## LATER FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

**Arrival of the Evening Star—Affairs in the Gulf Department—Progress of the Canvass—The Free Men of Color Aroused.**

By the arrival of the steamship Evening Star, Capt. Bell, we have dates from New-Orleans to Feb. 20, and Havana to the 22d.

The steamer Yazoo was to leave New-Orleans for this port on Wednesday, the 24th inst., the Matanzas on the day following, and the Columbia and George Cromwell to-day.

**Escape of Union Prisoners—Affairs in Western Louisiana—Sherman's Movements in Mississippi—Gen. Banks Invited to take the Stump.**

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 20, 1864.

Two soldiers, A. W. Wells of the 9th Illinois Cavalry, and H. S. Ingram of the 6th Illinois Cavalry, who were captured at Moscow, Tenn., on the 4th of December have arrived here. They were at Catawba, on the Alabama River, 200 miles above Mobile, and made their escape from prison at that place by getting down the sink and braking through the drain. They walked through the country at night, eating nothing for six days, when a Union man gave them food. On reaching East Escambia Bay, near Milton, Florida, they were taken on board a schooner bound for Pensacola Navy-Yard. They were sent here from that place.

The report says that the woods are full of refugees from conscript officers. Patrols, with bloodhounds, are on all the principal roads.

A flag of truce was sent in to Gen. Franklin, near Franklin, La., a few days since. While awaiting outside our lines for an answer, one of the Rebels said he would ride into town to see his sweetheart, and putting spurs to his blooded horse made the attempt. As he approached our picket station he was ordered to halt, but refused, and was fired on and his hand shot off. He then turned his horse and escaped. Capt. Jumrall, commanding the party, surrendered himself a prisoner because his flag of truce had been violated by one of his comrades. The man's name is Vincent. He is a notorious villain; he killed a man during the Rebel regime in Brashear City, for thoughtlessly whistling "Hail Columbia." There is nothing else of interest.

You have doubtless received the intelligence of the invasion of Mississippi by the Union forces under Gen. Sherman. His march through Mississippi was a triumphant affair, according to the Mobile papers, the enemy being badly whipped wherever they attempted a stand.

There have been no returns of losses on either side, except from Gen. Wirt Adams of Rebel cavalry command, which lost 200 out of 800, in defense at Jackson, Mississippi.

Two thousand loyal citizens have written to Gen. Banks, asking him to speak in public on the political questions now agitating the people of Louisiana. He declined, on the ground that he did not wish to seem to throw military authority, in any manner whatever, into the political balance.

There was no news of importance from our army in Texas. Col. Dudley's Brigade is about to leave, probably for there. Per contra, transports have been sent to Pass Cavallo, to bring away 6,000 troops. Your readers can choose for themselves. There are, however, positive indications that the long inactivity here will soon be interrupted.

Surgeon Nestell, of the United States gunboat Clifton, captured with his vessel at Sabine Pass, has returned, paroled. No information could be obtained from him on account of his parole.

**Progress of the Political Canvass—Movement of the Free Colored People for Suffrage—A statement of their Claims—A Delegation Sent to Washington.**

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 21, 1864.

While enthusiastic meetings were holding last evening in the different public squares of this city, called together by bands of music and torchlight processions, and immense placards with the names of favorite candidates for Gubnatorial honors emblazoned thereon, another meeting, quite as important in many respects, and as significant of the signs of the times, was quietly held in the old French part of the city.

It is probably well known that the free colored population of New-Orleans in intelligence, public spirit, and material wealth, surpass those of the same class in any other city of the Union. Many of these gentlemen have been highly educated, have traveled extensively in this and foreign countries, speak and read the French, Spanish, and English languages fluently, and in the Exchange Rooms, or at the Stock boards, wield an influence at any time fully equal to the same number of white capitalists. Before the war they represented in this city alone fifteen millions of property, and were heavily taxed to support the schools of the State, but were not allowed to claim the least benefit therefrom.

These gentlemen, representing so much intelligence, culture, and wealth, and who would, notwithstanding the fact that they all have negro blood in their veins, adorn any circle of society in the North, who would be taken upon Broadway for educated and wealthy Cuban planters, rather than free negroes, and although many of them have themselves held slaves, have always been loyal to the Union, and are to-day the sincerest and firmest friends of the Nation in New-Orleans.

The meeting held last evening was called in part to receive Col. James McKaye, of the Freedmen's Commission, to hear an address from him, and to appoint a Committee to wait upon the President of the United States, and the National Congress, and petition for the right of suffrage.

