

To Correspondents. No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. What is intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, and generally by publication, but as a courtesy for the most part.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

Information from Spottsylvania and Stafford Counties, Va., shows that Rebel conspiring officers are entering the country in all directions, and every man under 60, and boys over 15, are impressed into the Rebel service. A few days ago a party of these Rebel officers captured five men, and were conveying them to the rendezvous, when two of them taking a favorable opportunity drew pistols, which they had concealed on their persons, and shot the two leaders of the other party dead, which put the others to flight.

Gen. Pope, in submitting his official report of the operations in the Department of the North-West for the past year, says in setting a peace with the Indians he intends to do away entirely with treaties, which system is always attended with fraud upon the Government and the Indians. His plan is based simply upon the understanding that the Indians believe themselves and do not molest the whites, and that the whites shall be made to deal fairly with the Indians and not molest them in any way.

From the Army of the Potomac, we learn that in front of a part of our line near the Appomattox the Rebels have succeeded in digging a small creek, with a view of forcing back our picket line to a considerable extent. While superintending some works which he had devised to counteract these efforts on the part of the enemy, Gen. Hays was wounded by a sharpshooter, on Sunday night, the ball entering the right forearm diagonally downward and compelling him to obtain a furlough of twenty days. There was a sharp picket fight on Monday night, but, apparently, without any important result.

Brig.-Gen. Tyler has forwarded to the Adjutant-General's office the Black flag captured from Gen. Farley's command last August near North Mountain. He says: "The flag was in charge of two Rebels, and set up against a tree. One of the Rebels went in search of water. C. H. Marsh, a detective, who had been watching the flag from a nightfall, determined to get it if possible, and springing upon the man left alone, secured him, took the flag from the pole and brought the flag and prisoner safely through within our lines."

During the present campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, the First Cavalry Division commanded by Gen. Merritt has captured 14 battle flags, 20 pieces of artillery, 10 caissons, 100 wagons and ambulances, and 2,000 prisoners of war, including 120 commissioned officers. Since the 1st of May, the command has captured 3,000 prisoners of war.

The Army of Gen. Hood, 30,000 strong, is reported by the Cincinnati Gazette, to be still concentrating in the vicinity of Florence, Ala., with one of their corps on this side of the river. The Rebels were comparatively quiet, however, the condition of the roads preventing active military operations for the present.

A dispatch from Cincinnati informs us that about fifty Rebel prisoners succeeded in reaching the fence at Camp Morton, Ind., on Monday night, about forty of them escaping. Over 7,000 soldiers left Indianapolis for the front on Tuesday, leaving a force of 4,000 still remaining in that city.

A general order has been issued from headquarters at Harrisburg, Pa., to the Commissioners of the several cities and counties in the State, directing the immediate enrollment and classification of the Militia under the Act of Assembly of May 4 and August 22, 1864.

The trial of Capt. North, Levi Cobb and Marvin H. Jones, charged with complicity in the alleged New York Soldiers' vote fraud has been postponed till Tuesday week.

Eleven or twelve of the officers of the private Florida have been brought from Point Lookout and committed to the Old Capitol prison.

GENERAL NEWS.

Detectives Farley, Eustace and Temann, a few days since, arrested Walter Patterson, Michael O'Brien, Joe Canzler, alias Canzler, and George P. Coughlin, on a charge of having committed a robbery to the amount of \$200,000 on banks in this and neighboring cities. Yesterday the prisoners were taken before Justice Dowling and a confession made a full confession. Among other articles committed by the accused was one of \$25,000 on the Bank of Commerce, by means of a forged check, purporting to be signed by Richard Lathrop, of the firm of Lathrop, Ludington & Co. There are some other implicated, whom the Police are confident of apprehending. The most of the prisoners are notorious characters, well known to the Police.

