New-York Tribune.

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LATER FROM NEW-ORLEANS

Arrival of the George Washington.

IMPORTANT TEXAS INTELLIGENCE.

THE COMING STATE ELECTION.

Position and Strength of Magruder's Army.

Military Affairs in the Gulf Department.

The steamship George Washington, Capt. Gage, from New-Orleans, on the morning of the 13th inst., arrived on Saturday, with two days later news. An active canvass was in progress for the ensuing election. On the night of the 11th the friends of Judge Flanders held a large mass meeting in front of the Custom-House, at which addresses were made by Messrs. Durant, Maas, and Pierson, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the appeal from ballots to bullets has been an unsuccessful attempt to fasten Slavery upon the country, and that any efforts now to appeal from bullets to ballots to save their peculiar institution, must be likewise vain and abortive.

Resolved, That free speech, free labor, free press, free schools and free men, are utterly inconsistent with the existence in any Constitution of Louisiana, recognizing the existence of Slavery in any shape whatever.

Resolved, That the election ordered by the Commanding General of the Department has been declared to be free and untrammeled; that the people are not only requested, but are expected to vote; that the nominees of the Radical branch of the Free State party, headed by Hon. E. Flanders as Governor, are good men and true, in whose intelligence and patriotism we have abiding confidence, and we respectfully and earnestly commend the ticket to the favor and support of our fellow-citizens.

On Friday evening, the 12th, a second mass meeting, in Mr. Hahn's interest, was held in Lafayette Square, which was equally as large and enthusiastic as that for Judge Flanders.

The Mobile News advises its readers in the interior not to give credence to the many reports concerning an attack by our forces upon that place. It appears it was rumored that our fleet had passed Fort Morgan, entered the bay and that fighting was going on at the City of Mobile itself. This had produced considerable excitement, which was not much allayed after denial when their accounts reported Admiral Farragut with a large fleet at Pensacola.

The Natchez Courier regales us with a spirited article concerning the capture of Vicksburg and other places, and argues that the fall of Mobile is near at hand. It quotes the language of an intercepted letter written by a Confederate officer—"Mobile will be tendered to Farragut after a hard fight;" and remarks—"The Mississippi River gone; Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas gone; Mobile going; the whole of this country south and east of Jackson, will soon be 'gone up.'"

State News from Texas—Arrival of Loyal Refugees—Position and Strength of Magruder's Army—A Trip to Madisonville—Prospects of the Planters—Great Rush for Abandoned Plantations—Condition of the Blacks—The State Election—The Suffrage Question.

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 11, 1864.

The news received in this city by the steamer Crescent, which arrived last night, bringing mails from Brownsville, Texas, and from Pass Cavallo, is interesting, though not exciting. At the points occupied by our troops on the Texas coast all is quiet and dull. A party consisting of nine loyal Texans arrived in Brownsville a day or two before the sailing of the Crescent, direct from San Antonio, which place they left on the night of the 23d ult. One of the party, a very intelligent gentleman, who has heretofore occupied a high social and political position in Texas, was sent here by Gen. Herron to communicate directly to Gen. Banks his information touching the state of affairs in the Lone Star State. I have seen and conversed with him. He says that Gen. Magruder's army, amounting to about twenty thousand men, is encamped in and around Houston. At least one-half of it is well armed with Enfield rifles and Minié muskets. The remainder is cavalry, and is armed promiscuously with shot-guns, sabers, sporting rifles, carbines and pistols, and such other weapons as had been picked up through the country. Magruder was poorly supplied with field artillery, and his siege guns are principally in position at Galveston. The loss of artillery sustained by him at Sabine has been seriously felt. The ammunition for this army has been supplied through Mexico, and in small quantities from the east side of the Mississippi, the crossings having been effected above Natchez without much difficulty. Supplies of articles of prime necessity are easily procured in the neighborhood of Houston, that being one of the earliest settled and richest portions of the State, with good crops last year.

The measures adopted by the Rebel authorities, State and Confederate, have been very effective in swelling the ranks of the armies of Magruder and Kirby Smith. Nearly every male citizen of the State is now either connected with some military organization, or is a refugee in Mexico, the mountains, or elsewhere. Exempts are no longer exempt, and nothing but flight, or absolute and utter physical incapacity to handle a gun, will save man or boy from becoming food for powder in the Rebel ranks. It will be remembered that Tom Reynolds of Missouri and other fugitive and peripatetic Governors, met the Governor of Texas, for a council, some time last Fall. An address to the people of the South-West and Trans-Mississippi States was then and there concocted, in which it was mysteriously hinted that very vigorous and very effective measures for involving in the ruin of the war the entire population without the lines of Federal occupation had been agreed upon. At the time it was doubted whether anything more than a set of buncombe resolutions had been passed.