As Col. McKaye entered the Hall, accompanied by Major R. Rush Plumly and several other stanch advocates of human rights, the entire audience rose to their feet and received them with enthusiastic applause. After the Chairman, Nelson Pavajean, had introduced the gentlemen to the audience in the French and English languages, Col. McKaye rose and addressed the meeting at length. He urged upon them the importance of discarding all ideas of caste and superiority on account of their wealth and intelligence, to labor for the elevation of those of their race who have but recently been emancipated from Slavery, and to demand their rights upon the broad ground that they were human beings, created in the image of God, with intellects and hearts and wills—that they possessed faculties to acquire knowledge, to accumulate property, to increase the wealth of the nation, and the strength and the will to defend their country against foreign and domestic foes. He expressed no doubt that the time would arrive when the free colored people would be allowed the right of suffrage upon an educational or property qualification—that all white men were not competent to vote intelligently, and that negroes who have long been held in Slavery, if allowed to flock to the polls indiscriminately, would be but the instruments in the hands of demagogues for the accomplishment of base purposes.

I regret that I cannot give you a full report of the able address of Col. McKaye. All that he said was warmly applauded, although no extravagant views with regard to the immediate accomplishment of their objects were held out to them. His views were broad and statesmanlike, and were presented with clearness of thought and elegance of diction.

After Col. McKaye had concluded, Major Plumly addressed the meeting. He referred to the past, when New-Orleans seemed in danger of being retaken by the Rebel forces under Gen. Magruder, when those free colored people before him rose *en masse*, closed their offices and stores, armed and organized themselves into six regiments, and for six weeks abandoned their business and stood ready to fight for the defense of New-Orleans, while, at the same time, not a single white regiment from the original white inhabitants was raised.

If these men, so patriotic, so intelligent, so ready to sacrifice their lives for their country, and representing so much wealth and culture, were not competent to vote, he knew not who were. In a strain of fervid eloquence he encouraged them in the belief that, so far as they were concerned, the prayer they were about to send up to the President and to Congress would be heard, thoughtfully considered, and, before, the close of the present session of Congress, granted.

Major Plumly's remarks were frequently interrupted by applause. Indeed, he seemed to be well known, and to be upon the very best terms with his audience.

After addresses by several others in the French language, the meeting adjourned.

J. B. Roudanez and Arnold Bertoman, gentlemen well known in business circles in New-Orleans, and in every respect accomplished and able men, are the delegates selected to visit Washington and represent the interests of the free men of color in New-Orleans. N. P.

**Highly Important Order—The Qualifications of Electors.**

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 13, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 24.—I. Every free white male 21 years of age, who has been a resident of the State twelve months, and six months in the parish in which he offers to vote, who is a citizen of the United States, and who shall have taken the oath prescribed by the President in his Proclamation of the 8th December, 1863, shall have the right to vote in the election of State officers on the 22d of February, 1864.

II. Citizens of the State who have been expelled from their homes by the public enemy on account of their devotion to the Union, and who would be qualified voters in the parishes to which they belong, will be allowed to vote for State officers only in the election precincts in which, for the time being, they may reside.

III. Citizens of the State who have volunteered for the defense of the country in the army or navy, and who are otherwise qualified voters, will be allowed to vote in the election precincts in which they may be found on the day of election. And if the exigencies of the public service be such as to prevent their attendance at any established precinct, then Commissioners fairly representing the interests involved in the election will be appointed to receive their votes wherever they may be stationed on that day, and to make due returns thereof, as well as of their own votes, to the Mayor Governor of the State, as provided for other Commissioners of Election.

IV. The Commissioners of Election, at any election precinct, are authorized to administer the oath of allegiance, as prescribed by the President, to any person otherwise qualified to vote, and to register the name of such voter in New-Orleans where a register is required, or to receive it in other parishes where no register is required, at any time before the polls are closed on the day of election.

V. The Commissioners of Election in the several parishes will make prompt returns of the votes given to the Sheriff of the Parish, as provided by law, or in his absence to the Provost-Marshal who will immediately return the same to the Military Governor of the State.

V. The Sheriffs of the several parishes, and, in their absence, the Provost-Marshals, will take especial care that the polls are properly opened, and that suitable Judges of Elections and other officers are appointed. It is desirable that all persons properly qualified shall vote, but it is more important that illegal or fraudulent votes shall not vitiate the election.

VII. The situation of Louisiana is not identical with that of other States designated by the President, but the test of loyalty required by him as a basis for the restoration of government is unequivocal. Full opportunity has been given to the people for the suggestion of any obligation more in accordance, if possible, with the condition of this State, but no general unity of sentiment appears to exist as to the test of fealty which should be demanded. The inference is irresistible that all parties prefer the form prescribed by the President to any other than their own.

The oath prescribed by him offers amnesty and pardon only to those who have committed treason. To all others it is a simple pledge of continued fealty to the Government. The oath of allegiance cannot be materially strengthened or impaired by the language in which it is clothed, but it may be accompanied by such explanations as to make known to the public the sense in which it is administered and received. Allegiance cannot be more or less than unreserved, unconditional loyalty.

