

# The Tri-Weekly CITIZEN

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CANTON, MISS.  
THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 10.

Yesterday was generally observed as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer. Preaching in the Methodist church morning and evening, to large audiences.

War Tax.—We ask attention to the War Assessor's notice. Tax payers, if they mean to be tax payers, had better go up and settle up. Verbum sap.

Kosciusko.—We always had a partiality for our neighboring town of Kosciusko, as well for the kindness and hospitality of its generous-hearted citizens, as for the endearing memories of the noble old patriot and hero whose name it bears.

This feeling has been increased by the kind greeting given to our Tri-Weekly by the good people of the city of the Attala. Our friend J. N. has sent us two lists of subscribers from that ilk. If all the waters of the Nile were to sweep over us, his name and kindness would not be obliterated from our memory. May he, and our other friends in Kosciusko, live fifty thousand years, and just then begin a better state of existence.

ANOTHER GOOD CITIZEN GONE.—It was only a few days since that we learned of the death of our old and much esteemed fellow-citizen, ELI T. MONTGOMERY, Esq. He died, we learn, on Saturday, 28th ult., of Diphtheria, or some affection of the throat. Mr. M. was a citizen of the county for many years, and it is faint praise to say was a good neighbor and a kind-hearted, estimable gentleman.

THE DIXIE OPERA TROUPE have amused our citizens and the soldiers on two former occasions, and will give another of their side-splitting entertainments on Tuesday evening next. Let everybody that wishes to "laugh and grow fat" go and hear them.

Not a word from "the front"—nor the rear neither. Items are getting scarce.

We ask attention to the several new advertisements.

## THREE PROPOSITIONS.

Soldiers who leave their families destitute and dependent, have a right to food and clothing, not only for themselves, but for their wives and children, for they give their all, time, labor services and lives to the cause, that the lives, property and liberties of our people may be preserved.

Men of property, in like manner, owe everything. Beyond the support of themselves and families, to the common cause, and their time and services are as much due to the Confederacy, as those of the soldier.

One man is as much bound to support the war to the utmost of his ability as another, and what one cannot render in actual physical services, he ought to make up in contributions; for if he risks not his life in defense of his country, so much the more is he under imperative obligation to his money and other property.

These propositions were deduced by another from Governor Brown's annual message, and let these gildify them, that can. Many of our people are run stark mad after wealth. The nearer the desolation of war comes to their very doors, the more grasping and avaricious they appear to grow, and the more deaf to the calls of God and country. This is no time to be striving after riches; better than fail in our independence, that we surrender all our possessions to our country's cause, for they will avail us nothing if we are overcome.

Eufula Spirit.

## LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

### FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 9.—There was no firing last night. All quiet this morning.

### Synopsis of Report of Secretary of War.

RICHMOND, Dec. 9.—The report of the Secretary of War is very long, though highly important. He briefly refers principally to operations of the army in the several departments, and says the campaign in Mississippi was certainly disastrous, and it is difficult to resist the impression those disasters were inevitable and that at the Court of Inquiry for investigation of whole campaign, met at Atlanta in September, with the consequence of vicinity to enemy demanding the presence of witnesses and Judges at other points, suspended temporarily, but expected soon to re-assemble. Deficiencies of rations both in men and provisions, rather than reverse in battle caused withdrawal of army from Middle Tennessee. Alluded to desertion, straggling, absenteeism, and says effective force of the army is little over half, or nearly two-thirds, of men on rolls. Recommends repeal of substitute and exemption provisions, and that all having substitutes be immediately required to go to the field; that the privilege of Congress granted to put in substitutes can be regularly and constitutionally abrogated by the same power; says no compact entered into between the government and persons furnishing substitutes, as alleged, but it was only a privilege which the government accorded, and instead of complaining at its abrogation, should be grateful for what heretofore allowed them. He recommended abrogation of exemptions and the conscription of all, making details for wants in society at home. Says the three year's men when their time expires cannot be finally discharged but should be retained, allowing them to choose the regiment or company under present organizations in the same arm of service, and recommends the consolidation of companies and regiments reduced below certain complement. Pays glorious tribute to the heroism, endurance and untiring devotion of soldiers, and laments the dead, who yielded their lives as sacrifice at the altar of liberty.

He closed by saying our very reverses, showing us united and determined to endure everything for independence, must convince the enemy of their ineffectual efforts to subdue us.

Governor's message issued yesterday. Long review of local affairs are only points that are of interest. Connected with general politics of the country are remarks on substitute law and the currency. He says substitutes having been accepted for three years under laws both by State and Confederate Governments, becomes a binding contract, and should be observed. No government which violates contracts between itself and citizens can maintain its respect.