There was a large and distinguished attendance at the banquet given at the Bevere House, Boston, on Tuesday evening to Capt. Winslow and his officers. The Hon. Edward Everett, Rear Admiral Sirhind, the Hon. George B. Upton, and other distinguished gentlemen, were among the guests, who were some three hundred in number. Capt. Winslow was cordially greeted, and responded by giving a brief account of the cruise of the Kearsarge, and mentioning the favorable influence which the engagement with the Alabama had upon the American cause in Europe. Numerous speeches were made, and letters read from invited guests who were absent, and the company separated at a late hour with cheers for the Kearsarge.

Yesterday was the second day of the World's Health Convention at Hope Chapel. An address was delivered in the morning by Dr. Spangler of Pennsylvania, in advocacy of the Hydropathic system; and Mrs. M. M. Jones, M.D., of this city, read a very sprightly and able essay on "Woman's Dress, its Moral and Physical Relations." Professor R. T. Trail occupied the evening exercises by an address, entitled, "Problems of Medical Science." To day is the last of the convention, which will be convened at Clinton Hall.

Information, received from official sources, shows that Juarez, the President of the Liberal Party in Mexico, is at Chihuahua, the capital city of the State of that name, where Gen. Negret is in command of an army. The Liberals also have one in Oaxaca, under Gen. Diaz, and another in Jalisco, under Gen. Ortega. They find some comfort in the reported facts that Maximilian's Government works badly, and that he is not generally popular, having a majority of the Church against him, and failing to secure the full confidence of French army.

Extensive strata of excellent coal have been found at Fort Rice. One vein was six feet thick. This coal field extends toward the South-West, and it is supposed to extend on the slopes of the Black Hills. The existence of this great coal-field, half way between the foot of the Rocky Mountains, is a fact, the value of which cannot be over-estimated. Aside from furnishing fuel for the navigation of the Upper Missouri River, it is a controlling element in the location of a railroad across the great plains of the Pacific.

A meeting was held last evening at the Co-operation of the Woman's Central Relief Association, reported with the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

Delegates were present from a large number of Soldiers Aid Societies in New-York, New-Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Canada. The chair was occupied by Professor Hitchcock, and addresses were delivered by F. H. Knapp, esq., Col. Hawkins, Dr. Bellows and Dr. Adams.

The Mayor last evening sent into the Board of Education the following nominations for Inspectors under the new law in the seven School Districts: 1st, Wm. B. Eager, Jr.; 2nd, John Becker, 3rd, James Kelly, 4th, Andrew Mills, 5th, Jas. W. Gerard, 6th, John H. Anthony, 7th, L. B. Buckbee. These nominations will meet with general approval. William Jones and N. A. Calkins were re-elected Assistant City Superintendents for two years.

Judge Counsel has granted the application of counsel, in behalf of the St. Albans raiders, delaying their case until the 13th of December, to enable them to procure evidence. From Toronto we learn that the Hon. W. P. Howland has accepted the office of Postmaster-General. The Hon. George Brown was to leave for England yesterday, on business connected with the New Confederation.

ARMED NEGROES IN DEFENSE OF SLAVERY.

A few weeks since, The Daily News threatened and The Tribune hoped that the Slaveholder's Rebellion was about to decree a general arming and emancipation of its able-bodied slaves. Three Hundred Thousand of these, we were optimistically assured, would soon be called into the Rebel ranks, organized, armed, drilled, and let loose upon the hapless North, to kill, burn and destroy. We hoped, and barely hoped, that the experiment might be tried, since the desperate will resort to the maddest expedients; for we felt sure that arming slaves to fight for Slavery was the certain way to make a speedy end of both Slavery and the Rebellion. Our Government could well afford to supply clothing, arms and equipments to every Black regiment that the Rebels would raise and put in the field; for we should soon have our arms back again, with strong and willing men to wield them.

The following letter from a Rebel spy at our National metropolis forcibly sets forth the argument in favor of the proposed act of Rebel desperation:

THE ARMING OF THE SLAVES.