The repetition of an oath once taken, or when unnecessarily clothed in unusual language may well cause hesitation, but if it be identified with the restoration of a Government, at a time when a secret treasons and reservations have rapped public integrity, and endangered the safety of the nation, it is an unusual patriotism that criticises the form or hesitates at its renewal.

In times of public danger, the Government has a right to demand an unreserved declaration of the purposes of all its people, and to provide, if necessary, an iron-clad defense against the weapons of its enemies. Those who seek its favor and protection must yield to its just demands. An exemption from all duties and an enjoyment of all privileges at the same time is a greater degree of happiness than is accorded to any man in this life. Let the people of Louisiana look at things as they are, and base their political action upon a declaration of loyalty that cannot be misconstrued or misinterpreted. Upon this depends the restoration of peace and of private and public prosperity.

By command of Major-Gen. BANKS.

RICHARD B. IRWIN, A. A. General.

## XXXVIIIth CONGRESS....First Session.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 1864.

THE PUBLIC LANDS AND DISLOYAL PERSONS.

Mr. SUMNER (Un., Mass.) introduced a bill to exclude disloyal persons from the public lands of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

This bill not only forbids the exercise of pre-emption rights, but excludes them from the benefit of judicial rights in reclaiming mining lands or recovering damages to such property.

GRADE OF NAVAL LINE OFFICERS.

Mr. HALE (Un., N. H.) reported the bill to amend the act entitled "An act to establish and equalize the grade of line officers in the United States Navy," with an amendment intended to remedy the overslaughing of valuable officers by the Retiring Board, and essentially the same that failed to become a law last session.

ENLISTMENTS IN THE REGULAR ARMY.

Mr. WILSON (Un., Mass.) introduced a bill which provides that further enlistments in the Regular Army shall be for three instead of five years; that soldiers in the Regular Army, who enlisted prior to July 22, 1861, shall have the privilege of reenlisting until the 1st day of May, with the existing bounties; that officers absent from duty with leave for a period not exceeding ten days, shall receive full pay and allowances for such period; that enlisted men employed as laborers at the military academy, or detailed as clerks in the military offices in Washington or at Geographical Department Headquarters, may receive the extra pay allowed by law, prior to March 3, 1863; that Chaplains absent from duty by reason of wounds or disease, shall receive full pay without rations, and absent from other causes, half pay with rations; that Chaplains shall be placed on the same footing in respect to pensions as First Lieutenants; that there shall be allowed to the battalion of Regular Engineers one Adjutant, one Quartermaster, and one Commissary, to be selected from the Lieutenants on duty with said battalion; also, one Sergeant-Major and one Quartermaster-Sergeant.

RELIEVING GENERAL OFFICERS.

On motion of Mr. LANE (Un., Ind.), it was resolved that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the articles of war as to prohibit to all military commanders below the President of the United States the power of relieving from duty any general officer, except when placed in arrest upon charges, or when wounded, or on surgeon's certificate of disability, or upon limited leave of absence, or when captured by the enemy, leaving to the General-in-Chief and the different Department and Corps Commanders to change the command of their respective general officers.

THE REMOVAL OF GEN. SCHOFIELD.

On motion of Mr. LANE (Un., Kansas), the President was requested to furnish to the Senate any protests of the Governors of States in reference to the removal of Gen. Schofield from the Department of Missouri.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

Mr. MORRILL (Un., Me.) introduced a bill to regulate proceedings in cases between landlords and tenants in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

THE COLOR DISTINCTION.

Mr. COLLAMER (Un., Vt.) called up the bill to remove all disqualifications on account of color, with the amendment providing that in courts of the United States there shall be no exclusion of witnesses on account of color.

Mr. LANE (Un., Ind.) said he should vote against the bill. From the courts of many states, among which was his own, colored persons were excluded. If this law was passed there would be a conflict of authority between the courts of the United States and the State courts; and, besides, there were plenty of white people capable of doing the work of carrying the mails. He believed that the radical prejudices which had been exhibited in Congress for several days past would do harm instead of good. Emancipation was going on well enough now, and he would give no vote tending to do more harm than good. He thought blacks and whites should be kept separate, and was unwilling to legislate for the blacks as against white men.

Mr. LANE (Un., Kansas) was proud to say that he represented a State where the people had intelligence and justice enough to listen to the truth without regard to color.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem., Del.) thought the remarks of the gentleman from Indiana would have a good effect throughout the country. Where was the practical good to be subserved by this bill? Had the public service been injured in the past by reason of the exclusion of colored persons from carrying the mails? Congress had already gone far enough in favor of the negro without absorbing every day of the session in his behalf. When passion had subsided, the passage of the bill would be regretted by many of those who now favored it.

