

lands within their limits in order to their being reclaimed and rendered fit for cultivation; the grant to railway companies of alternate sections of land upon the contemplated lines of their roads, which, when completed will so largely multiply the facilities for reaching our distant possessions. This policy has received its most signal and beneficial illustration in the recent enactment granting homesteads to actual settlers.

Since the first day of January last the before-mentioned quantity of 1,456,514 acres of land have been taken up under its provisions. This fact and the amount of sales furnish gratifying evidence of increasing settlement upon the public lands, notwithstanding the great struggle in which the energies of the nation have been engaged, and which has required so large a withdrawal of our citizens from their accustomed pursuits.

I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior suggesting a modification of the acts in favor of those engaged in the military and naval service of the United States.

I doubt not that Congress will cheerfully adopt such measures as will, without unduly changing the general features of the system, secure to the greatest practicable extent, its benefits to those who have left their homes in the defense of the country in this arduous crisis.

I invite your attention to the views of the Secretary as to the propriety of raising, by appropriate legislation, a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States.

The measures provided for in the session for the removal of certain Indian tribes have been carried into effect. Sundry treaties have been negotiated, which will in due time be submitted for the constitutional action of the Senate.

They contain stipulation for extinguishing the possession and right of the Indians to large and valuable tracts of land. It is hoped that the effect of these treaties will result in the establishment of permanent friendly relations with such of these tribes as have been brought into frequent and bloody collision with our outlying settlements and emigrants. Sound policy and our imperative duty to these wards of the government demand our anxious and constant attention to their material well-being, to their progress in the arts of civilization, and to their moral training, which, under the blessing of Divine Providence, will confer upon them the elevated and sanctifying influences, the hopes and consolations of the Christian faith.

I suggested in my last annual message the propriety of remodeling our Indian system. Subsequent events have satisfied me of its necessity. The detail set forth in the report of the Secretary is an urgent need for immediate legislative action.

I commend the benevolent institutions established or patronized by the government in this District to your generous and fostering care.

The attention of Congress during the last session was engaged to some extent with a proposition for enlarging the water communication between the Mississippi river and the northeastern seaboard, which proposition, however, failed for the time.

Since then, upon a call of the greatest respectability, a convention has been held at Chicago upon the same subject, a summary of whose views is contained in a memorial addressed to the President and Congress, and which I now have the honor to lay before you.

This is an interest of one which is so long to force its own way, do not entertain your doubts as to what can be done now. Augmented interest is given to this subject by the actual commencement of work upon the Pacific railroad under the auspices so favorable to rapid progress and completion. The enlarged navigation becomes palpable need to the great road.

I transmit the several annual reports of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, asking your attention to the developments in that vital interest of the nation.

When Congress assembled a year ago, the war had already lasted nearly twenty months and there had been many conflicts on both land and sea, with varying results. The rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits, yet the tone of public feeling and opinion at home and abroad was not satisfactory.

With other signs, the popular elections, then just passed, indicated uneasiness among ourselves, while amid much that was cold and menacing, the kindest coming from Europe were uttered in accents of pity that we were too blind to surrender a hopeless cause. Our commerce was suffering greatly by a few armed vessels built upon a false premise, and no lawful power to effect a blockade, and we were threatened with such additions from the same quarters as would sweep our trade from the sea and raise our blockade. We had failed to elicit from European Governments anything hopeful upon this subject.

The preliminary emancipation proclamation, issued in September, was running its assigned period to the beginning of the new year. A month later the final proclamation came, including the amendment that colored men of suitable condition would be received into the war service. The policy of emancipation, and of employing black soldiers, gave to the future a new aspect, about which hope, and fear, and doubt contended in uncertain conflict.

According to our political system, as a matter of civil administration, the general emancipation in any State, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military measure. It was all the while deemed possible that the necessity for it might come, and that if it should, the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and, as was anticipated, it was followed by dark and awful days, do not entertain your doubts as to what can be done now. Augmented interest is given to this subject by the actual commencement of work upon the Pacific railroad under the auspices so favorable to rapid progress and completion. The enlarged navigation becomes palpable need to the great road.

The proposed acquiescence of the National Executive in any reasonable temporary State arrangement for the freed people is made with the view of possibly modifying the confusion and destitution which must at the best attend all classes by a total revolution of labor throughout the States.

It is hoped that the already deeply afflicted people in the States may be somewhat more ready to live up to the cause of their affliction if to this extent this vital matter be left to themselves, while no power of the national Executive will prevent an abuse is authorized by the proposition.