It is now evident, however, that the measures alluded to consisted in the formation of a well-organized set of secret societies, distributed throughout the country, and controlled and managed by the most malevolent spirits. It is organized terrorism. The individual who fails to exhibit a prescribed amount of zeal in the Rebel cause is at once put down on what is styled "the roll of infamy," and thereafter his life, his liberty, property and the security of his home are in the hands of as graceless a set of scamps as ever cut a throat. Persecutions the most vile and relentless soon drive him into the army, or to hiding places. By such machinery is a show of strength kept up. Espionage being at every door, and suspicion in every heart, Union men have but little chance to confer with and encourage one another, and hence all estimates of the extent of disaffection to the Rebel cause, and of Unionism, are but guesses based upon reflections as to the natural effect of certain causes. Still my informant thinks that not more than one-half, and perhaps not one-third, of the citizens of the State of Texas are really and sincerely desirous of the success of the Rebellion. He is quite certain that the advance of our armies into the interior will give an occasion for the development of an amount of loyal sentiment which will astonish both sides.

The diffusion of correct information as to the actual state of the war, the condition and straits of the tottering Confederacy, and as to other matters of public interest, will do much toward changing the minds of many who, long deluded, are just awaking from dreams of an independent and prosperous Confederacy. Correct information is now unattainable. To promulgate it is to invite death in its most abhorrent forms. A copy of Gov. Hamilton's eloquent address to his fellow-citizens, found upon the body of a man, would be a warrant for his instant execution in almost any part of the State. To insinuate a doubt as to the truth of stories of miraculous Rebel successes in the field, is an overt act of high treason, and would be punished as such.

My informant has no reason to believe that Magruder contemplates offensive movements. His lack of artillery would deter him from such a course. But that he will fight, and fight hard and desperately, there is no room to doubt. The men under him are subjected to such strict and effective discipline that they could not well fail him in the hour of trial.

A TRIP TO MADISONVILLE, LA.

Madisonville is a quiet, small village on the Tchefuncta River, near where that stream empties into Lake Pontchartrain, which was captured by our forces about the 6th of January, and has since been occupied as one of the posts included in the list of defenses of New-Orleans. I made an excursion up there the other day, but found little to repay me for the trouble of going. The place is reported to have been, in former times, a much-frequented Summer resort of the elite of this city, though there remains nothing but the tradition to induce a belief in the report. It is nearly surrounded by a swamp. The only two approaches are confronted by two strong dirt fortifications, with a sufficient number of guns, some of which are not yet in position. The cavalry portion of the garrison, a part of the 1st Maryland, have scouted the country surrounding to a distance of 18 or 20 miles, without finding any armed enemy, though it is said there are one or two companies of guerrillas in the region, who have recently destroyed a ferry and burnt some bridges in which the peaceable inhabitants were interested. There is some cotton and a little sugar in the neighborhood, which a number of enterprising Yankees are laboring to get out, with but indifferent success.

PLANTATIONS.

The steamers arriving here from New-York since the 1st of January have brought large additions to the throng of money seeking gentlemen who are ready to step into the shoes of such resident planters as have got scared and abandoned their estates, or have become discouraged, and wish to leave them. The supply of plantations within our lines is not near equal to the demand, and if any more applicants are about to come forward, I warn them that they will be disappointed. In the first place, it is now too late to do much with a sugar plantation this year. The work on sugar crops commenced a month ago. Then again the stubble was greatly injured by the severe cold weather, and seed cane is scarce, and not to be procured. Making sugar without good stubble and seed cane is worse than making bricks without straw—it is impossible. Cotton will be planted on a considerable portion of the lands formerly devoted exclusively to sugar, but that is as yet experimental work. And, as above remarked, the supply of lands is not equal to the demand.

The office of Capt. Cozzens, Superintendent of Abandoned Plantations, has been thronged, early and late, for a month or more, with applicants for leases. I have informed myself as well as possible concerning the manner in which this business is transacted, and I have failed to see any objectionable feature. It would be better, perhaps, if the lands could be let out in smaller lots, so as to give men of small capital a chance at them. But, at present, this is clearly impracticable, without separating the families of all the freedmen, and making many women and children homeless. It is thought to be a duty of the Government to provide as well as possible for those people, and it cannot be better done than by keeping them at their homes. The arrangements for securing them fair wages, kind treatment, healthy and abundant food, medical attendance, and the advantages of schools, are apparently all that could be desired. None but thoroughly responsible parties are allowed to take the plantations, and the interests of the Government and laborers are thoroughly secured by liens on the crops, by bonds for the faithful performance of the contracts made, and by careful supervision of the whole business.