Mr. SUMNER called attention to the origin of the legislation now proposed to be stricken from the statute books, and quoted from a letter of Gideon Granger, written in 1822, wherein the passage of a law making the disqualification was suggested in consequence of the alleged danger from colored mail carriers in the South. Up to that time there had been no legislation of the sort.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem., Del.), approved the statement of Mr. Granger's letter as indicating the friendly feeling of the old days between the North and South.

Mr. POWELL (Dem., Ky.), opposed the amendment allowing colored persons to testify as witnesses in courts of the United States. If we have one rule in the State courts and another in the United States courts, it would inevitably create confusion. Though he knew that nothing he could say would prevent this fanatical legislation, he would raise his voice against it.

Mr. HENDRICKS (Dem., Ind.) could not see the propriety of connecting with the bill regulating the mail service, the question of the competency of witnesses before the Courts of the United States. This matter should go to the Committee on the Judiciary. If the negro's intelligence is so much as to introduce him as a witness not only against white men, but in fact to impeach the white man's integrity, why not place him in the jury-box, and make him the peer of the white man? From the course of the debate here for a few days past, the fact has been established that the negro was the peer of the white, and was entitled to political and social equality with the white man. Now we go one step further, and say that he shall be allowed to impeach the credibility of the white man in our Courts. Let us have fairly and squarely the issue before the country. We might say here that the negro is the equal of the white man, but you cannot make him so by any legislation of yours. Our race has gone upward for a thousand years, and the colored race downward, when depending upon its own ability to raise itself under such a state of the case, he was loth to believe in negro equality.

Mr. HARLAN (Un., Iowa), inquired of the gentleman if equality was created by the fact of negroes being allowed to ride with the Senator in a railroad car, was that the Senator's criterion of equality?

Mr. HENDRICKS replied that he did not consider that was exclusively a criterion; but when the Senate conferred such high privileges on these people, as it had within a short time past, he did consider it a criterion; and that the facts brought before us by this legislation, showed the purpose of the majority to place the negro on an equality with the white race.

Mr. HARLAN inquired if the carrying of a musket in the same branch of service would place them on a social equality. If they were engaged in carrying packages, or laboring in any capacity for the Government, did that tend to establish social equality? Or did the fact of their receiving the same pay, or allowing them to testify in Courts, establish their social equality? We should be governed by the amount of physical labor performed in regard to pay; and he supposed a black man could tell the truth as well as a white man. But because colored men were witnesses it did not follow that they should be jurors any more than that minors or women should.

Mr. SAULSBURY referred to the difference in knowledge of the negro race among Southern and Northern men, and pictured the evils of such legislation as this, declaring that he regarded its authors as the enemies of the race.

Mr. POWELL offered an amendment limiting the provision for negro testimony to cases of robbery and violation of the mails.

Mr. CONNESS (Un., Cal.) said that in voting for the bill he wished to extend the right of colored people to testify in all cases in the Courts of the United States; and said that in the States of New-York and California this policy had worked well.

Mr. JOHNSON (Cond. Un.) thought the point of the bill was in the Committee's amendment, as he did not suppose the Postmaster-General would employ many colored persons in carrying the mails.

Mr. SUMNER replied that it was desired to employ a very respectable colored man in Boston as a mail carrier, but it could not be done under the law.

Mr. JOHNSON said it might be inferred that it was not as easy to find a respectable white man in Boston as it was to find a respectable colored man. He then called attention to the evil consequences which might result, if slaves were allowed to testify. He thought negroes as competent to testify as other persons of no higher mental and moral qualifications. He hoped the amendment would be adopted, limiting the provision to free colored persons.

Further action of the subject was postponed.

THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL.

The Senate agreed to the report of the Committee of Conference on the bill reviving the grade of Lieutenant-General.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate, after an Executive Session lasting two hours and a half, adjourned at half-past four o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE NUMBER OF CADETS AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

On motion of Mr. STROUSE (Dem., Pa.), the Committee on Military Affairs were instructed to inquire into the expediency of increasing the number of cadets at the Military Academy, and also the expediency of repealing so much of the Enrollment act as gives pay to officers absent with leave.

GENERAL DEBATE.

At the suggestion of Mr. STEVENS (Un., Pa.), tomorrow was exclusively set apart for general debate, or "humbugs" speeches.

TRAITORS AND PUBLIC ENEMIES.

Mr. HIGBY (Un., Cal.) introduced a bill to exclude traitors and public enemies from the claims and settlement on the public lands. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

THE PAYMENT OF BOUNTIES EXTENDED.

Mr. SCHENCK (Un., Ohio) from the Committee on Military Affairs reported the following joint resolution:

"That the bounties authorized to be paid under existing laws and the regulations and orders of the War Department to veterans reenlisting, or persons enlisting in the regular or volunteer service for three years or during the war shall be paid from the 1st of March to the 1st of April, any law or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, and that the said bounty be paid out of any money already appropriated for that purpose."

Mr. COFFROTH (Dem., Pa.) suggested an amendment crediting veterans to their respective localities.