Washington Correspondence of The Richmond Enquirer. WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 1864. I should prove false to my native land in closing this communication, without first pointing out to the Confederated States, with all its faults, its immediate and favorable consideration of the prospective emancipation of slaves. This population of three millions will readily, and without detriment to the agricultural operations of the South, accept of the arming of the able-bodied blacks to the negroes who have already been sold or sold into the Federal service. The negro is essentially the creature of association and association. He is a creature of the South, and he is a creature of the South. As an incentive to them in this work of killing Yankees, guarantee them their liberty, and teach them that they are called upon to fight for their homes. The first step would be to arm the negroes with the South or the Confederate States, the latter of which is the better of the two. There is more of public importance in this project than seems to be realized by the South. The arming of the negroes is a project which has been entertained in Richmond since the commencement of every department of this Government, and on its mention in the stock market, the price of gold, that real test of public feeling, advanced twenty per cent in a single day. The truth is, that granting the South three hundred thousand able-bodied Africans with arms in their hands, the probability of the war is indefinite, and the monthly output of \$50,000,000 of cotton, in proof of the power of the South, and the fear and trembling with which the prospective emancipation has excited, where the negro, constant, nervous persistence with which the Black Republic press throughout the country, is arguing the impossibility of the project being executed.

—Now, the fact that we were a little "nervous" with regard to this scheme may be admitted; but we feared that the Rebels would not, by any means that they could, arm their slaves; so we saw that they could not do it without practically abolishing Slavery, and at the same time strengthening our armies far more than their own. Ignorant and stupid most slaves may be; but there is not one of them so ignorant as not to know Slavery to be the impulse, end and aim of the Rebellion, and not one of them is so stupid as willingly to fight in such a cause. Our fears that the Rebels would not, therefore, outwitted our hopes that they would do what was threatened; and the event proves that our fears were well founded. Outnumbered, pressed back, overborne, as the Rebel armies are, with the conscription of Whites already pushed to its utmost limit, the leaders dare not adopt the ready expedient of arming their slaves, knowing as they do that this would at once disaffect their white soldiers and fill their ranks with men certain to desert to us on the first opportunity, and fight on our side as they never could be driven to fight for the perpetuation of Slavery. This fact is as plain to the shrewder Rebels as to us; hence the rejection of the scheme at Richmond, after it had been approved in council by the Governors of the Rebel States this side of the Mississippi, and been partially acted on by those of Alabama and Louisiana.

The Richmond Enquirer still persists in its advocacy, and, in its issue of the 11th inst., thus combats one of the most annoying objections to it:

But the discussion has been closed by the proposition of freedom for the slave, and some say that, if freed as recommended at home, to be the reward for fidelity, a blow is struck at Slavery. We believe that but one State in the Confederacy forbids manumission. In Virginia, "any person may emancipate any of his slaves by last will in writing, or by deed in the presence of witnesses, and he may, if he so desire, in this statutory bond a denial that Slavery is the best condition for the negro. Unquestionably not; and yet fidelity to the master is here permitted to be rewarded by emancipation. Now, cannot fidelity to the National cause, attested by endurance of hardship, by gallantry in action and exposure to death, be rewarded with freedom, without any compromise to the relation in which these are still held who have given no assurance of such fidelity? We cannot see that reward for faithful services in the least conflicts with the reasons and arguments which support and sustain Negro Slavery. We hold the belief that the negro is best off, is in the right place, when he has a good master, but the negro must be a good slave, and a good slave, which induces his employment as a soldier, demands sacrifices that shall secure his fidelity. This sacrifice is made in offering him his freedom for faithfulness. Nothing is yielded to the ignorant prejudices of the world; a sample is given to the world, and the world is taught that a man who is willing to serve in the army of his country, that country stands in need of those services, one is offered for the other. It is no touch of philanthropy, about it no sympathy or connection with Abolitionism."