On the currency, the Governor says our issues of currency have been regulated by no principle; the consequence is, an over issue, causing distrust as to its redemption. We must retire surplus, stop further issues and adopt a wise system of taxation, combined with loans.

### FROM ORANGE C. H.

ORANGE C. H., Dec. 9.—Nothing new in front to-day, and everything quiet along the lines.

### FROM BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec. 9.—Nothing definite from Long-street to-day. Bittner's brigade encountered the advance of Wilcox's corps, about 2000 strong, near Maynardville, on last Thursday, routing them completely and capturing number of prisoners, who state that Wilcox's command is composed of raw troops.

### SYNOPSIS OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8.—The President briefly reviews events of past year, remarking that whilst our successes have not equalled our expectations, we have checked the enemy every where in his advance.

Our relations with foreign nations are discussed at considerable length. The President regrets there has been no improvement since message of January last, and that the conduct of European nations is less impartial and in some cases has assumed a character positively unfriendly. Commissioners were sent abroad for the purpose of entering into negotiations proper to fix relative rights and obligations of Confederate and United States under treaties entered into with foreign nations prior to separation, but this tender on our part has been declined; hence, as we have been refused the benefit of those treaties, they have certainly ceased to be binding, and, in the opinion of the President, our relations with European powers are now controlled exclusively by general rules of laws of nations.

Legislation upon the subject of finance is earnestly recommended. Although the magnitude and duration of the war was not at first anticipated, still, the resources of the country are so ample and spirit of the people so devoted to its cause, that relief is within our reach.

Financial policy of the Government since its formation is discussed, and the President contends that whilst the provision of the permanent constitution in reference to direct taxation cannot be carried into effect in the mode pointed out, it is the plain duty of Congress to execute the general intent of the

Constitution by making tax uniform throughout the Confederacy. These considerations are greatly enforced by the reflection that the attempt to apportion taxes amongst States some of which are wholly or partially in occupation of hostile forces, would subvert the whole intention of the framers of the Constitution, and be productive of a more revolting spirit, instead of that just co-relation between taxation and representation which it was their purpose to secure. With large portions of some States occupied by the enemy, what justice would there be in imposing on remainder the whole amount of taxation of the entire State. In proportion to its representation, what else would this be, in effect, than increase in burthen of those who are heaviest sufferers by the war, and make our own inability to protect them from invasion, as it is our duty to do by the Constitution, ground for adding to their losses by an attempted adherence to the letter, in violation of the spirit of that instrument? If such purpose could have been entertained and no such result contemplated by framers of the Constitution, it may add weight to these considerations, if the reflection that although the Constitution provided it should go into operation with a representation temporarily distributed among States, it expressly ordains, after providing for census within three years, this temporary distribution of representation powers is to endure until such enumeration shall be made, would any one argue that because census cannot be made within the fixed period, Government must at expiration of that period, perish for want of a representative body? In any aspect in which the subject can be viewed I am led to the conclusion, as already announced, and which is understood to be in accordance with vote taken in one or both houses at last session, I shall, therefore, until we are able to pursue the precise mode required by the Constitution, deem it my duty to approve any law levying taxation which you are bound to impose for the protection of the country, in any other practicable mode, and which shall distribute burthens uniform and impartially on the whole property of the people.

In your former legislation you have sought to avoid increase of volume of notes in circulation, offering inducements to voluntary funding. Measures adopted for that purpose were but partially successful, and evil has now reached such magnitude as to admit of no other remedy than compulsory reduction of currency to amount required by business of the country. Amount thus required should be accompanied by pledge that under no stress of circumstances will that amount be exceeded. No possible mode of using credit of Government can be so disastrous as one which disturbs basis of all exchange, and renders impossible all calculations of future value, advancing in constantly increasing proportion the prices of all commodities, also depreciating all fixed wages, salaries and incomes, as to render them inadequate for subsistence. If to these be added the still more fatal influence on the morals and character of the people, to which I have already adverted, I am persuaded you will concur in the conclusion, that an inflexible effort to a limitation of the currency at fixed sums, an indispensable element of any system of finance, ought now to be adopted. The volume of currency now outstanding can only be protected in the recovery of just claims, substituting par notes, or some other security. If the currency is not greatly and permanently reduced, the present state of inflated prices will not only continue to exist, but by the very fact of large amounts thus made requisite in the conduct of the war, these prices will reach rates still more extravagant, and the whole system will fall under its own weight, rendering the resumption of debt impossible, destroying its whole value in the hands of holders. If, on the contrary, funded debt, with interest, secured by adequate taxation, be substituted for outstanding currency, its entire amount will be available to holders, and Government will be in a condition enabling it, beyond any probable contingency, to prosecute the war to a successful termination. It is, therefore, demanded, as well by interest of creditors as of country at large, that evidences of public debt now outstanding in shape of treasury notes, be converted into bonds bearing adequate interest, with provision for taxation sufficient to insure punctual payment and final reduction of whole debt.