Mr. SCHENCK said that was already provided for in the enrollment bill.

Mr. COFFROTH replied that the Provost-Marshal had issued an order antagonistic to it.

Mr. SCHENCK said—Then that officer must be held to responsibility.

The House then passed this joint resolution to extend the time for payment of bounties.

THANKS TO ADMIRAL PORTER.

The House passed a resolution of thanks to Admiral D. D. Porter, commanding the Mississippi Squadron, and the officers and men, for eminent skill and endurance in cooperating with the army in reopening the Mississippi River. Also a resolution of thanks to Commodore Ringgold, officers and men, for daring and skill in rescuing the United troops from shipwreck during 1861.

ENLISTMENTS IN SOUTHERN STATES.

Mr. BLAIR (Br. State, Mo.), from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill providing as follows:

"That any portion of the residents of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, or Arkansas, who may volunteer in the military service of the United States, for the term of three years or during the war, shall be enlisted in the bounds and privileges of the existing laws, and mustered into the regiments of any of the States which they may elect, and in the case of such being colored troops, they shall be assigned as now directed by law; and any state, or sub-division of States, providing such enlistments, shall receive credit—it is provided, that such enlistments in any State, under this act, shall continue only until such State shall be subject to a call for troops."

Mr. COX (Dem., O.) stated that he was credibly informed that recruiting officers from other States were enlisting Ohio troops in this neighborhood. He was informed by a colleague that Ohio regiments in the South West were enlisted as Tennessee troops. There was no doubt that the richer States, like the great State of New-York, are offering and paying more bounties than the poorer States could give. Mr. Cox here read a letter from an officer showing that recruiting officers from Troy, N. Y., had induced the 11th, 12th, 17th and other Regular regiments to reenlist, and gave the credit to Rensselaer County. The bounty is $402, and the local bounty paid down is $300. In these Regular regiments were several hundred men from the State of Ohio, and the greater part of them were from the West. This is a swindle on the West. We are, Mr. Cox said, entitled to the credit of these men. Money is running against muscle. Some warning ought to be given against such conduct.

Mr. FINCK (Dem., Ohio) confirmed the statement as to the two regiments from his district being enlisted as Tennessee troops, and these same troops were having their families supported by the localities to which they belong.

Mr. BLAIR said the evils of which the gentleman (Mr. Cox) complained had nothing to do with the bill. If the Secretary of War discredits the law, there was a way to make him respect it. He knew that thousands of men were recruited in Missouri and subsequently credited to Illinois, from which State they came.

Mr. WADSWORTH (Br. State, Ky.), expressed his dissent from this bill. They ought not to give States the privilege or right to purchase men in other States instead of employing men in their own States. The States which have no money to spend must furnish their quota from their own people. He protested against the whole policy of arming negroes and bringing them into the contest. They were commanded by white officers, and denied all claim to political and social recognition, and yet were required to fight. In fact, it was changing one state of slavery for one far more odious. He repeated that while the negroes were called upon to defend the national integrity, they were denied all the rights and claims of citizenship. If he called upon the negroes to help him to fight, they were bound to vote for him. Hence he repudiated the whole policy, and called upon his State (Kentucky) to send her freemen into the field and not her slaves.

Mr. BLAIR did not regard this as a war between some States and other States. It was a war between the Government and the men in rebellion against it. He believed they could as well employ men of the South in Massachusetts regiments as elsewhere. He did not concur in the remarks of the gentleman from Kentucky. He (Mr. Blair) knew from what he had seen that there were thousands of men in the South anxious and willing to enter the service of the Government, but as yet no provision has been made by which their families can be cared for. Thousands of loyal men can be obtained there if provision be made for their families. It was more their battle than that of Massachusetts, and they had more interest in upholding the Government than the North, for they had suffered to a greater extent the horrors and evils of the war. The view which the gentleman from Kentucky had sought to inculcate was the States' Rights doctrine run mad.

Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN (Dem., Ill.) suggested whether it would not be better to let the Union men in the South remain where they were, to form a nucleus for the Union sentiment, instead of attaching them to the regiments from various States.

Mr. BLAIR replied that was being done now in North Carolina and Alabama, but the measures pending would be more efficacious. He was in favor of having their families provided for, and giving the largest bounties.

Mr. GARFIELD (Un., Ohio), speaking from practical knowledge, said the only white regiments raised in the South were raised by himself, in the Summer of 1862; while his command was lying in the forests near Decatur, he learned that the Sand Mountains, caves, and all parts of the mountains, were filled with Union men, sternly holding out against conscription, and resisting every attempt to force them into the Rebel service. He sent out Col. Streight, who he hoped had made his escape from Libby Prison, and that officer in three days raised four hundred men. The women from the mountains obtained his consent that these men might be enlisted, and one woman brought in 35 men, and he (Garfield) would say that he had never seen Union men like these Union men of the mountains. They were swarming from the sand-hills of Mississippi to Western Virginia. No proposition before the House had so much solid sense in it as this, or evidenced such far-reaching and wise statesmanship.