THE ELECTION.

The canvass for State officers now in progress here continues to increase in fervor and interest. There are now three tickets in the field, Mr. Rosseau heading the one supported by the Conservatives. The quarrel and split in the Free-State party has thus far proved irreconcilable. I have heretofore stated that I could find no other cause for the unhappy dissensions existing than that of antagonistic personal preferences. Of late, however, an effort seems to be making between the two wings of the party to get up an issue on some matter of principle. *The Era*, a paper advocating the election of Mr. Hahn, came out yesterday morning with a strong, double-leaded leader, accusing Mr. Flanders and Thos. J. Durant of being fanatics, and basing the accusation on the fact that both of these gentlemen advocated the admission of a delegation of colored men in a convention held in Lyceum Hall on the 15th of December last. The article also charged that Mr. Flanders was in favor of bestowing the right of suffrage on the free-born colored men of Louisiana, and stated that the vote cast for him at the coming election would represent the strength of the party inclined to that measure. I am not certain, however, that Mr. Hahn would be willing to join issue with his opponent on any such grounds. Many of his warmest and most active friends are advocates of the policy of giving to these people political rights, and it is shrewdly suspected that Gen. Banks himself is waiting for instructions from Washington to declare that they will be permitted to vote in the coming election for delegates to a Constitutional Convention, if not in the election for Governor. They have always been loyal. They fought for the Government in the last war with Great Britain. During the present war they have freely poured out blood and treasure in the defense of the Union. A large majority of them are so nearly white that they have no difficulty in mingling freely with white people. They pay at least one-third of the taxes collected in the city of New-Orleans. They are educated and intelligent. Why then should they not vote? An objection to the proposition will be started in the North before it is here, and will have more weight there. Mr. Hahn will not, I think, raise a dissenting voice, and hence there can be no controversy between him and Mr. Flanders in regard to this matter.

Another effort has been made to widen and deepen the breach made in the party by connecting the two wings with different Presidential candidates. It has failed, however. Representations sent North, to the effect that the friends of Mr. Flanders are the peculiar and only friends of Mr. Chase, while the friends of Mr. Hahn are urging the claims of President Lincoln for reflection, have no substantial foundation. Mr. Flanders, it is true, has held office under Mr. Chase—the position of Special Agent of the Treasury Department—and Mr. Hahn's newspaper has advocated the claims of the President for another term of office. But in Louisiana there can be little connection between the questions who shall be Governor and who shall be President. In the little discussion of Presidential candidates which I have heard since I have been in this city, I could hardly discover that there was any very decided preferences among Union men, their attention being more directly enlisted in their own immediately important affairs. Some, however, and especially gentlemen having positions in the Custom-House, have expressed a desire to have Mr. Chase nominated by the Republican party. I find upon going over the names of those men that each one of them is an active friend of Hahn. I conclude, therefore, that the Free-State party of Louisiana has divided off on the Free-State candidates irrespective of the preference of those candidates in regard to the approaching national election.

The Hahn men had a large meeting in Lafayette square on the evening of the 10th inst. *The Era* called it "the grandest gathering of the people that has been witnessed in New-Orleans since the days of the last Presidential canvass." *The Times* says "a considerable audience was collected together by the excellent music of the superior military band attached to the headquarters of the Department," and further on it hints that this audience was composed almost entirely of soldiers who had little or no interest in anything but the music. Last night the Flanders party had their mass meeting. It, too, was a large affair; but the two newspaper notices of it are reversed, *The Times* describing it as something overwhelming, while *The Era* speaks of it as small and mean in proportion. Meetings are held in different parts of the city almost every night, and there is an abundance of speechifying and torch-burning in the interest of both parties. The Conservatives have not yet made any formidable public demonstrations. They are active, however, and may yet teach their divided opponents a lesson on the necessity for more harmony and less devotion to the interests of particular factions.

VOCATIVE.

FROM ARKANSAS.

The Rebel Gen. Price Gone to Mexico—Arrival of Loyal Texans at Fort Smith, &c.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Saturday, Feb. 20, 1864.

Intelligence has reached here that Gen. Price has received a sixty days' furlough to enable him to go to Texas and Mexico. The belief at headquarters and throughout the Rebel army is, that he will never return. He left Camden about ten days ago, with a small escort, in citizen's dress.

Gen. Curtis, on his return and when near the old battle-field of Prairie Grove, while seperated from the main body of his escort, was fired upon several times from an ambush, but escaped unhurt.