The suggestion in the proclamation as to maintaining the political frame work of the States, on what is called reconstruction, is made in the hope that it may do good, while out of danger or harm, it will have labor and avoid great confusion. But why any proclamation now upon this subject? The question is best with the conflicting views that the step might be delayed too long, or be taken too soon. In some States the elements for redemption seem ready for action, but remain inactive, apparently for the want of a rallying point—a plan of action.

Why shall I adopt the plan of B rather than that of A, at A and B should agree how they can know but that the general government here will reject their plan? By the proclamation a plan is presented which may be accepted by them as a rallying point, and which they are assured in advance will not be rejected here. This may bring them to acquiesce than they otherwise would.

The objections to a premature presentation of a plan by the national Executive consist in the danger of commitments on points which could be more safely left to further developments. Care has been taken to so shape the document as to avoid embarrassments from this source. Saying that on certain classes will be pardoned, with rights restored, it is not said that other classes or individuals will be included. Saying that reconstruction will be accepted if presented in a specific way, it is not said it will never be accepted in any other way.

The movements, by State action, for emancipation in several of the States not included in the emancipation proclamation, are matters of profound gratulation.

And while I do not repeat in detail what I have heretofore so earnestly urged upon this subject, my general views and feelings remain unchanged, and trust that Congress will omit no fair opportunity of aiding these important steps to the great consummation.

In the midst of other cares, however important, we must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still our main reliance; to that power alone can we look yet for a time to give confidence to the people in the conquered regions that the insurgent power will not again be exerted. Saying that reconstruction will be established, little can be done anywhere for what is called reconstruction. Hence our chiefest care must still be directed to the army and navy, which have thus far borne their harder part so nobly and well. And it may be esteemed fortunate that in giving the greatest efficiency to these indispensable arms we do also honorably recognize the gallant men, from commander to sentinel, who engaged them, and to whom more than others, the world stand indebted for the home of freedom, despoiled, segregated, enlarged, and perpetuated.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

December 8, 1863.

Pork is selling in Montgomery county, Md., at 88¢ 25 per cent.

At home the same measures have been fully discussed, supported, criticized and denounced, and the annual elections following are highly encouraging to those whose official duty is to bear the country through this great trial. Thus we have the reckoning.—

The crisis which threatened to divide the friends of the Union is past.

Looking now to the present and future, and with reference to a resumption of the national authority within the States wherein that authority has been suspended, I have thought fit to issue a proclamation, a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

On examination of this proclamation it will appear, as is believed, that nothing is attempted beyond what is amply justified by the constitution. True, the form of an oath is given, but no man is coerced to take it. The man is only prompted a pardon in case he voluntarily takes the oath.

The constitution authorizes the Executive to grant or withhold the pardon at his own absolute discretion, and this includes the power to grant on terms, as is fully established by judicial and other authorities.

It is also proclaimed, that if in any of the States named a State government shall be in the mode prescribed set up, such government shall be recognized and guaranteed by the United States, and that under it the State shall, on the constitutional conditions, be protected against invasion and domestic violence.

The constitutional obligation of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government, and to protect the States in such cases, is explicit and full. But why tender the benefits of this provision only to a State government set up in a particular way?

This section of the Constitution contemplates a case wherein the element within a State favorable to republican government and the Union may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element, external to or even within the State, and such are precisely the cases with which we are now dealing.

An attempt to guarantee and protect a revived State government, constructed in whole or in a preponderating part from the very element against whose hostilities and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd.—

There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements, so as to build only on the sound; and that test is a sufficiently liberal one which accepts as sound whoever will make a sworn renunciation of his former unsoundness.

But if it be proper to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the constitution of the United States and to the Union under it, why not also to the laws and proclamation in regard to slavery?

These laws and proclamations were enacted and put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the rebellion. To give them the fullest effect there had to be a pledge for their maintenance. In my judgment they have aided, and will further aid the cause for which they were intended.—

To now abandon them would be not only to relinquish a source of power, but would also be to open a sounding breach of faith. I may add at this point, that while I remain in my present position, I shall not remain to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress.

For these and other reasons it is thought best to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the constitution of the United States and to the Union under it, why not also to the laws and proclamation in regard to slavery?

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## Civilian & Telegraph.



CUMBERLAND, MD.  
WM. EVANS, Editor and Proprietor.  
GEO. W. HOOVER, Publisher.

Thursday Morning, Dec. 17, 1863.

