action which may not be fully settled peacably, and that I do not see how any such cause can arise save only from the mistaken belief of such persons themselves.

It is safe to assert that within the existing United States more than one-half of the whole people reside in localities where no slave has ever been seen, and in which there is no momentary inducement to have one. To these persons the idea of a slave insurrection is an old familiar subject for thought. Such persons can conceive of a possible slave insurrection extending to a few localities, but beyond these they can see only a few miserable fugitives, united perhaps with some misguided people, plundering, burning and murdering as they go, till they shall be hunted down or driven back to their holes. Their sober judgment will tell them that in no case must the slaves have any part of a country for that object.

While the evil effect of such insurrections cannot be produced against the general government, the existence of the right to suppress them, if need be, cannot be denied. Without the power to suppress insurrection, the general government would be powerless to perform the most solemn obligation imposed upon it by the constitution. Unless this right of self-preservation is conceded, the