The survivors of a party of Texan loyalists arrived here yesterday. The main body were attacked in the Kenosha Valley, twenty miles from here, and all but eleven were killed or captured. All the roads are now closely guarded by the Rebels, making it very difficult to escape.

From the Mississippi.

CAIRO, Saturday, Feb. 20, 1864.

The steamer White Cloud arrived this morning from Duval's Bluff. She brought four hundred and twenty-two bales of cotton to Memphis.

The steamer O'Brien was burnt at Columbus, Ky., yesterday. She was owned by the Government and was not very valuable.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to burn the steamer Mississippi at Memphis on the 17th inst.

Memphis cotton market inactive. Strict middlings 60c.; good middlings 63c.

It is now believed that the guerrillas will keep up a musketry fire upon steamers below Memphis. But little damage is as yet reported.

From Fortress Monroe.

BALTIMORE, Saturday, Feb. 20, 1864.

The American's special from Annapolis this morning says the steamer Louisiana, from Fortress Monroe, arrived at 7 a. m. Six escaped officers could not get to Baltimore on account of ice. The boat is all right. The steamer Columbia and 30 other vessels are lying off Greenlo's Point. An ice-bound regiment of colored troops has just arrived from St. Mary's County.

THE ENROLLMENT ACT.

The following is a carefully corrected copy of the act finally agreed upon by the Committee of Conference, and which passed both Senate and House on Friday last:

