

Our work in 1863; our prospects for 1864.

It is always proper to look back upon the past, whether the review be pleasant or not. If, on the other hand, failures reproach us with a want of zeal in action or a mistaken judgment in policy, it should serve to us as a lesson and a warning.

The year 1863 is now drawing to its close—the third year of the war—a year that began with doubts and murmurs, and closes with hope and confidence. We entered this year under the gloom and distress that resulted from the failure of the army of the Potomac under Burnside, at Fredericksburg.

From what we have accomplished the past year, we may hope that the coming year will see the close of our civil war. With it will come new duties and new responsibilities. Then it will be our labor to heal the wounds left by civil discord, and prepare ourselves and our enemies to live together in peace.

ed a policy at the proper moment, the public opinion of the country has gathered around it. The Administration has thus been strengthened by the support of those whose opinions were before aimless and uncertain. The Proclamation has driven from the Administration none who were its true friends and has rendered twice as effective towards the destruction of the rebellion those who have stood by it.

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THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The thirteenth volume of this able American periodical begins with the January number. Steadily increasing in popularity, since its present Publishers, Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, assumed its management, it has now a circulation greater than that ever reached by any American magazine of its class.

its own opinions, on other than literary questions, and that while it has been for itself in literature a position which no other American magazine has reached, it has consistently spoken true words for Liberty and Progress.

Local Intelligence

How to FILL UP A QUOTA.—When the last call was made and the draft announced for the fifth of January, unless the quotas were filled previous to that date, considerable difficulty was felt in this place for Sandgate.

Two of the persons who enlisted in Sandgate and deserted after having received a part of their bounty have been arrested. As Mr. Colburn was at the depot on Tuesday last, sending off a squad of recruits, a person left the cars for refreshments whom, notwithstanding his red hair had changed to a respectable black he recognized as one of the deserters.

MASONIC.—At the regular communication of Adoniram Lodge, No. 42, of Free and Accepted Masons, held at Masonic Hall, Manchester, December, A. L. 5863, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year.

There will be a Parish visit at the house of Rev. S. Cushman, on Friday, New Year's evening. The new Parsonage will be glad to welcome the young and the old on the occasion. All are invited.

State Intelligence

RETIRED.—Capt. Fred E. Smith, Commissary, and Lieut. Col. Dillingham, of Waterbury, recently in the department of Gen. Banks, the latter in the Eighth Vermont, have resigned.

LABORERS AT WORK ON THE EXTENSION OF THE CONNECTICUT & PASSUMPSIC RAILROAD, near the Canada line, in cutting through a clay bed found beneath a running stream of pure crystal water, eighteen inches wide, and eight in height.

Among the list of deserters given in the Boston Traveller as to be executed on the 18th, are the names of John Tague, Co. A, 5th Vt., and Geo. E. Blowers, Co. A, 2nd Vt.

Gen. Neal Dow writes from Libby that our prisoners are suffering untold horrors. He himself the officer of highest rank among the prisoners, receives nothing but potatoes and rice, and not enough of that.

AN OLD LADY in Boston utterly refused to touch a paper that contained the President's Message, because Mr. Lincoln had had the small pox. Mr. Lincoln, while laboring under the affliction, declared that he was a happy man because, for the first time, he had something to give to all who called to see him.

Perhaps between the singing and reciting Col. Randall will have occasion hereafter to look back upon his experience at Sandgate as among the most interesting circumstances of his somewhat eventful career.

COURT CASES.—The evidence in the case State vs. Costello was closed on Saturday. The arguments of the counsel are now in progress. The case is argued by Mr. Gardner and Mr. Hall on the part of the State, Mr. Miner, the State's Attorney, having been suddenly summoned to Washington by a telegram announcing the dangerous illness of his son, Mr. H. E. Miner.

THE FOLLOWING is a list of the names of those who have enlisted to fill the quota of this town, under the last call.

- THOMAS B. EATON, THOMAS FINNEY, WILLIAM W. DEALE, THOMAS MEARS, SAMUEL J. COVAY, JOSEPH T. THOMAS, HENRY R. COOPER, CHARLES MEARS, WILLIAM A. BLACK, CHARLES H. WALKER, EVERETT W. PIERCE, CYRUS BURLINGAME, JOSEPH GREENLEE, JEROME BELL, ABEL I. WILSON, JAMES E. BATHCHLEDER, GEORGE J. WHITE, WILLIAM H. HICKLEY.

