NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Interesting Communication from the President.

Letters, Orders and Telegrams Relative to the Blair Case.

Twenty-five Million Dollars Voted for the Western Militia.

Opposition in the Senate to the Appropriation.

The Tax Bill Reported to the Senate,

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1864.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BLAIR CASE.

Some amusement was occasioned in the House this morning by the letter from President Lincoln to Postmaster General Blair, in reference to the temporary resignation of his commission by Frank Blair, to enable him to try his luck as a candidate for Speaker of the House. As it was not an official letter, and its production therefore not necessitated by the call for the correspondence, surprise was generally expressed that it should have been included in the reply to the resolution.

FINAL PASSAGE OF THE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS APPROPRIATION BILL.

There was considerable opposition in the Senate to day to the passage of the bill appropriating $25,000,000 for the pay, &c., of the volunteers called out for one hundred days. Mr. Conness and others took the ground that the term of service was too short to make these volunteers of sufficient service to compensate for the expense. The appropriation was passed, however.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE.

The House was very industrious to-day, disposing of considerable business, though of a character quite uninteresting to outsiders. The attendance of members was unusually good; but the galleries remained almost deserted throughout the afternoon.

The proceedings of the House were very dull this evening, very few members being in attendance. A pouring rain, which came on about the time for the reassembling, no doubt kept many away, but the fact is that the interest in the discussions is exhausted, and the sooner a vote is taken, and the matter disposed of, the better. The Bankrupt bill and other important measures are awaiting the disposal of this question, and the House and the people are weary of electioneering speeches.

THE MASSACRE AT FORT PILLOW.

The Sub-Committee on the Conduct of the War (Senator Wade and Representative Gooch) have returned from Fort Pillow. They took fifty-seven depositions, all of which more than confirm the newspaper accounts of the massacre. They say that it would be impossible to exaggerate the cruelties committed. Among the witnesses who were examined is the negro who was buried alive, and who dug himself out of his own grave. There is no doubt of the fact that one or more persons were nailed through their flesh to pieces of wood and then burned alive. Not only on the day of the surrender were such fiendish acts perpetrated, but on the next day, in cold blood. The victims seen by the committee were some of them pierced and cut in the face and eyes with bayonets and swords, while other parts of their bodies were mashed and disfigured either by steel or lead.

THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON.

General Martindale has been relieved from his post as Military Governor of Washington, and ordered to the front. Colonel Wisewell, chief of the Veteran Reserve Bureau, succeeds him, retaining his former position.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT LOAN.

Subscriptions to the ten-forty loan reported to the Treasury Department to-day amount to $1,400,000.

REMOVAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

The work of removing the old State Department building, so as to continue the north wing of the Treasury, is expected to commence this week. A number of fine shade trees are being cut away in order to lay out an avenue around the Treasury building. Secretary Seward and his clerks in the meantime will occupy apartments in Winder's building.

ANOTHER ARTILLERY REGIMENT.

Another regiment has been organized from the Second Pennsylvania heavy artillery, to be called the Second Pennsylvania provisional regiment. The original organization numbered thirty-two hundred men.

SEIZURE OF GOVERNMENT HORSES.

All government horses found in the possession of officers or civilians without authority are being seized by the Provost Marshal. Collisions between the patrols and citizens are frequent, and often quite exciting.

BIDS FOR COAL CONTRACTS.

Bids were opened at the office of the Chief Quartermaster to-day for supplying the government with coal. Prices ranged from $6 26 to $7 49 per ton.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ARSENAL.

Extensive improvements are being made to the Arsenal and its surroundings, which will render it the largest establishment of the kind in the country.

THE DEFEAT OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION IN NEVADA TERRITORY.