### TO ADVERTISERS!

The Civilian and Telegraph having a much larger circulation in the County than any other paper published here, while out of the County its circulation is four times larger, it affords a good medium for advertising. It numbers among its readers those who are able to pay liberally and pay promptly, and whose custom would be valuable to business men.

### UNITED STATES SENATOR.

Recently we called the attention of our readers to Judge Thomas A. Spence, of Dorchester County, as the proper man to fill the vacancy of Maryland in the Senate of the United States.

Since our publication of his name in that honorable connection, we notice that a number of our editorial brethren have spoken out in strong commendatory terms of the Judge, as the man admirably suited for that position, at this critical and important period in our affairs. Only two other gentlemen, so far as we are acquainted, have been named in connection with the Senatorial office—Ex-Gov. Hicks and the Hon. Wm. Crisfield.

Mr. Crisfield at present appears to be a more formidable competitor of Judge Spence than Ex-Gov. Hicks. All the disloyal element in the Legislature it is probable will unite on Crisfield, and some who claim to be Union men, but opposed to the Administration, may unite with them, while the entire Emancipation element and all the devotedly loyal men will give their support to Judge Spence and thus leave hardly a baker's dozen for Gov. Hicks. His chances therefore, we think are of the most meager character—indeed we are satisfied they are hopeless. It could not be otherwise when we consider his recent acts. In the Senate, to which he had been appointed by Gov. Bradford to fill the place made vacant by the decease of Hon. Mr. Pearce, he voted against all the leading measures of the Administration as we stated before, and since his return home he opposed with all his influence the enlistment of the free and slave negroes, while he favored the drafting of poor white men. These things the *Constitutional Intelligencer* published in the town where he resides, brings home to him with telling effect, at the same time it places Judge Spence in contrast with the Ex-Governor in such forcible terms as to be perfectly irresistible. In speaking of Judge Spence the *Intelligencer* says:

"No man is so much respected and loved by this people as Judge Spence. And we venture the assertion, without fear of contradiction, that he is this day the choice of nineteen twentieths of the Emancipationists of this county for the position of United States Senator. His bold, fearless, manly, defence of the Administration from the beginning of the war, and his early and earnest support of Emancipation, have been the encouragement and stay of the friends of the Union and Freedom here. He has given an undivided support to the Administration from the first to last, and was one of the pioneers in the cause of Emancipation. He sustained the convention of June 10th, and held that it was the regular Union convention, and its nominees, the regular Union candidates, and its Platform and Address the true Union doctrine. From the very first, he regarded Mr. Matt and his party as a faction. He was also one of the most earnest and efficient supporters of Col. Cresswell for Congress, and not only gave his vote, but all his influence to secure his election. He was one of the first men of the county who advocated the enlistment of free, white men and slave. And when Ex-Governor Hicks was moving heaven and earth to stop these enlistments, Judge Spence was doing all in his power to make it popular with the people and to induce the Administration to make that its settled policy."

"His qualifications are pre-eminent, and his claims upon the Emancipationists of the State are superior to those of any man in Eastern Maryland. The gentleman comparatively unknown in the Western part of the State, his name is not only familiar but dear, to the true men of the Eastern section. His comparative unacquaintance with the people of Western Maryland is not owing however, to any want of ability to make himself known and felt in public affairs, but to his own preferred retirement, together with the seclusion of his politics, which position upon the Bench naturally entitles him to a man of rare merit. Without doubt, his is the first intellect of Eastern Maryland, and he has both genius and culture. He is not only an original thinker, but his mind has been refined and matured by constant and thorough cultivation. As a lawyer, he has long equaled on this Shore, having been pronounced by competent legal critics to be 'the ablest Judge upon the Maryland Bench.' As a Statesman, he has no equal in this District. He possesses that boldness and vigor of thought, and breadth of comprehension, and scope, which enable the true statesman to grasp and solve difficult and perplexing questions of Government. His moral characters is without reproach."

With such a record who could fail to give his vote for Judge Spence. We answer—No man that loves his country.

**HOSPITAL REPORT.**—The following is the official report of the U. S. General Hospital at Cumberland, Md., in charge of Surgeon J. B. Lewis, for the week ending Dec. 5, 1863:

Number patients remaining last report.....	498
Admitted since.....	56
Total treated.....	464
Returned to duty.....	36
On Furlough.....	4
Deserted.....	0
Discharged.....	0
Transferred.....	0
Died.....	40
Total remaining in Hospital.....	424
Number of Nurses.....	49
Do.....	20
Landresses.....	20
Ward Masters and Clerks.....	20
Total in Hospital.....	493

**HO FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**  
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.  
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.  
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.  
Call and see. Call and see. Call and see.  
Call and see. Call and see. Call and see.  
Call and see. Call and see. Call and see.