—This is well done; but the difficulties of the position are not surmounted. The admission that slaves desire freedom is fatal to the project of arming them. How is a regiment, a brigade, of men who have shown themselves willing for freedom to brave hardship and death in the battle-field, to be kept loyal to the flag

and cause of Slavery. "The negro wants his freedom; whether a boon or a curse, he wants it," and his shortest road to it leads him right over to the Union ranks, where he knows that it will never more be contested, and wherein he can fight, if he will, for the liberation of his children, his kindred, his race. He is not so foolish that there shall be "no compromise to the relation in which those are still held who have given no assurance of such fidelity;" on the contrary, he wants their freedom as well as his own—"whether a boon or a curse, he wants it," and must choose to fight on the side which proffers Freedom to All. We cheerfully admit that "there is no touch of philanthropy about" the Rebel scheme of negro-arming—"no sympathy or connection with Abolitionism"—and that is just why it will fail to allure one who "wants his freedom." The project is a foredoomed abortion, and Mr. Jeff. Davis has evinced sagacity and good judgment in condemning it.

FRAUDS IN ELECTIONS.

We trust the next Grand Jury in every County of our State will make diligent and searching inquiry into the alleged frauds in voting, and in the manufacture and manipulation of Soldiers' Votes. Let us have no hushing up to save this or that operator of whatever party, but let the whole truth come out, and let the ax of justice descend on every guilty head. Whoever may have voted illegally, or changed the vote of any soldier, or received votes at the polls contrary to law, or cheated in canvassing, is a malefactor, and should be punished as the law prescribes. Now, let all judges, district-attorneys and other functionaries, do their utmost to bring offenders to justice, and we shall not only have a large accession to the laboring force in our State Prisons, where good workers are now in demand, but we shall have given to swindlers in elections a lesson whereof they seem to stand greatly in need.

We believe the Union party was cheated not less than Thirty Thousand votes in our State at the recent election, and we would have examples made, so far as possible, of the villains who cheated us. If our opponents think they were cheated, let them help us to ferret out the frauds and punish their authors. We shall test the sincerity of their professions by the alacrity and heartiness wherewith their District-Attorneys and others in authority devote themselves to the exposure and punishment of election frauds.

Their journals assert—and it is quite true—that they could have polled a far larger vote in this city had there been more polls. We judge that, with polls enough, they might have swelled their majority to One Hundred Thousand had they chosen. It might just as plausibly have been that number as Thirty-seven Thousand. In fact, there is no limit to the majority they may poll here but in their own sense of decency. When the small, compact XIVth Ward, which has hardly seen a new house in the last twenty years, can poll a third more votes than ever before—can poll more votes for McClellan alone than it had names on its registers on the morning of election—we may thank the wire-workers for letting us off with so small a majority against us as Thirty-seven Thousand.

Four years ago, when money was poured out like water to elect the Fusion ticket, which nearly all our merchants and capitalists supported, and when our City was stirred to its inmost depths by political excitement, the majority counted up against us was Twenty-two Thousand, Mr. Lincoln's vote being considerably more than one-third of the total. Since then the changes on our side, especially among merchants and capitalists, to have been immense; yet we are now beaten some Eight Thousand more than in 1860, and have less than a third of our total city vote. He who does not know that this increase is fraudulent must have very limited and distant acquaintance with the rules of addition and subtraction.

In our thirty-odd years' familiarity with Politics and Elections in this City, we never knew a time when our Democratic politicians desired the provision of any safeguard or barrier against Illegal Voting. On the contrary, they have always fought against Registry Acts or any kindred measure, and have acted as though they would like to have every white, whether citizen or alien, vote as often and as amply as he might choose. And this for the very intelligible reason that the raw material for Illegal Voting is mainly on their side, while those who "vote early and vote often" are naturally of their school. The grog-shops are boasted "nurseries of Democracy," and they nurse such patriots as rolled up the enormous majorities in our 1st, IVth, VIth and XIVth Wards. Every hundred aliens who voted were sure to give at least ninety majority for "Little Mac"; and so of the felons, outlaws, blacklegs and desperadoes who so largely infest the darker portions of our City, many of whom will bargain to vote three or four times at any election if well paid for it.

We cannot and do not expect an honest vote in our City; we do expect and insist on a vote less enormously fraudulent than that just polled here. Wherefore we ask all who have personal knowledge of dishonest practices at our recent Election to transmit to the Chief of Police their affidavits of the facts, leaving action thereon to his judgment and discretion.