A copy of a letter from Governor Nye, of Nevada, to the Secretary of State has been sent to Congress with regard to the defeat by the people of the State constitution. The Governor suggests that the constitution contained stringent provisions in regard to the right of suffrage which arrayed the disloyal element against it. Many miners objected to the provision imposing a tax upon mining. It was submitted at the same time with the State election, and some persons upon the State ticket having excited much dissatisfaction, there was exception taken to certain proceedings of the convention. All these causes combined sufficed to defeat the State constitution. Virginia City and the county adjacent, which are entitled to one-third of the representation of the Territory, instructed their nominees to vote against the tax on mines. This alarmed the farmers, who thought the whole tax would fall on them, and many joined the disaffected to defeat the constitution. He says there is a good Union majority in every precinct of the county. There are too many disloyal, who annoy and perplex constantly. Considerable of the secession element exists in recent immigration, mainly from Southern Illinois, Missouri and Southern Indiana, and scattered rebel armies of the Southwest. This character of immigration, he thinks, will be greatly increased this season. The struggle between the parties has been earnest and embittered. He has no doubt that Nevada will immediately respond to the enabling act passed by Congress. Thirty millions of dollars in precious metals has been mined the past year. When irrigation is reduced to a system it is claimed that the Territory will produce a sufficiency of vegetables and cereals.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1864.

PETITION FROM NAVAL OFFICERS.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, presented a petition from naval officers, representing that formerly there were ninety seven commanders and sixty-five captains in the navy; and that now, notwithstanding its vast increase, the commanders have been reduced to twenty-seven in number, and that in consequence lieutenant commanders have to serve as commanders in numbers of cases, and commanders as captains, without the additional rank and pay. They pray relief in the premises. Referred to the Naval Committee.

PRE-EMPTION RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA.

The bill to grant pre-emption to certain lands in California was called up, and, after some remarks in its favor by Mr. CONNESS, passed.

THE COASTING TRADE.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Me., called up the Senate bill to regulate the foreign and coasting trade on the northern, northeastern and northwestern frontiers of the United States, which was passed.

THE INTERNAL TAX BILL.

The bill to provide for the collection of internal revenue was received from the House and referred to the Finance Committee.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., one thousand copies of the House Internal Revenue bill were ordered to be printed for the use or the Senate.

ENLARGING THE SOLDIERS' HOME CEMETERY.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution to provide additional grounds for the Cemetery at the Soldiers' Home, District of Columbia. It directs the Secretary of War to add to the Soldiers' Cemetery such portions of the grounds adjacent as may be serviceable for the purpose. He stated that six thousand soldiers had already been interred in this Cemetery, principally since the war commenced, and additional ground was now needed, that all the soldiers now buried in this vicinity should be interred in one ground, so as to make their resting place a spot of common interest. The resolution was adopted.

THE RIGHTS OF COLORED PERSONS.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., called up his resolution requesting the President to communicate the opinion of the Attorney General as to the rights of persons of African descent in the regular and volunteer service, with accompanying papers. Adopted.

ADMINISTRATION OF AFFAIRS AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of N. H., offered a resolution that the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the present condition of the Soldiers' Home, the administration of the funds of that institution, and whether some other mode of relief, by pension or otherwise, would not be for the public interest. Adopted.

LANDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill to grant one million acres of the public lands for the benefit of public schools in the District of Columbia. The lands are to be taken from any subject to private entry. The proceeds are to be forever devoted to the instruction of children between the ages of five and seventeen years, without distinction of color. Men of color between the ages of twenty and sixty in the cities of Washington and Georgetown and the county of Washington shall each annually pay a poll tax of one dollar for the use and benefit of public schools, to be assessed and collected by the corporate authorities of these cities and the Levy Court of said county.

WISCONSIN LAND GRANT.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (opp.) of Ind., called up the Senate joint resolution to pay the State of Wisconsin five per cent of the grant of lands made heretofore to her for literary purposes, which laid over at the expiration of the morning hour.

THE TERRITORY OF NEVADA.

The CHAIR presented a letter from the President, in answer to the Senate resolution calling for information as to the Territory of Nevada, and enclosing a letter from Governor James W. Nye.

RELIEF OF INDIANS.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, (rep.) of Wis., from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back the bill for the relief of certain friendly Indians, with two amendments, and moved they be printed. Ordered to be printed.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL

was received from the House, with amendments, and, on motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, it was referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

THE NATIONAL BANK BILL.

The bill to provide a national currency was then presented to the Senate by the Chair, as reported from the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. DAVIS, (opp.) of Ky., by unanimous consent, introduced an amendment preventing associations under the act from holding real estate for a longer period than five years. Adopted.