The President recommends to consideration of Congress the report of Secretary of Treasury, and hopes it will engage consideration of that body until disposed of in the manner best adapted to attain the important result which the country anticipates from its action.

President believes the army to be in all respects, in better condition than at any previous period of the war. He recommends the restoration to the army of all men im-

properly absent, putting an end to substitutes modifying the exemption law, restricting details, and placing in ranks all able bodied men now employed, wagoners, nurses, cooks and other employees, being service for which negroes may be found competent. He concurs in opinion expressed by the Secretary of War, that there is no ground for the objection that a new provision to include those who furnished substitutes, under former calls would be a breach of contract. The account of several executive appointments, is reviewed and a gratifying announcement made.

That receipts from the Post Office Dept. are six hundred and seventy five thousand dollars excess. Communication with Trans-Mississippi is so obstructed as to render difficult compliance with executive needs. Legislation is requisite, providing for the exercise of temporary authority, especially in Postal Department and Treasury, for which sub-secretaries are recommended, while for military affairs it would seem sufficient to authorize President and Secretary of War to delegate to commanding Generals so much of the discretionary powers vested in them by law as exigencies of service shall require.

In conclusion, the President adverts to savage ferocity of enemy in conducting the war, and holds up to public execration refusal of Lincoln Government to execute cartel for exchange of prisoners, but the patriotism of the people had proved equal to every sacrifice demanded by the country's need, and God had blessed us with success disproportionate to our means, and under his Divine favor our labors must be at last crowned with success.

### FROM BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec. 8, by Mobile 5th.—Siege of Knoxville was raised Friday night, our forces falling back slowly to Morristown, 42 miles from Knoxville where a stand will probably be made. The work of putting the East Tennessee and Va. R. R. in running order to that point will be rapidly pushed forward by Col. Owen of Virginia & Tennessee R. R. who is entrusted with it. Our entire loss around Knoxville will not exceed 600, principally Hood's division, among whom are Col. Fifer of the 8th Mississippi seriously wounded. The assault on the 29th ult. failed, it is said, in consequence of forged order recalling Anderson's brigade. Reports from Knoxville at Dalton are conflicting. The enemy are laying waste the country on their line of march. Enemy's cavalry appeared yesterday at Ringgold, but being attacked by a force under Col. Grigsby were routed and driven beyond. We suffered no casualties, weather cold and rainy.

### FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, 8.—Yankees have ceased firing on Sumter. They were observed to-day reviewing their batteries, also appeared to be extending battery Gregg eastward. Our batteries kept up slow but constant fire on enemy's working parties. Baltimore Gazette of the 3d reports that Morgan's escape to Canada is contradicted. It is reported he went to Ohio river and crossed into Virginia.

Lincoln had not recovered from his illness. Official dispatch from Gen. Banks, dated Brownsville, Nov. 8th, says, his most sanguine expectations are more than realized.

Wife of ex-President Pierce died at Andover, on the 2nd inst.

Flag of truce boat at City Point, yesterday evening, brought New York papers of the 7th. Army news unimportant. Expedition to relieve Burnside is under Sherman.

Steamer Isaac Newton was burned near the Yankees Saturday evening. Number of lives lost unknown.

Gold in New York on the 5th, 152.

Columbia from Liverpool, 24th, arrived at St. Johns. London Post contains report of resignation of Earl Russell. Argument in Alexandria case was concluded.

GEN. EWELL.—This officer is compelled to leave the field on account of his health. Jubal A. Early now commands his corps.

The New York Tribune claims that there will be a Republican majority of three in the next Federal House of Representatives.

The "strike" of the mechanics in the North continues. There have lately been added to those already on a "strike" the sewing girls, the turners and tailors, the stage drivers, &c. It is a general movement of all the mechanics and artisans, and is called "The Labor Movement." It extends from New York to Minnesota.

A PRODIGY.—An Irishman recommending an excellent milch cow, said that she would give milk year after year without having calves; because it ran in the breed, as she came from a cow that never had a calf!