The movement to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Soldiers and Sailors is proving a magnificent success. It has touched the hearts of the people far and near, and contributions are flowing in rapidly. Let no one, however, on that account suppose that his contribution is not wanted. All that can be sent will be usefully applied. Cooked poultry is most in demand, though uncooked will be used. Money, too, is wanted. But a great present want is means to cook the turkeys and chickens which are either contributed uncooked or are purchased with the money contributions. Bakers and hotel-keepers, whose names are given elsewhere, have offered to cook about 10,000, and the Committee have laid Philadelphia and Baltimore under contribution in this respect. But without going so far, there must be many other hotel and restaurant keepers, bakers and private

individuals in this City and Brooklyn, who can cook twenty turkeys or more, if the poultry is furnished by the Committee, and who will hasten to enroll themselves among those who remember their brethren in the field. Let all such send their names to James Kelly at the Post-Office, or to the Committee at Getty's Buildings, Trinity-place. There is no time to be lost. The boxes for the navy leave on Saturday, those for the army on Monday morning.

THE NEGRO IN RICHMOND.

It is said that Mr. F. B. CROWNSHILL, a delegate from Massachusetts to the Peace Congress of 1861, submitted on one occasion a resolution requesting the Southern members of that body to prepare and furnish to the Convention a list or inventory of the grievances which they desired should be redressed by the North. If such a list had ever been made, there can be no doubt that one conspicuous item in it would have been the presence of the Negro in Congress. Certainly there had been no more frequent subject of complaint during the ten years before secession. The prayer of the chivalry—if they ever prayed—was for his elimination from the debates. They implored that he should be remanded to the plantation, and left to the influence of those Christianizing methods which overseers habitually employ. "Take the negro out of politics," was their reiterated cry. Mr. Webster was not more anxious to separate religion from politics than were his Southern friends to decree a perpetual divorce between politics and the negro. Indeed, the absence of this person of African descent was counted upon as a panacea for all national ailments. Unable to secure it otherwise, the South seceded and set up a Congress of its own—the same body which now assembles at Richmond. In that select council it was fondly supposed there was to be no negro in any form. Discussions were to be carried on perfectly free from his ungainly intrusion. The chivalry were all agreed that the negro was good on the plantation and not good in legislative halls. He was to support the Confederacy by his toil, but he was not to be mentioned as matter of dispute. Indeed, the public opinion of the seceding States was so unanimous on this question, if not on others, that there was no possibility of discord, and that he need be no need for debate.

But alas, human expectations are doomed to disappointment. It is with a feeling of anguish that we announce the failure of these too fond hopes, and with something akin to despair that we are forced to admit the sudden emergence in the Richmond Congress of the identical African who was wont to set the Washington concern by the ears. He is a ghost that will not down. Not the potent exorcism of Rebellion even has calmed this unquiet spirit. There have been there at this moment, portentous discussions of him, among those very men whom he put to flight from the National Capitol. It appears that he is positively viewed by some fanatical enthusiasts of the South as a human being, capable of carrying a musket, and of fighting for the independence of that Confederacy which was established in order to prove that he was not a human being at all.