Gen. Michael Corcoran died recently from injuries received by a fall from his horse. He had been married to his second wife but a few weeks. At the breaking out of the rebellion he was about to be brought to trial for refusing to obey orders and parade his regiment, the famous Irish 69th, on the occasion of the reception of the Prince of Wales in New York. Gen. Morgan promptly quashed these proceedings against him, and he went with his regiment to the war.

Gen. Buford, the best cavalry officer in the country, was at the time of his death still a young man, being less than forty years of age. He was born in Kentucky and educated at West Point. He had lately been placed in command of the cavalry in the Army of the Cumberland. The very day on which he died the President commissioned him Major General.

LETTERS FROM TWO YOUNG MEN, (BROTHERS) FORMERLY FROM THIS TOWN, WHO ARE NOW SERVING THEIR SECOND TERM IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT, TOO, WITHOUT TAX ON STATE BOUNTY.

My Dear Mother—Your kind letter of 23d Nov. was received this morning just as I had sat down to write you.

I was with my regiment (I am detached at Brigade Headquarters) and I had no idea that one fourth of us would reach the top of the mountain, for we were exposed for over half a mile to the fire of thirty cannon firing shell and spherical case (shell filled with bullets), and of all the infernal noises I ever hear that beat them all—the greatest whizzing, crashing, banging and every other noise conceivable—but "nary a man" fainted. I can assure you that we were well blown when we reached the top of the mountain, for it was rocky and part of the way we had to climb by the assistance of each other.

The enemy were followed upwards of twenty miles, but as we had no provisions and no wagons to transport them we were obliged to give up the pursuit. We captured upwards of 12,000 prisoners and 50 pieces of cannon, and obliged Longstreet, who was fighting Burnside, to start for Virginia, which I am afraid he will reach, as Burnside has not got enough men to give him battle outside of his entrenchments.

Our army is building steamboats to run between Decatur and this place to supply this army, but we are doing pretty well now—get 4 rations of everything except bread which is full rations.

Gen. Baird, our Division Commander, says that we shall most probably winter here. My kind regards to the Dr. and acquaintances generally. Affectionately, C. BLACKMER.

CAMP ON CLINCH RIVER, TENN., Dec. 9, '63. Dear Mother—I received your kind letter of the 23d ult. on the 6th inst. I received one from Frances some mail. I was very glad to hear from home once more. I have written several letters to you but I suppose they have miscarried. I am doing very well now; get plenty to eat and am fat and hearty. My leg don't trouble me any to speak of. Our regiment was in a fight at Walker's Ford on the 23d of this month. I came out all right although we had a hard time of it. We waded Clinch River twice that

day; the water was above our knees and awful cold; the river is about as wide as the Wabash, but it didn't hurt us any—I did not even catch cold.

We are encamped on Clinch River, about 12 miles from Cumberland Gap. The rebels are in sight of us, about two miles distant, throwing up fortifications. Our men are doing the same. I don't think we will attack them with the force we have at present, as they outnumber us largely. I understand we have been ordered to Tullahoma, but we cannot leave here now until we are relieved, as the rebels would make for the Gap as soon as they saw the road clear.

We have just got news that they have evacuated their fortifications and moved to a town some 75 miles back. I received the message you sent me, for which I am very much obliged, for they are very scarce in Dixie. I don't think of anything else to write now so I will close. Truly yours, JOHN S. BLACKMER.

THE CHARLESTON COURIER has been temporarily suspended. There is a possibility of its editor also being suspended should he fall into our hands.

Wm. H. Barr, a stenographer in the New York Superior Court, has resigned his position because he "cannot accept the humiliating position of serving under a man so notoriously dishonest and so universally detested as John H. McCann."

Schuyler Colfax, the newly elected Speaker of the House, was born in New York and bred a printer.

Gen. Sickles and other officers censured by Gen. Halleck, have already asked for Courts of Inquiry. If courts of Inquiry were granted to all the generals censured by the General-in-Chief it would take all the rest of the Union general to try them.

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another, 4400 pounds powder and 150,000 rounds of cartridges, and in another, in the language of Gen. Grant, "arms and munitions of war for an army of 60,000 men."