Mr. DAVIS offered an amendment, that after the 31st of December every association doing business under this act six months after the rebellion shall be crushed and the authority of the government restored, be required to redeem with gold and silver their notes and circulation at their several offices. Mr. Davis said he was no friend of the present measure in any form; but as the bill was to become a law it should be made as unobjectionable as possible. He thought his amendment was of the most vital importance. There was never a wholly commercial country on the face of the earth that retained for a considerable time an irredeemable paper currency. The universal practice by the inexorable rule of the world was gold and silver. Congress should not change the law of the world. The sooner this present measure was stamped as a temporary expedient, to pass away on the restoration of peace and tranquillity, and the laws of money that have regulated the world for eighteen centuries should be resumed, the better for the government.

Mr. JOHNSON, (opp.) of Md., did not deny that this whole measure was one of expediency. No one could indicate the day when the rebellion would be subdued. As long as the war lasted we could not resume specie payments. The banks established under this bill could not be expected in six months after the suppression of the rebellion to redeem their enormous issues in specie without great financial curtailment and embarrassment. We should be very cautious in fixing a period for the resumption of specie payments.

The amendment was rejected.

THE $25,000,000 VOLUNTEER APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr. FESSENDEN reported from the Finance Committee the House bill appropriating twenty-five million dollars for the pay of the volunteers called out for one hundred days, with a recommendation that it pass.

Mr. HALE opposed the measure as unwise. While he would keep faith with every man called out by the government, he should oppose this resolution as eminently unwise.

Mr. FESSENDEN said whatever might be his individual notions of the wisdom of the call, they had been offered and accepted by the Commander-in Chief, and he should vote to appropriate the amount required.

Mr. HENDERSON, (rep.) of Mo., would vote any amount of money to pay troops called out for a longer period. But he did not think the present bill of any account. In fact it was a perfect humbug. These men could not be drilled in that time.

Mr. GRIMES inquired how long the men at Wilson's creek had been drilled.

Mr. HENDERSON said, so far as the Missouri troops were concerned, they were mustered into the service in August, 1861; but they had been drilled for a number of years previously. For himself he was opposed to calling out a mob.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, said there could be no doubt under the existing law of the President's authority to call out these troops; and, whatever might be our opinion as to the wisdom of the call, we should vote the appropriation.

Mr. CARLILE, (opp.) of Va., did not think it was respectful on the part of the President to have slighted Congress in not having indicated his intention to call out these troops for one hundred days. This proposed action placed the Treasury of the United States directly under the control of the President, and we sat here merely to vote the money, merely to carry out and not to determine measures. The sum proposed would not half cover the cost. Besides this these men were to be taken at a time when labor was of more value to the country than any service they could render in the field in their short term of service.

Mr. WILSON said he had expressed to the Secretary of War his opinion that this proposition of the Western Governors ought not to be accepted. The President, however, having the sanction of the law, and having exercised it, he should vote for it. He was in favor of calling out the troops for a longer period.

Mr. HENDERSON inquired if the President had given a verbal or written acceptance to the offer of the Western Governors?

Mr. WILSON understood it to have been an official acceptance by the President, advised and approved by General Grant, and the draft of the bill before us was enclosed in a letter to the Chairman of the Military Committee of both houses. The mode of the call was proper enough, though many doubted its wisdom. He voted for the measure, and put the responsibility where it belonged—on the President.

Mr. CLARK, (rep.) of N. H., said the great point was, whether this call, having met the approval of the Executive after consultation with the commander of the army, should not now be sanctioned by the Senate. For one he was not willing to say so. When this great campaign was about to commence, and when we needed men, and the Governors of States offered them, he wanted to know if the Senate would refuse them or prevent them rallying to our standard? He for one would not be willing to take that responsibility.

Mr. FESSENDEN did not think we should raise technical objections in the present emergencies. We certainly had the power to make the appropriation, whatever might or might not be the wisdom of the object it was designed to forward. He was not a military man, and yielded his judgment to those who were or were presumed to be such.

Mr. JOHNSON opposed the measure. He would inquire why the Governors of other States had not been consulted. Was the opinion of able general officers in the service and their advice heeded before the acceptance of this offer? If we have heretofore passed laws conferring power on the President to accept these troops, then in good faith we were bound to support him. He took the view that we were under no such obligations, and felt bound to vote against the bill.