Mr. COX offered the following amendment, which was agreed to, namely:

*Provided further*, That no enlistment shall be made of any soldier, either in or out of his own State, except as commissioned herein, unless full credit is given to the State to which the enlisted soldier belongs.

The bill, as thus amended, was then passed by Yeas, 81; Nays, 44.

THE NUMBER OF VETERANS ENLISTED.

Mr. FINCK (Ohio) submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, calling on the President, if not incompatible with the public interests, to report what number of veteran volunteers have reentered the service, how many from the several States, and from what particular States nonresidents have been recruited.

VIRGINIA ELECTION CASE.

Mr. DAWES (Un., Mass.) called up the Virginia Election case, and the House proceeded to the consideration of the resolution that Lewis McKenzie is not entitled to a seat as Representative from the VIIth Congressional District. Mr. Dawes spoke in support of the resolution adopting the conclusions of the Committee of Elections, who could not satisfy themselves that there has been such a freedom of election in that district as to warrant a conclusion that Mr. McKenzie is the choice of the legal voters of the whole district. Mr. McKenzie was permitted to speak in his own behalf, when the House voted on, and agreed to the resolution declaring him not entitled to a seat.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Un., Ill.) from the Joint Committee of Conference, made a report on the disagreements on the Lieutenant-General bill. He said the report was unanimous.

Mr. COX—Does it leave out the recommendation that Gen. Grant be appointed Lieutenant-General?

Mr. WASHBURNE (Un., Ill.)—It does.

Mr. COX—Then I move to lay the report on the table.

Mr. WASHBURNE then explained how the bill would read if the House adopted the report. Should the motion of the gentleman from Ohio (Cox) prevail, it would carry the bill to the table, in which event it would be lost.

Mr. ERCKS (Dem., N. Y.) asked if the bill did anything more than authorize the appointment of a Lieutenant-General?

Mr. WASHBURNE replied that under the direction of the President, the Lieutenant-General might be authorized to command the armies in the field.

Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN (Dem., Ill.) inquired whether the bill conferred any power which did not already exist?

Mr. WASHBURNE replied: If the grade should be revived Gen. Grant would be placed at the head of the United States armies, should the President appoint him Lieutenant-General. The House Committee agreed to the report because everything was obtained by it that was necessary, and they yielded the more willingly to the Senate amendment to strike out the recommendation of Gen. Grant for the Lieutenant-Generalship from the information and knowledge that should the bill pass Gen. Grant would receive the appointment without any delay.

Mr. COX objected to the gentleman from Illinois (Washburne) stating here what had occurred in the Committee, and to his being the authority here of the President to control the action of the House.

Mr. WASHBURNE denied having made such a statement. The simple question was, whether the report of the Committee shall be agreed to and Gen. Grant made the commander of our armies and close the Rebellion, or whether the motion of the gentleman from Ohio (Cox) shall be carried and the report laid on the table?

Mr. COX remarked that the gentleman from Illinois (Washburne) had made a mistake. The bill did not appoint Gen. Grant the commander of our armies.

Mr. WASHBURNE resuming, said he was surprised that any man in the light of intelligence we have today, should make the motion the gentleman did, while Gen. Grant is driving Longstreet out of East Tennessee. The advance upon Dalton and the splendid march of Gen. Sherman right into the heart of Mississippi, which was all a part of the grand programme of Gen. Grant, and after the House and Senate almost unanimously had passed this bill.

Mr. COX charged that the gentleman (Washburne) had deserted Gen. U. S. Grant.

Mr. COX's motion to lay the resolution on the table was disagreed to, and the report was then adopted—Yeas 72, Nays 47, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Ames, Anderson, Beaman, Blair (West Va.), Blake, Boyd, Brandegee, A. W. Clark, Cole, Davis, Dawes, Dixon, Driggs, Eckley, Eliot, Fenton, Frank, Gooch, Grinnell, Higby, Hooper, Jenckes, Johnson (Ohio), Julian, Kasson, Kelley, Kellogg (N. Y.), Longyear, Marvin, McAllister, McBride, McClurg, McIndoe, Moorhead, Ames Myers, Leonard Myers, N. Norton, O'Neill (Pa.), Patterson, Pike, Randall (Ky.), Rice, Rollins (N. H.), Rollins (Mo.), Schenck, Scofield, Sloan, Smith, Smithers, Spalding, Starr, Stebbins, Steele, Stuart, Sweat, Thomas, Tracy, Upson, Van Valkenburg, Washburne (Ill.), Washburn (Mass.), Whaley, Williams, Wilder, Wilson, Windom (Minn.), Woodbridge.