The project of enlisting the negro has indeed been suggested, and the suggestion, though discontinued in all quarters, is prolific of quarrelsome talk, and of a discussion that already reopens the question which Secession was thought to have disposed of forever. But Mr. Davis, who has acted in this instance as champion to the negro, is recalled as the indiscreetest of pro-Slavery champions. He it is who has been guilty of treating the question, an open one, for which he is roundly taken to task by The Richmond Whig, and is informed—perhaps with rather less politeness than usually distinguishes the courtly utterances of a Virginian journal—that "the question is not at this time before the country." The Whig goes so far as to doubt whether Mr. Davis is "practical and intelligible," and hints that already "Congress and the country are needlessly 'agitated' by the Rebel-Præsidential address. Jeff. is told in set terms that he "has chosen to open up questions both deep and dangerous," and it is "truly astonishing" that "in the fourth year of our independence" he should have "invited" the negro upon the stage. We, in our innocence, had supposed Mr. Jefferson Davis a pretty thorough-going pro-Slavery man, yet we are assured that he has intimated that Slavery is an "evil," and that the slave may look forward to Emancipation as a boon. Well may The Whig exclaim that if such a view is to prevail, "then Slavery is originally, radically, incurably wrong and sinful, and the sum of all barbarisms." Nay, The Whig, searching after the most bitter invective to be launched at the Presidential offender, does not fail to declare that Mr. Davis is no better than Mr. Sumner, and it thereupon reads him such a lecture as in the palmist days of "the Union as it was" might have been thundered in the ears of a Northern doughface politician who in a moment of accidental virtue had ventured on an opinion of his own touching the morality of the peculiar institution. The echo of the lash which Mr. Jefferson Davis used to crack about the ears of his fellow-Democrats in the United States Senate, resounds now in his own. He is "warned," as if he were a servant girl paid by the week, to "mind his own business," and the tone of The Whig is such that of a mistress with whom rests the power of absolute discharge of her domestic from service.

Well, it is true that the negro cannot be quite kept out even of Southern politics, or of Southern war, or of Southern existence. Casting desperately about for some last means to uphold its sinking fortunes, the Rebellion falls upon the slave, and demands that he shall fight for his own slavery. Mr. Davis knows, and The Whig knows, and all the Rebel press knows, that they cannot trust their cause to the keeping of the sole class which has no hope in its success, and no reason to wish for anything but its defeat. Yet there are degrees in their desperation, and they who cling longest to the dream of success are grasping at the impossible straws which these who are a shade less crazy

refuse to clutch. The same doom stares both in the face.

SPAIN IN AMERICA.

The success of the French in Mexico is stimulating Spain to acquire a similar glory. In some respects she even goes farther than France, for she not only, under the most frivolous pretexts, commences war against the weak republics, but even reveals her intention to subjugate American territory.

The conduct of Spain toward Peru has been as wanton and unjustifiable as that of France toward Mexico. It has been condemned by public opinion throughout Europe, and even in Spain itself the Liberal party do not indorse the policy of the Government, but admit the injustice of the Spanish claims. Nevertheless, the Spanish Government, at the head of which is now again General Narvaez, is said to have sent an ultimatum to Peru, demanding from the Peruvian Government prompt and full satisfaction, and threatening, in case this is not given, to take possession at once of the principal ports of the republic and to destroy the fleet of Peru. If this report prove true, a war between Spain and Peru can hardly be avoided. Public opinion in the latter country is, at least, unanimous in the determination to resist the Spanish encroachments to the last.

Another and even more striking instance of the Spanish lust for conquests in America has recently come to light in Chili. A correspondent of The London Times furnishes the following facts: There lies off the coast of Chili a small Archipelago known as the Islands of Chiloé, among the inhabitants of which, mostly Indians, a person named Antil had obtained great influence. A rumor having reached the Prefect that a conspiracy was on foot among the natives, Antil was arrested on suspicion, and in his possession were found various documents showing him to be the head of an organization having for its object to declare in favor of Spain, and to deliver up to that country as much of Chilian territory as possible. Antil, it appears, had visited all the islands of the Archipelago, the province of Valdivia, and the Arakanian territory, and had induced thousands of natives to become accomplices in his scheme. Fortunately the conspiracy was discovered before any serious disturbance had taken place.

From facts like the above it is but fair to conclude that Spain is so much elated by her development of strength and improvement in position among the other European powers, that she means to provoke a war on the part of some of the South American States. But many of these, we trust, will be able to resist with combined forces, more successfully than could the republicans of Mexico struggling unaided against a powerful European Empire. Spain, too, before she takes the irrevocable step, may recollect that the imitators of great crimes are rarely the favorites of fortune.

THE HORRORS OF WAR.—New-York, our local news of yesterday says, is overflowing with disabled and discharged soldiers. Hundreds are without any visible means of support, and are compelled to resort to begging from door to door to sustain life. Poor fellows! they have reason to curse the days that gave birth to Abraham Lincoln, Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips.