Mr. WILSON called attention to the laws of 1861, which clearly gave authority to the President to call for the militia in particular contingencies.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., said he frequently gave votes in favor of measures when he had doubts as to their propriety and wisdom, because in our present troubles he felt it to be his duty to do so. This measure did not receive the concurrence of his judgment and he should vote against it. It proposed that one hundred thousand men should be mustered in for one hundred days, at an expense of twenty five million dollars, to be doubled and quadrupled. The first knowledge he had of this measure came to him from the public press. It was said that these Governors would call upon the President with their other, and the next announcement was that the President had accepted it. Who authorised these Governors to generate this method of carrying on the war? Was not this the function of the President and his Cabinet? If the President wanted additional men, why, in God's name, did he not call for them to the extent of five hundred thousand for two or three years, or for the war, and thus inspire the nation instead of trifling with it and mortifying its temper? He said this as a friend, then whom no truer could be found to the administration.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Ind., defended the acceptance of the troops offered by the Western Governors. Their proclamations calling them out expressly stated that their action had the endorsement of the President. For himself he was as willing as any one to advocate a stringent conscription law.

Mr. CONNESS offered an amendment giving the President power to continue the services of these troops six months from the date of their muster. Rejected—25 to 11.

Mr. HENDERSON offered an amendment providing that no part of said appropriation be paid to the troops mustered in after May 15, 1864, unless they shall be mustered for a period of six months. Rejected—19 to 17.

The bill was then put upon its passage, with the following result:—

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Clark, Collamer, Cowan, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Howard, Howe, Lane of Ind., Lane of Kansas, Morgan, Morrill, Sherman, Sumner, Van Winkle, Willey, Wilson—22.

NAYS—Messrs. Buckalew, Carlile, Chandler, Conness, Davis, Harding, Henderson, Johnson, Nesmith, Pomeroy, Powell, Riddle, Sprague—13.

The Senate then, at ten minutes past five o'clock, adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1864.

THE DEBTS INCURRED BY THE SEVERAL STATES.

The House took up and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs the resolution of Mr. Blaine, of Me., calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to state the amount of debts incurred by the several States to aid in suppressing the rebellion, and declaring as the judgment of the House that all debts legitimately contracted should be assumed and liquidated by the general government.

POSITION OF THE REBEL STATES.

The House then took up the resolution of Mr. Harding, offered last December, declaring:—

That the Union is not dissolved, and that whenever the rebellion in any of the seceded States shall be put down or subdued, either by force or voluntary submission to the authority of the constitution and laws, such State shall be restored to all its rights and privileges under the constitution of such State and the constitution of the United States, including the right to regulate, order and control its own domestic institutions, free from all legislative or executive control.

Mr. HARDING, (opp.) of Ky., said the question turned on the fact whether the Union is dissolved or not, and that whenever a rebellious State is subdued, or voluntarily returns to its allegiance, it is a State in the Union, with all the rights belonging to it under the constitution. Mr. H. said whoever voted against the resolution threw himself into the position of saying that the "Union is dissolved." None but a revolutionist, disunionist or secessionist would oppose it.

Mr. UPSON, (rep.) of Mich., moved to lay the resolution on the table.

The motion of Mr. Upson was agreed to by yeas 67, nays 56, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Ames, Anderson, Arnold, Ashley, Baldwin of Mass., Baxter, Beaman, Blair, Boutwell, Boyd, Brandegee, Broomall, Cole, Davis, Deming, Donnelly, Driggs, Eckley, Eliot, Farnsworth, Fenton, Frank, Garfield, Grinnell, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of Conn., Hulburd, Julian, Kelley, Kellogg of Mich., Loan, Longyear, McClurg, McIndoe, Miller of N. Y., Moorehead, Morrill, Morris of N. Y., Amos Myers, Leonard Myers, Norton, O'Neill of Penn., Orth, Perham, Pike, Pomeroy, Price, Rice of Mass., Rice of Me., Rollins of N. H., Schenck, Scofield, Shannon, Sloan, Spaulding, Stevens, Thayer, Upson, Washburne of Mass., Williams, Wilder, Wilson, Windom—67.