**WM. ANDREWS**  
HAS just received the largest and most extensive assortment of articles suitable for Christmas presents ever brought to this city.  
Dec. 17, 1863.

**Flour! Flour!**  
I HAVE always on hand a supply of the best self-branded Family and Extra Flour, which I sell cheaper than can be had elsewhere. Call and see.  
R. I. MORRIS,  
April 7, 1863.

### State Treasurer.

There are some offices in the gift of the Legislature of the importance of which the people have but an inadequate conception. Among these is that of Treasurer of the State. When it is understood that thousands upon thousands of dollars are to be looked after, that an incompetent or dishonest treasurer may be the cause of great loss to the State, and consequent increased burdens to the people already heavily taxed. This should require of the Legislature, the election of a man fully competent and whose honesty is above suspicion. Such a man we confidently believe to be Wm. B. Hill, Esq., the present very competent and highly respected Secretary of State. In calling attention to this office and naming Mr. Hill in connection with it, the *Baltimore American*, and we cordially endorse its utterances, says:—

"Mr. Hill is pre-eminently qualified, and possesses claims of a superior character for the office, but few, if any, of those who heartily co-operated with the Unconditional Union men in the late election will presume to question. His education, legal acquirements, present identification with and experience of the details of duty, united to his great urbanity, unqualified loyalty, and thorough knowledge and appreciation of the State's true policy, men and measures, presents such a case of fitness—the right man in the right place—as leads us to anticipate but little, if any, opposition to his election when the Legislature shall have convened in joint session. It will be by the accomplishment of just such results—the election of such men as Spence and Hill—that the new era of 'Emancipation of the great evil' may be most certainly and most auspiciously inaugurated."

**RECEIVER'S SALE.**  
By virtue of an order of the Circuit Court for Allegany county, as a court of Equity, the undersigned appointed receivers by said order will on

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### SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of Two writs of Fieri Facias issued out of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, as a court of Equity, the undersigned, as directed, one at directed at the suit of Pennington & Bro. against the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Ralph Thayer, Richard Fairall, and William Browning, and one at the suit of the Commissioners of Public Schools for Allegany County, against the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of William Browning and J. M. A. Browning.

**'Limestone,'**  
being originally soldier Lots  
Nos. 4102 & 4103,  
being the same land conveyed by deed dated Thursday of March, 1863, from Melbeck Bourdway and Mary Browning his wife, to William Browning and recorded in Liber 2, folios 295 and 296, one of the land records of Allegany county, Also Lots

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**'Limestone,'**  
being originally soldier Lots  
Nos. 4102 & 4103,  
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### Order of Publication.

Thomas Perry, vs. John T. Greenwood, Alfred Race and Sarah his wife, John Dayton and Mary H. his wife, William M. Greenwood and Arnold Gerstle, administrator of Moses T. Greenwood, deceased.

In the Circuit Court for Allegany county, sitting as a Court of Equity.

THE object of the bill filed in the above cause is to obtain a decree to sell the real estate of Moses T. Greenwood, deceased, or so much thereof, as may be necessary to pay his debts. The bill states that said Moses T. Greenwood died intestate and indebted to the complainant and sundry other persons; that his personal estate is insufficient to pay his debts, that he died leaving the following named children, John T. Greenwood who lives in Virginia; Sarah, wife of Alfred Race; Mary E. Dayton, wife of John Dayton; said John and Mary E. live in Virginia; and that Arnold Gerstle has administered upon the personal estate of said Moses T. Greenwood, and he has paid to the creditors all the assets in his hands and the only way in which his creditors can be paid is by a decree of a Court of Equity. The bill also prays for an order of publication against the absent defendants in the usual form.

It is thereupon adjudged and ordered, that the complainant, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published in the city of Cumberland once every four or five weeks, for not less than one month before the 20th day of January, give notice to the absent defendants of the object and substance of this bill, and warn them to appear in this court in person or by solicitor, on or before the 20th day of April next, to answer the premises and show cause if any he has, why a decree ought not to pass as prayed.

HORACE RESLEY, Clerk.  
True copy,  
Dec. 17, 1863.—3w.

### TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF A VALUABLE  
S A W MILL,  
AND  
REAL ESTATE.

By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court for Allegany county as a court of Equity, passed in the case of Thomas Dev