—Indeed! Should they also, or should they not, "curse the days that gave birth to" John B. Floyd, Jacob Thompson, Barnwell Rhett, Howell Cobb, Shields, Benjamin and Jeff. Davis? What says The Daily News?

OUR TREATMENT OF REBEL PRISONERS.

We suppose there are few loyal Americans who can be so assured that the Government of the United States is incapable of imitating the atrocities persistently and systematically practiced by the Rebels upon their prisoners. While, therefore, we have twice quoted copiously from the admirable report of the Sanitary Commission upon the treatment of our soldiers by the Rebels, we have not referred to the abundant testimony on the condition and management of the Northern camps where Rebel prisoners of war are confined. But the Richmond leaders stick at no lie, and since Mr. Davis and Mr. Seddon have charged inhumanity and neglect upon our Government, we briefly state the evidence on that point also once for all.

The Commission "occasionally hearing floating and irresponsible rumors of equal neglect and cruelty on our part toward the Rebel prisoners in our hands, determined to make a full inquiry into the conduct and management of United States stations where they were confined." A great amount of testimony is given from widely separate sources. It is all to the effect "that such prisoners are treated with all the consideration and kindness that might be expected of a humane and Christian people."

The orders of the Government are quoted. The ration to the prisoners was to be generous, and abundant, and various. The amount was "greater than a man could consume," and the excess went to a "prison fund" for the benefit of the prisoners. The same clothing was given the Rebel prisoners that was furnished our own soldiers—buttons and trimmings excepted. The property of every captive was respected and accounted for, and when he was paroled was returned. The Commissioners testify that all these orders were carried out. They visited our hospitals and prisons, and themselves saw the condition of the Rebel prisoners. They speak that they do know, and testify that they have seen. They could see no difference between the treatment of Rebels and the treatment of our own soldiers in hospital. They visited the Lincoln Hospital in Washington, and Fort Delaware, which is one of the largest stations in the United States for prisoners of war, and which had been by name assailed in Rebel journals. The prisoners lodged in well-ventilated and comfortable barracks, had plentiful bathing facilities, each man had a good bunk, the men were in good condition, well fed, comfortable and cheerful. As to food:

"The rations issued to the prisoners were the subject of an attentive examination. We tasted the bread, which is made of four parts of flour and one of Indian meal, and found it of superior quality, sweet and palatable—baked, indeed, than is met with at hotels or places of resort in the country—quite as good as may be found in any well-ordered family. The meat was the sweetest and of good quality. The diet is judiciously

varied, potatoes and fresh vegetables being furnished in large quantities, wherever the health of the men appears to require it. The rations actually received by the prisoners until the 1st of June, 1864, were nearly three pounds of solid food for each man per day, besides coffee, sugar, molasses, etc. The quantity was then reduced to about thirty-four and a half ounces per diem."

Recollect the horrible testimony as to the murder of our men in prison, and contrast the following:

"Shooting was never resorted to unless a rule was grossly and persistently violated. Even then the direction was to order the prisoner 'three distinct times to halt,' and if he 'failed to halt, when so ordered, the sentinel must enforce his order by bayonet or ball. There were but five instances of shooting, under those instructions, and they were in every case in obedience to them."

"It is hardly worth while to notice the question whether any were shot for looking out of the windows. No such order was ever given in this or any other United States station. Here the windows were seen filled with the prisoners."

In respect to clothing and fire, the Commissioners say further:

"It will be noticed that enormous quantities of clothing were issued, at this post alone, to the prisoners. In eight months over 25,000 articles were distributed, comprising every species of clothing from shoes and stockings, shirts and drawers, to woolen blankets and great coats. Most of these were given on the approach of cold weather."

"Every one without a blanket or overcoat of his own was provided with one. All had at least two blankets, and those who were delicate had more."

"The barracks were made comfortable in every respect. Fuel was never wanting, and the fires were constantly attended. No less than thirteen hundred pounds of coal were consumed last Winter and Spring in the prisoners' barracks."