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-three.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States shall be authorized, whenever he shall deem it necessary, during the present war, to call for such number of men for the military service of the United States as the public exigencies may require.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the quota of each ward of a city, town, township, precinct, or election district, or of a county where the county is not divided into wards, towns, townships, precincts, or election districts, shall be, as nearly as possible, in proportion to the number of men resident therein liable to render military service, taking into account, as far as practicable, the number which has been previously furnished therefrom; and in ascertaining and filling said quota there shall be taken into account the number of men who have heretofore entered the naval service of the United States, and whose names are borne upon the enrollment lists as already returned to the office of the Provost Marshal General of the United States.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if the quota shall not be filled within the time designated by the President, the Provost-Marshal of the district within which any ward of a city, town, township, precinct, or election district, or county where the same is not divided into wards, towns, townships, precincts, or election districts, which is deficient in its quota, is situated, shall, under the direction of the Provost-Marshal-General, make a draft for the number deficient therefrom; but all volunteers who may enlist after the draft shall have been ordered, and before it shall be actually made, shall be deducted from the number ordered to be drafted in such ward, town, township, precinct, election district or county. And if the quota of any district shall not be filled by the draft made in accordance with the provisions of this act and the act to which it is an amendment, further drafts shall be made and like proceedings had until the quota of such district shall be filled.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That any person enrolled under the provisions of the act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes, approved March 3, 1863, or who may hereafter be enrolled, may furnish, at any time previous to the draft, an acceptable substitute, who is not liable to draft, nor at the time in the military or naval service of the United States, and such person so furnishing a substitute shall be exempt from the draft during the time for which such substitute shall not be liable to draft, not exceeding the time for which such substitute shall have been accepted.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That any person drafted into the military service of the United States may, before the time fixed for his appearance for duty at the draft rendezvous, furnish an acceptable substitute, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. That if such substitute is not liable to draft, the person furnishing him shall be exempt from draft during the time for which such substitute is not liable to draft, not exceeding the term for which he was drafted; and if such substitute is liable to draft, the name of the person furnishing him shall again be placed on the roll, and shall be liable to draft on future calls, but not until the present enrollment shall be exhausted; and this exemption shall not exceed the term for which such person shall have been drafted. And any person now in the military or naval service of the United States, not physically disqualified, who has so served more than one year, and whose term of unexpired service shall not at the time of substitution exceed six months, may be employed as a substitute to serve in the troops of the State in which he enlisted; and if any drafted person shall hereafter pay money for the procuration of a substitute, under the provision of the act to which this is an amendment, such payment of money shall operate only to relieve such person from draft on that call, and his name shall be retained on the roll, and he shall be subject to draft in filling that quota; and his name shall be retained on the roll in filling future quotas; but in no instance shall the exemption of any person, on account of his payment of commutation money for the procuration of a substitute, extend beyond one year; but at the end of one year in every such case, the name of any person so exempted shall be enrolled again, if not before returned to the enrollment list under the provisions of this section.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That Boards of enrollment shall enroll all persons liable to draft under the provisions of this act and the act to which this is an amendment, whose names may have been omitted by the proper enrolling officers; all persons who shall arrive at the age of twenty years before the draft; all aliens who shall declare their intention to become citizens; all persons discharged from the military or naval service of the United States who have not been in such service for two years during the present war; and all persons who have been exempted under the provisions of the second section of the act to which this is an amendment, but who are not exempted by the provisions of this act; and said Boards of Enrollment shall release and discharge from draft all persons who, between the time of the enrollment and the draft, shall have arrived at the age of forty-five years, and shall strike the names of such persons from the enrollment.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That any mariner or able or ordinary seaman who shall be drafted under this act, or the act to which this is an amendment, shall have the right, within eight days after the notification of such draft, to enlist in the naval service as a seaman, and a certificate that he has so enlisted being made out in conformity with regulations which may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy, and duly presented to the Provost-Marshal of the District in which such mariner or able or ordinary seaman shall have been drafted, shall exempt him from such draft: *Provided*, That the period for which he shall have enlisted into the naval service shall not be less than the period for which he shall have been drafted into the military service: *And provided, further*, That the said certificate shall declare that satisfactory proof has been made before the naval officer issuing the same that the said person so enlisting in the navy is a mariner by vocation, or an able ordinary seaman. And any person now in the military service of the United States who shall furnish satisfactory proof that he is a mariner by vocation, or an able seaman, may enlist into the navy under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the President of the United States; *Provided*, That such enlistment shall not be for less than the unexpired term of his military service nor for less than one year. And the bounty money which any mariner or seaman enlisting from the Army into the Navy may have received from the United States, or from the State in which he enlisted in the Army, shall be deducted from the prize money to which he may become entitled during the time required to complete his military service: *And provided further*, That the whole number of such transfer enlistments shall not exceed ten thousand.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever any such mariner or able ordinary seaman shall have been exempted from such draft in the military service by such enlistment into the naval service, under such due certificate thereof, then the ward, town, township, precinct, or election district or county, when the same is not divided into wards, towns, townships, precincts, or election districts, from which such person has been drafted, shall be credited with his services to all intents and purposes as if he had been duly mustered in the military service under such draft.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all enlistments into the naval service of the United States, or into the marine corps of the United States, that may be hereafter made of persons liable to service under the act of Congress entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the National forces, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863, shall be credited to the ward, town, township, precinct, or election district or county, when the same is not divided into wards, towns, townships, precincts, or election districts, in which such enlisted men were or may be enrolled and liable to duty under the act aforesaid, under such regulations as the Provost-Marshal-General of the United States may prescribe.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the following persons be, and they are hereby, exempted from enrollment and draft under the provisions of this act and of the act to which this is an amendment, to wit: Such as are rejected as physically or mentally unfit for the service, all persons actually in the military or naval service of the United States at the time of draft, and all persons who have served in the military or naval service two years during the present war and been honorably discharged therefrom. And no persons but such as are herein excepted shall be exempt.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That section third of the act entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863, and so much of section ten of said act as provides for the separate enrolment of each class be, and the same are hereby, repealed; and it shall be the duty of the Board of Enrollment of each district to consolidate the two classes mentioned in the third section of said act.