From this it appears that our loss during the year in killed, wounded and missing was 22,670 men.

If the rebels killed and wounded, of which we have no account in this report, bear the same proportion to prisoners that ours do, their loss during the year must have been enormous, reaching to over 300,000 men.

STATE OF VERMONT

Adjutant & Inspector General's Office, Woodstock, Dec. 26, 1863.

GENERAL ORDER No. 7.—Official information has been received, that a law has passed Congress, to the effect that no bounty will be paid to any recruit, who enlists after the fifth day of January next, except the bounty of one hundred dollars, in preference authorized by act of Congress. Therefore this bounty will be paid, in accordance with existing orders to recruits who enlist before January 5th, inclusive, for any three years' organization in service, or authorized by the War Department and in process of completion.

The Selectmen of the several towns in this State will therefore proceed at once, with increased diligence, to complete the raising of their quotas under the call for 500,000 volunteers, previous to the 5th of January, since, even though the draft should be for any cause, postponed, the reduction of the bounties, after that date, will, of necessity, greatly increase the difficulty of obtaining recruits. In the present encouraging condition of the recruiting service in the State, every town can, without difficulty, complete its quota by the time prescribed, and with men who will do credit to the State, if the selection of the towns will do their duty themselves, earnestly, and with a determination to succeed, and not be satisfied with filling their quotas on paper only, by the aid of substitute brokers. The Superintendents of Recruiting in the several districts, will give immediately their diligent attention to the deficient towns in their districts, and, by energetic effort, promote the filling of the quotas before the expiration of the time, within which bounties will be paid.

The Recruiting Officers for the Seventeenth Regiment are also enjoined to use their utmost efforts to obtain all the recruits they can for that regiment previous to the 5th of January. The bounty of four hundred and two dollars, heretofore paid to veterans who re-enlist, will cease to be paid after that day. All who enlist previous to that day will receive it. The quotas charged to the several towns in their district under the draft can be and should be filled from that class previous to that time. Every veteran, who re-enlists in the Seventeenth Regiment, or in an old regiment, previous to January 5th, will receive the bounty of four hundred and two dollars. Those who enlist subsequent to that day will receive a bounty of but one hundred dollars. If towns would perform their whole duty, and raise the whole number of men charged to them, they should use their utmost effort to fill their quota under the call for 500,000 volunteers, and also to induce a sufficient number of veterans to enlist, previous to that day, to fill their quota for the deficiency under the draft, and thereby ensure the filling of the new regiment. It is certain, that there will be no time, subsequent to the 5th of January, when they can raise their full quotas as easily, or with as little expense to themselves, as previous to that day.

The active and earnest co-operation of the selectmen of the recruiting officers for the Seventeenth Regiment, and of the several superintendents of recruiting, is required, and each is enjoined to use his utmost effort, to accomplish the requisite result. And the veterans of the nine months service, who have not yet re-enlisted, are hereby earnestly called upon again to respond to the call of the country, and, by their prompt re-enlistment, secure to themselves the advantage of the bounty now offered, and thereby enable the State, by a prompt and reasonable response to the requisition which has been made upon her for volunteers, to retain the enviable position which she has thus far held among the loyal States of the Union.

By order of His Excellency, J. GREGORY SMITH, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, PETER T. WASHBURN, Adjutant and Inspector General.

SALE OF THE GREAT REBELLION.—Wanted—Agents to sell the Great Rebellion.

Such is the appeal which is found in the advertising columns of the newspapers now-a-days. It is evident that the Great Rebellion must sell out very soon. Judgment was rendered against it long ago, and an execution will soon be issued. If it could be sold at private sale, going for the original cost, it is doubtful about its being able to pay a cent on the dollar. The Great Rebellion has no cents; if it had enjoyed sense, it wouldn't have been a Great Rebellion. But the G. R. is nearly played out that the most astute speculators are shy of investing in it now. Agents might, perhaps, be found to sell it, but who would want to buy?

The Great Rebellion will probably be put up at public vendue, and from present appearances General Grant will be the auctioneer to knock down. Let us imagine the scene: Auctioneer Grant (holding up the Great Rebellion, woefully shattered and rent)—Gentlemen, this is the famed Great Rebellion, what there left of it, and I am going to sell it the highest bidder. What do I hear? How much am I offered? It has been a very costly piece of furniture, an

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