"In hot weather, equal provision was made for their comfort, especially in the hospitals. The visitors noticed in the latter even green shades covering the windows, and a water cooler in every ward, filled with ice for the free use of the patients."

And if this be deemed exceptional in kindness and humane care, the general statement is:

"It was found, by further investigation, that the arrangements of every other United States prison station and hospital were the same as those of Fort Delaware. The same regulations were observed in all. The identical double, containing the minute directions of the Surgeon-General at Washington, was hung up as conspicuously in the hospital for Rebels as that for the United States soldier."

Take, finally, the decisive test of the ratio of mortality:

"The statistics of mortality will be astonishing to read, after hearing the Rebel stories. In twenty-one months, out of an aggregate of six thousand four hundred and ten prisoners, there were only one hundred and thirty-four deaths. The number in prison at one time never exceeded two thousand seven hundred. In the months of May and June last, there were about two thousand three hundred prisoners. In May divided, in June only one."

On such evidence as this, unchallenged, uncontradicted from any source, it is needless to dwell. Between the dreadful cruelty of the South and the unflinching humanity of the North the contrast is self-drawn. "But the contrast must have been overwhelming at the point to which this narrative has now come. When the flag-of-truce boat landed within the Rebel lines, the two systems confronted each other. On one side, hundreds of feeble, emaciated men, ragged, filthy, hungry, diseased and dying; on the other, an equal number of strong and hearty men, clad in the army clothing of the Government against which they had fought, having been humanely sheltered, fed, cleansed of dirt, cured of wounds and disease, and now honorably returned in a condition to fight that Government again. The public sentiment of the North, outraged as it may have been, would never have permitted any other than this Christian and magnanimous course."

SALMON P. CHASE spoke in Cincinnati on the Monday following election, to some thousands of rejoicing Unionists, and thus outlined his views of the meaning of the great verdict on the 8th of November:

"I do not think that some of the men who have shined so deeply against the people, and against the nation, and against God, will be likely to receive much benefit from Mr. Lincoln. But toward all those who have been drawn into rebellion by the overwhelming influence of the leaders—who have gone into it unwillingly, or even willingly, under mistaken apprehensions to all except those who have formed, plotted, arranged, carried out this Rebellion—to all except these criminals, I suppose a liberal spirit may be shown. But upon the essential conditions there can be no change. And those conditions are the Union and freedom. The Union, embracing every foot of the old republic—Union under the old flag, floating everywhere, and freedom for all men, so that wherever the flag shall float, it will float over no master and no slave." [Applause.] Amen to that!

THE STATE GOVERNMENTS IN 1865.

In our joy over the reelection of ABRAHAM LINCOLN as President, and the election of a Congress in which three-fourths of the members of each House will vote for the abolition of Slavery, we are apt to under-estimate our gains in the State Governments. A cursory glance at them will show that they are no less sweeping and no less important.

We have a majority in each House of every Legislature of the original free States, with the sole exception of the Senate of New-Jersey. The Senate of Indiana had until recently a Democratic majority of one, but the recent disclosures of the treasonable plots of the "Sons of Liberty," to which we are indebted for a gain of so many thousand votes at the late elections, have also carried over to our side one of the Senators, thus giving us a majority. We control, besides, both Houses of the Legislatures of Nevada, West Virginia, Missouri, Louisiana, and Arkansas. In Maryland the Democrats have a majority of one in the Senate, but we have a large majority on joint ballot. This gives us control of twenty-five Legislatures.

If Congress should vote for an amendment to the Constitution abolishing Slavery, such amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the State Legislatures or of State Conventions, as Congress may propose. In case the Rebellion, by the time of the adoption of this amendment, should not yet be completely subdued, Congress will have to decide whether a three-fourths majority of all the States or only of the States actually in the Union shall be required. Even in the former case, it will be seen from our above statement, we are now very near having the required three-fourths majority. The political complexion of the next Legislature to be chosen in Tennessee will, without doubt, be anti-slavery, and the same will be the case with