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That any person who shall forcibly resist or oppose any enrollment, or who shall incite, counsel, encourage, or who shall conspire or confederate with any other person or persons forcibly to resist or oppose any such enrollment, or who shall aid or assist, or take any part in any forcible resistance or opposition thereto, or who shall assault, obstruct, hinder, impede, or threaten any officer or other person employed in making or in aiding to make such enrollment, or employed in the performance, or aiding in the performance of any service in any way relating thereto, or in arresting or aiding to arrest any spy, or deserter from the military service of the United States, shall, upon conviction thereof in any court competent to try the offense, be punished by a fine not exceeding $5,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding five years, or by both of said punishments, in the discretion of the court. And in cases where such assaulting, obstructing, hindering or impeding shall such assaulting, obstructing, hindering or impeding shall produce the death of such officer or other person, the offender shall be deemed guilty of murder, and, upon conviction thereof upon indictment in the Circuit Court of the United States for the district within which the offense was committed, shall be punished with death. And nothing in this section contained shall be construed to relieve the party offending from liability under proper indictment or process for any crime against the laws of a State, committed by him while violating the provisions of this section.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War shall detail or appoint such number of additional surgeons for temporary duty in the examination of persons drafted into the military service, in any district, as may be necessary to secure the prompt examination of all such persons, and to fix the compensation to be paid to surgeons so appointed while actually employed. And such surgeons, so detailed or appointed, shall perform the same duties as the surgeon of the Board of Enrollment, except that they shall not be permitted to vote or sit with the Board of Enrollment.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War is authorized, whenever in his judgment the public interest will be subserved thereby, to permit or require Boards of Examination of enrolled or drafted men to hold their examinations at different points within their respective enrollment districts, to be determined by him. *Provided*, That in all districts over 100 miles in extent, and in such as are composed of over 10 counties, the board shall hold their sessions in at least two places in such district, and at such points as are best calculated to accommodate the people thereof.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That provost-marshals, boards of enrollment, or any member thereof, acting by authority of the board, shall have power to summon witnesses in behalf of the Government, and enforce their attendance by attachment without previous payment of fees, in any case pending before them, or either of them; and the fees allowed for witnesses attending under summons shall be six cents per mile for mileage, counting one way; and no other fees or costs shall be allowed under the provisions of this section; and they shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations. And any person who shall willfully and corruptly swear or affirm falsely before any Provost-Marshal, or Board of Enrollment, or member thereof, acting by authority of the Board, or who shall, before any civil magistrate, willfully and corruptly swear or affirm falsely to any affidavit to be used in any case pending before any Provost-Marshal or Board of Enrollment, shall, on conviction, be fined not exceeding $500, and imprisoned not less than six months nor more than twelve months. The drafted men shall have process to bring in witnesses, but without fees or mileage.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That copies of any record of a provost-marshal or board of enrollment, or of any part thereof, certified by the provost-marshal, or majority of said board of enrollment, shall be deemed and taken as evidence in any civil or military court in like manner as the original record: *Provided*, That if any person shall knowingly certify any false copy or copies of such record, to be used in any civil or military court, he shall be subject to the pains and penalties of perjury.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That members of religious denominations, who shall by oath or affirmation declare that they are conscientiously opposed to the bearing of arms, and who are prohibited from doing so by the rules and articles of faith and practice of said religious denomination, shall, when drafted into the military service, be considered noncombatants, and shall be assigned by the Secretary of War to duty in the hospitals, or to the care of freedmen, or shall pay the sum of three hundred dollars to such person as the Secretary of War shall designate to receive it, to be applied to the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers: *And provided* That no person shall be entitled to the benefit of the provisions of this section, unless his declaration of conscientious scruples against bearing arms shall be supported by satisfactory evidence that his deportment has been uniformly consistent with such declaration.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That no person of foreign birth shall, on account of alienage, be exempted from enrollment or draft under the provisions of this act, or the act to which it it an amendment, who has at any time assumed the rights of a citizen by voting at any election held under authority of the laws of any State or Territory, or of the United States, or who has held any office under such laws or any of them; but the fact that any such person of foreign birth has voted or held, or shall vote or hold office, as aforesaid, shall be taken as conclusive evidence that he is not entitled to exemption from military service on account of alienage.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That all claims to exemption shall be verified by the oath or affirmation of the party claiming exemption to the truth of the facts stated, unless it shall satisfactorily appear to the board of enrollment that such party is for some good and sufficient reason unable to make at present such oath or affirmation; and the testimony of any other party filed in support of a claim to exemption shall also be made upon oath or affirmation.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person, drafted and liable to render military service, shall procure a decision of the Board of Enrollment in his favor upon a claim to exemption, by any fraud or false representation practiced by himself or by his procurement, such decision or exemption shall be of no effect, and the person exempted, or in whose favor the decision may be made, shall be deemed a deserter, and may be arrested, tried by court-martial, and punished as such, and shall be held to service for the full term for which he was drafted, reckoning from the time of his arrest: *Provided*, That the Secretary of War may order the discharge of all persons in the military service who are under the age of eighteen years at the time of the application for their discharge, when it shall appear, upon due proof, that such persons are in the service without the consent, either expressed or implied, of their parents or guardians: *And Provided further*, That such persons, their parents or guardians, shall first repay to the Government and to the State and local authorities, all bounties and advance pay which may have been paid to them, anything in the act to which this is an amendment to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That any person who shall procure, or attempt to procure, a false report from the surgeon of the board of enrollment concerning the physical condition of any drafted person, or a decision in favor of such person by the board of enrollment upon a claim to exemption, knowing the same to be false, shall, upon conviction in any district or circuit court of the United States, be punished by imprisonment for the period for which the party was drafted.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That the fees of agents and attorneys for making out and causing to be executed any papers in support of a claim for exemption from draft, or for any services that may be rendered to the claimant, shall not, in any case, exceed five dollars; and physicians or surgeons furnishing certificates of disability to any claimant for exemption from draft shall not be entitled to any fees or compensation therefor. And any agent or attorney who shall, directly or indirectly, demand or receive any greater compensation for his services under this act; and any physician or surgeon who shall, directly or indirectly, demand or receive any compensation for furnishing said certificates of disability, and any officer, clerk, or deputy, connected with the Board of Enrollment, who shall receive compensation from any drafted man for any services, or obtaining the performance of such service required from any member of said Board by the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall, for every such offense, be fined not exceeding $500, to be recovered upon information or indictment before any court of competent jurisdiction, one half for the use of any informer who may prosecute for the same in the name of the United States, and the other half for the use of the United States, and shall also be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That no member of the Board of Enrollment, and no surgeon detailed or employed to assist the Board of Enrollment, and no clerk, assistant, or employee of any Provost-Marshal, or Board of Enrollment, shall, directly or indirectly, be engaged in procuring or attempting to procure substitutes for persons drafted, or liable to be drafted, into the military service of the United States. And if any member of a Board of Enrollment, or any such surgeon, clerk, assistant, or employee, shall procure, or attempt to procure, a substitute for any person drafted, or liable to be drafted, as aforesaid, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment not less than thirty days nor more than six months, and pay a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000, by any court competent to try the offense.