NAYS—Messrs. Ancona, Bailey, Baldwin, Bliss, Boutwell, Brooks, Brown (West Va.), Clay, Coffroth, Cole, Cox, Dawson, Denison, Donnelly, Eden, Eldridge, Finck, Garfield, Grider, Hale, Harding, Harrington, Holman, Hubbard (Conn.), Kalbfleisch, King, Lazear, Mallory, Mallory, McDowell, McKinney, Miller, Morrison, Noble, O'Neill, Pendleton, Ross, Scott, Shannon, Stevens, Stiles, Strouse, Wadsworth, Ward, Chilton A. White, Winnele, Fernando Wood.

The bill passed provides that the grade of Lieutenant-General be and the same is hereby revived in the Army of the United States, and the President is hereby authorized, whenever he shall deem it expedient, to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Lieutenant-General to be selected from among those officers in the military service, not below the grade of Major-General, most distinguished for courage, skill and ability, who, being commissioned as Lieutenant-General, shall be authorized, under the direction and during the pleasure of the President of the United States, to command the Armies of the United States.

That the Lieutenant-General appointed, as hereinbefore provided, shall be entitled to the pay, allowance and staff specified in the Fifth Section of the act approved May 28, 1798, and also the allowance described in the SIXTH Section of the act approved Aug. 23, 1842 granting additional rations to certain officers.

*Provided*, That nothing in this bill contained shall be construed to affect the rank, pay or allowance of Winfield Scott, Lieutenant-General by brevet, and now on the retired list of the army.

The House then, at 4 o'clock p. m., adjourned until to-morrow.

**Delegates to the Union National Convention.**

INDIANA.—The Republican State Convention met on Tuesday, the 23d inst., and made the following nominations:

*Governor*.....OLIVER P. MORTON.
*Lieut. Governor*.....NATHAN KIMBALL of Martin.
*Secretary of State*.....NELSON TROBRIDGE of Fayette.
*Treasurer*.....JOHN J. MCMAHON of Washington.
*Auditor*.....THOMAS B. ARCHBRY of Wabash.
*Attorney General*.....D. E. WILSON of Putnam.
*Supreme Judges*.....JAMES R. PRESSON of Kosciusko.
J. T. ELLIOTT of Henry.
CHARLES A. RAY of Marion.
R. C. GREGORY of Tippecanoe.
*Clerk of Sup. Court*.....LAF. NOBLE of Knox.
*Reporter of Supreme Court*.BENJ. HARRISON of Marion.
*Supt. of Public Instruction*.G. W. HAAS of Marion.

*Delegates at Large to the National Convention*.—For Delegates for the State at large, Major Daniel Mace of Tippecanoe County, and James L. Yater of Ripley County. Contingents, John Beard of Montgomery County, and Isaac Jenkins of Allen County.

*Electors at Large*.—For Electors for President and Vice-President for the State at large, the Hon. David S. Gooding of Hancock County, and Col. R. W. Thompson of Vigo County. Contingents, Madison Evans of Lawrence County, and Major John D. Evans of Hamilton County.

A resolution indorsing Mr. Lincoln's Administration, and instructing the delegates to the National Convention to vote for his renomination, was adopted. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee was declared the choice for Vice-President. The resolutions declare that, without questioning the conduct of the Government, every citizen must give it aid in crushing the Rebellion; that by no compromise should peace be sought, but only by complete and utter subjugation; that everything in the way of permanent and perpetual peace must be disloyal; that those who denounce the Government, who refuse to support it with men and money, who enter into secret combinations to embarrass it, who violate the laws and encourage desertions, are execrated now and forever; and that the thanks of a grateful people are due to the soldiers.

MARYLAND.—The following delegates were chosen to the National Union Convention, and instructed to vote for Mr. Lincoln for President "first, last, and all the time." The following were the delegates chosen:

*State at Large*—Western Shore—Hon. H. W. Hoffman, A. C. Greene. Eastern Shore—Hon. H. H. Goldsborough, Hon. J. A. J. Creswell.

*Congressional Districts*—Dist. I.—W. J. Leonard, L. Straughn. Dist. II.—Joseph J. Stewart, E. M. Allen. Dist. III.—Hugh L. Bond, Archibald Stirling, jr. Dist. IV.—Frederick Sobley, Isaac Nesbit. Dist. V.—John C. Holland, W. L. W. Seybrook.

INDIANA DEMOCRATIC DELEGATES.—The Democratic State Central Committee met on Tuesday last. The time for holding the State Convention was fixed for July 12. Delegates to the National Convention for the State at large were appointed as follows:

*Delegates*—Joseph E. McDonald of Marion, A. P. Edgerton of Allen, James M. Hanna of Vigo, and W. E. Niblack of Knox.

*Contingents*—John Pettit of Tippecanoe, S. A. Hall of Cass, Julius Boettcher of Marion, and J. W. Gall of Decrcum.