NAYS—Messrs. Ancona, Bailey, Baldwin of Mich., Blair of W. Va., Brooks, Brown of W. Va., Chanler, Clay, Cox, Dawson, Denison, Eden, Eldridge, Finck, Ganson, Grider, Griswold, Hall, Harding, Harrington, Harris of Ill., Herrick, Holman, Hutchins, Johnson of Penn., Johnson of Ohio, Kernan, King, Knapp, Law, Lazear, Le Blond, Long, Mallory, Marcy, McDowell, McKinney, Morrison, Noble, Perry, Radford, Robinson, Rollins of Mo., Ross, Scott, Smith, Steele, Stiles, Strouse, Stuart, Whaley of W. Va., Wheeler, Chilton A. White, Joseph W. White, Wood, Yeaman—56.

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK AND THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

Mr. FRANK, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the resolutions of the Legislature of New York, affirming and declaring that the proclamation of President Lincoln, declaring the "extinction of slavery," was not only a necessity, but a wise, statesmanlike and constitutional measure, and should be made the fixed law of the land, and requesting the Representatives and instructing the Senators from that State to support an amendment to the constitution of the United States prohibiting slavery in any State.

The resolutions were referred to the Judiciary Committee.

THE RIGHTS OF THE STATES.

The House took up Mr. Wadsworth's resolution declaring that the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved respectively to the States, or to the people, and that the Executive can neither directly nor indirectly exercise any of the powers thus reserved or lawfully restrict or obstruct the exercise thereof by the people.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on the Rebellious States

Mr. COX, (opp.) of Ohio, moved to lay it on the table, in order to get a square vote upon it.

The motion was disagreed to by 118 in the negative.

Mr. COX now asked for a vote directly on the resolution, which he said merely affirmed the language of the constitution; but the House referred it to the select Committee on the Rebellious States, by a vote of 70 against 50.

DRAINING THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, (opp.) of Pa., the Committee for the District of Columbia were instructed to inquire into the expediency of draining the city by culverts and cleansing the Washington Canal, in order to preserve the health of the city, which is greatly endangered by the most deleterious miasma and malignant atmosphere from the surrounding hospitals.

THE REBEL RAM ALBEMARLE.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Iowa, a resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of the Navy to furnish all information concerning the construction of the rebel ram which made the recent attack on the United States forces at and near Plymouth; also why the construction of the ram was not prevented and precaution taken against its action.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The House passed the bill appropriating over a million of dollars to indemnify citizens of Minnesota for losses sustained and depredations committed by the Sioux Indians in that State, the amount being in accordance with the report of the commission on that subject.

The House also passed the Senate bill appropriating two hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars to enable refugee Indians in Kansas to return to their homes in the Cherokee country, and for other relief.

The House also passed the bill for the relief of the Weas and other Indians, making an appropriation to reimburse them for their losses by the abstraction of their bonds from the Interior Department.

Mr. WINDOM, (rep.) of Minn., who had reported the preceding bills from the Committee on Indian Affairs, also reported one for the benefit and better management of the Indians. It was passed, and provides as follows:—

"It shall be lawful for the President to remove any tribe or tribes to any of the public reservations he may deem necessary and proper, and take measures for stimulating them to habits of industry."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE CASE OF GENERAL FRANK BLAIR AND GENERAL SCHENCK.

The following communication and documents were received from the President:—

TO THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

In compliance with the request contained in your resolution of the 29th ult., a copy of which resolution is herewith returned, I have the honor to transmit the following:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 1863.

Hon. MONTGOMERY BLAIR:—

MY DEAR SIR—Some days ago I understood you to say that your brother, Gen. Frank Blair, desires to be guided by my wishes as to whether he will occupy his seat in Congress or remain in the field. My wish, then, is compounded of what I believe will be best for the country, and it is, that he will come here, put his military commission in my hands, take his seat, go into caucus with our friends, abide the nominations, help elect the nominees, and thus aid to organize a House of Representatives, which will really support the government in the war. If the result shall be the election of himself as Speaker, let him serve in that position. If not, let him retake his commission and return to the army for the country.