SEC. 24. *And be it further enacted*, That the fifteenth section of the act to which this is amendatory be so amended that it will read as follows: That any surgeon charged with the duty of such inspection, who shall receive from any person whomsoever any money or other valuable thing, or agree, directly or indirectly, to receive the same to his own or another's use, for making an imperfect inspection, or a false or incorrect report, or who shall willfully neglect to make a faithful inspection and true report, and each member of the board of enrollment who shall willfully agree to the discharge from service of any drafted person who is not legally and properly entitled to such discharge, shall be tried by a court-martial, and, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not less than three hundred dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars, shall be imprisoned at the discretion of the court, and be cashiered and dismissed the service.

SEC. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That all able bodied male colored persons between the ages of 20 and 45 years, resident in the United States, shall be enrolled according to the provisions of this act, and of the act to which this act is an amendment, and form part of the national forces; and when a slave of a loyal master shall be drafted and mustered into the service of the United States, his master shall have a certificate thereof; and thereupon such slave shall be free; and the bounty of $100, now payable by law for each drafted man, shall be paid to the person to whom such drafted person was owing service or labor at the time of his muster into the service of the United States. The Secretary of War shall appoint a Commission in each of the Slave States represented in Congress, charged to award to each loyal person to whom a colored volunteer may owe service a just compensation, not exceeding $300, to each such colored volunteer, payable out of the fund derived from commutations, and every such colored volunteer, on being mustered into the service shall be free. And in all cases where men of color have been heretofore enlisted, or have volunteered in the military service of the United States, all the provisions of this act, so far as the payment of the bounty and compensation are provided, shall be equally applicable, as to those who may be hereafter recruited. But men of color, drafted or enlisted, or who may volunteer into the military service, while they shall be credited on the quotas of the several States, or subdivisions of States, wherein they are respectively drafted, enlisted, or shall volunteer, should not be assigned as State troops, but shall be mustered into regiments or companies as U. S. Colored Volunteers.

SEC. 26. *And be it further enacted*, That the words "Precinct" and "Election District," as used in this act, shall not be construed to require any subdivision for purposes of enrollment and draft less than the wards into which any city or village may be divided, or than the towns or townships into which any county may be dvided.

SEC. 27. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," approved on the 3d day of March, 1863, as may be inconsistent with the provisions of this act, is hereby repealed.

Military Affairs.

ARRIVAL OF VETERANS.

The 9th and 11th Maine, numbering 505 men, arrived in our waters on Sunday morning, and without coming ashore hastened homeward. They are from Florida, and sailed from Hilton Head on board the propeller John Rice. These men have reenlisted for the war.

THE TWELFTH DISTRICT.

The patriotic citizens of Poughkeepsie are justly proud of the fact that they have filled their quota. Their quota under the call for 500,000 men was 2,211; volunteers credited to the district up to Jan. 31, 1,121; drafted men who served or commuted and substitutes, 927; total to be credited, 2,048, leaving 163 to be raised. Since Feb. 1, there have been mustered in 310 men, so that they have raised *one hundred and forty-seven men* over their quota.

RECRUITING IN THE CITY.

A new impulse has been given to recruiting in this city by the enthusiastic manner in which our citizens have received the 1st New-York Cavalry, and the zeal shown by the loyal ladies and others in providing for the wants of sick and wounded men in their efforts to raise a large fund at the Metropolitan Fair. At Lafayette Hall, Tammany Hall and the Headquarters of the County Committee, a brisk business was done last week, with fair prospects of constant and rapid progress. Many of the brokers, runners, counterfeit captains and lieutenants who wore the livery of loyalty to serve their own selfish ends, have left our principal recruiting rendezvous in disgust and placed themselves in an attitude of defense, knowing that Gen. Dix and Marshal Murray are watching them with patriotic vigilance.

INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT FOR SOLDIERS' CHILDREN.

A movement has been set on foot in Michigan for the purpose of establishing institutions wherein the children of soldiers may be protected and trained up as useful members of society. The Rev. I. A. Lebel, of St. Augustine's Church, Kalamazoo, Mich., is the benevolent projector of this plan. He proposes that asylums be formed in which the boys shall be taught and practice various trades, farming, &c., and the girls learn the various duties of domestic life, and he expects that such asylums would soon become self-supporting. Secretary Chase and Gov. Blair, of Michigan, have written letters to Father Lebel strongly approving his views; and no doubt the plan if properly carried out would prove of value in all the States.

ANOTHER ORDER ABOUT QUOTAS.

The following is an extract of a communication from Col. Fry, Provost-Marshal-General, to his Assistants in the Northern Division:

WAR DEPARTMENT, PROVOST-MARSHAL-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15, 1864.

Major FRED. TOWNSEND, *U. S. A., A. A. P. M. General, Northern Division, Albany, N. Y.*

SIR—The quota of the Northern Division of the State of New-York, to fill the call of the President for 500,000 men, and to make up deficiencies, is as follows:

11th Congressional District	1,965
12th Congressional District	2,211
13th Congressional District	2,248
14th Congressional District	2,094
15th Congressional District	2,079
16th Congressional District	1,315
17th Congressional District	1,920
18th Congressional District	2,603
19th Congressional District	2,113
20th Congressional District	2,091

This is exclusive of any deduction on account of credits now due for volunteers and drafted men, except those due to the State at large, which have been distributed among the districts and deducted. The numbers to be deducted on these accounts are as follows:

District.	No. of volunteers up to Jan. 31st, not heretofore credited.	No. of men drafted, paid commutation and furnished substitutes all to be credited.	Total to be credited.
XI	1,050	826	1,876
XII	1,121	927	2,048
XIII	493	704	1,197
XIV	1,168	1,156	2,324
XV	1,824	418	2,242
XVI	1,115	579	1,694
XVII	900	777	1,677
XVIII	1,436	1,051	2,487
XIX	1,101	1,384	2,485
XX	1,484	911	2,395

Those credits you will cause to be distributed by the Board of Enrollment of each District among the sub-Districts entitled to them, and deducted from their proportional part of the quota of the District, which proportional part will be determined upon the total number enrolled in classes Nos. 1 and 2. The remainder will be the quota for the draft ordered March 10th, subject to further credit for men raised by each sub-District between February 1st and February 20th.

From this it is to be inferred that the Districts are to be credited as follows:

1. With all the men enlisted from the 7th of July, 1863, to March 9, 1864.
2. With all the drafted men who have responded in person.
3. With all the substitutes furnished by drafted men; and
4. With all the drafted men who have paid the $300 commutation fee.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

The Advance of Sherman's Expedition.

REPORTED BATTLE WITH GENERAL POLK.

The Rebels Whipped and 12,000 Prisoners Taken.

SEIZURE OF PROVISIONS AT JACKSON.

MERIDIAN REACHED AND OCCUPIED

RAPID ADVANCE OF THE ARMY.

The Rebels Unable to Stop its Progress.

THE EXCITEMENT AT MOBILE.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Saturday, Feb. 20, 1864.

It is rumored here that Gen. Sherman has had a fight with Gen. Polk, near Brandon, whipped him, and taken 12,000 prisoners.

CAIRO, Saturday, Feb. 20, 1864.

An officer from the Big Black River reports that just before reaching Jackson, Mississippi, a skirmish ensued between a part of Gen. Sherman's forces, and a body of 4,000 to 5,000 Rebels, in which the latter were defeated, and forty captured.

Our army passed through Jackson in two columns, the enemy retreating across Pearl River, so precipitately that his pontoons, two pieces of artillery, and a number of prisoners fell into our hands.

Our forces seized provisions of all kinds and swept on.

Great dissatisfaction is said to exist among the Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri regiments, and large numbers of deserters are coming into our lines.

Gen. Sherman reached Meridian ten days after leaving Vicksburg.

A portion of Gen. Tuttle's division got behind, was cut off from the expedition, and returned to Vicksburg.

Gen. McArthur is in command of the District of Vicksburg, Gen. McPherson having accompanied Gen. Sherman with most of his corps.

Passengers from Mobile report that the inhabitants of that city feel sure of an attack upon that city by the Union forces.

Fifteen thousand Rebel troops are reported to be in and about