The State Board of Agriculture is in session.

**Arrival of the Illinois.**

The steamship Illinois, Capt. D. S. Babcock, from Aspinwall 17th inst., 10 p. m., with specie and passengers to M. O. Roberts, arrived on Friday morning. She left at Aspinwall steamship Champion, Capt. Jones, awaiting the United States mails and passengers from San Francisco, 20th inst., 3 p. m., passed steamer Ocean Queen bound to Aspinwall.

**The Revolution in Antioquia, South America.**

From The Panama Star.

We have received papers from the State of Cauca to the 21st of last month, which contain some additional information about the revolution in Antioquia. The battle at Marinilla took place on Dec. 14, and the death of the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief of the Government forces is confirmed. The Conservatives, who style themselves the "restauradores" of the old "New-Granada" and of the religion, were soon masters of the whole State of Antioquia, and their Government began a diplomatic intercourse with those of the neighboring States.

They notified the latter that they would not invade them nor interfere with them, and hoped the others would do the same. But they soon came over into Cauca, as they said, to punish the Liberals for a transgression into the Antioquia territory. They pushed the forces of Cauca back, had a victorious skirmish at Santa Maria on Jan. 12, and went as far as the river Olan. But they must have retreated back to their own territory, although we do not hear anything of the reported victory of the pursuing Caucans at Manizales, or of Gen. Sanchez, the alleged leader of the latter forces.

COSTA RICA.

Costa Rica is busy in carrying out the new road to the Atlantic; but there is some danger that the usefulness of this enterprise will be destroyed by some speculative heads, who are covering the whole length of the road with locations, and deprive the Government of the possibility to get a part of the outlaid money back by selling lots that are made valuable by the same road, for which the speculators will not subscribe one cent.

The coffee crop of this year is only a middling one, and the prices in San José, in consequence of the low prices in foreign markets, are comparatively low.

**Military Affairs.**

BOUNTY SCALPERS.

Gen. Dix is busily at work, arresting the bounty scalpers, and causing them to disgorge their ill-gotten gains, or suffer imprisonment in Fort Lafayette. Yesterday John Connolly of No. 146 Liberty street, charged with defrauding three volunteers, Smith, Kruger and Riker, out of the sum of $450, was sent to Fort Lafayette, and William Hawley was arrested and placed in the hands of a police officer to afford him (the prisoner) an opportunity to raise the sum of $800, that being the amount he has taken from recruits, who had the misfortune to fall into his hands. Several thousands of dollars have been taken from the brokers, and the detectives are in pursuit of others who have been guilty of similar practices.

RECRUITING IN THE CITY.

Gen. Jackson, who has charge of the Recruits' Rendezvous at Riker's Island, says that he is receiving from 200 to 300 recruits daily from the city of New-York.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

Efforts are being made to establish a Soldiers' Home near New-York. The ground will be purchased and the buildings put up by subscriptions from individuals who choose to contribute to such a benevolent work. When the buildings are erected and furnished for use, the institution is to be supported by the contributions of the resident soldiers. It is proposed to vest the management of the Home in a foundation of responsible gentlemen. An application for a charter is now before the New-York Legislature.

**Inquest on the Bohemian Disaster.**

PORTLAND, Me., Friday, Feb. 26, 1864.

The testimony before the Coroner's Jury in the case of the disaster to the Bohemian shows no carelessness of want of skill on the part of the officers of the steamship. A pilot on a Boston steamer, which passed the Bohemian before she struck, testifies to seeing her signal for a pilot, and that the lines made the lights look much further off than they really were.

Capt. Borland testifies that he had two lookouts on the forecastle and one aloft; steamer was going dead slow; had sailed into the port nine times; never found himself in that locality before; thinks the current may have set him to the westward; ship struck near her middle and went right over the rock; shortly after engineer reported she was making water very fast; put on full steam, heading the steamship to the shore to beach her; she ran about ten minutes when her fires were drowned out; orders were given to cut the boats ready as soon as she struck; the officers were all at their stations attending to their duties; but all the passengers rushed on deck, making great confusion; boat No. 2 was swamped by the falls giving way, breaking on lowering, which let one end down, throwing the passengers who had filled it into the water; some of the boats were filled, others were not; the men in the boats not filled refused to pull alongside, thus leaving the captain, boatswain, three of the crew, and 70 or 80 passengers on board. There was a dense fog, and the ship was settling fast. The only alternative was to get the passengers into the rigging; succeeded in getting 50 women and children into the foretop, the water then being over the forecastle head. The boats came back in three hours and took all off; lowered the women and children into the boats from the rigging, and got all those who were in the rigging safe to land. A few passengers were washed off of the forecastle head when the ship filled, and after seeing the passengers housed and cared for, returned to the ship.

Capt. Stone of Kennebunk