This will heal a dangerous schism for him. It will relieve him from a dangerous position, or misunderstanding, as I think he is in danger of being permanently separated from those with whom only he can ever have a real sympathy—the sincere opponents of slavery.

It will be a mistake if he shall allow the provocations offered him by insincere time-servers to drive him from the house of his own building. He is young yet. He has abundant talents—quite enough to occupy all his time without devoting any to temper.

He is rising in military skill and usefulness. His recent appointment to the command of a corps by one so competent to judge as General Sherman proves this. In that line he can serve both the country and himself more profitably than he could as a member of Congress upon the floor.

The foregoing is what I would say if Frank Blair were my brother instead of yours. A. LINCOLN.

HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE DEPARTMENT, EIGHTH ARMY CORPS, BALTIMORE, Nov. 13, 1863.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:—

SIR—Enclosed I forward to the President my resignation, to take effect on the 5th of December.

I respectfully request that I may be relieved from my command at an earlier day—say by the 20th inst., or as soon thereafter as some officer can be ordered to succeed me. While I desire to derange the plans or hurry the action of the department as little as possible, it will be a great convenience to me to secure some little time before the session of Congress for a necessary journey, and for some preparations for myself and family in view of my approaching change of residence and occupation. I could also spend two or three days, I think, very profitably to the service of my successor after his arrival here.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant. ROBERT C. SCHENCK, Major General.

HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE DEPARTMENT, EIGHTH ARMY CORPS, BALTIMORE, Nov. 13, 1863.

SIR—Having concluded to accept the place of member of Congress in the House of Representatives, to which I was elected in October, 1862, I hereby tender the resignation of my commission as Major General of United States Volunteers, to take effect on the 5th day of December next. I shall leave the military service with much reluctance and a sacrifice of personal feelings and desires, and only consent to do so in the hope that in another capacity I may be able to do some effective service in the cause of my country and government in this time of peculiar trial. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, ROBERT C. SCHENCK, Major General.

Endorsed on the foregoing:—

The resignation of General Schenck is accepted, and he is authorized to turn his command to Brigadier General Lockwood at any time. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 31, 1863.

SIR—Your resignation has been accepted by the President of the United States, to take effect the 5th day of December, 1863.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, E. D. TOWNSEND, Assist. Adjt. General.

Major General ROBERT C. SCHENCK, commanding United States Volunteers, Middle Department, Baltimore.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1, 1864.

I hereby tender my resignation as a Major General of United States Volunteers. Respectfully, FRANK P. BLAIR, Jr.

Major General UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

Accepted, by order of the President, EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

JAN. 12, 1864.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, JAN. 12, 1864.

Your resignation has been accepted by the President of the United states, to take effect this day.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant, "JAMES A. HARDIE, Assistant Adjutant General.

To Major General F. P. BLAIR, United States Volunteers.

[Copy of Telegram.]

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15, 1864.

[Private.]

Lieutenant General GRANT, Nashville, Tenn.:—

Gen. McPherson having been assigned to the command of a department, could not Gen. Frank Blair, without difficulty or detriment to the service, be assigned to the command of the corps he commanded a while last autumn? A. LINCOLN.

[Copy of telegram—United States Military Telegraph—in cipher—received 6 P. M., March 16, 1864.]

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 16—10 A. M.

His EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT:—

General Logan commands the corps referred to in your despatch. I will see General Sherman within a few days and counsel him about the transfer, and answer. U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

[Copy—United States Military Telegraph, War Department—received, in cipher, 11 P. M., March 17, 1864.]

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 17, 1864.

Confidential.]

His Excellency, A. LINCOLN, President of the United States:—

General Sherman is here. He consents to the transfer of General Logan to the Seventeenth corps, and the appointment of General F. P. Blair to the Fifteenth corps. U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

[Copy—Received 3.15 A. M., March 27, 1864.]

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., March 26, 1864.

His Excellency A. LINCOLN, President of the United States:—

I understand by the papers that it is contemplated to make a change in the commanders of the Fifteenth and Seventeenth army corps, so as to transfer me to the Seventeenth corps. I hope this will not be done. I fully understand the organization of the Fifteenth corps now, of which I have labored to complete the organization this winter, and earnestly hope the change may not be made. JOHN A. LOGAN, Major General.

[Copy of telegram—Office United States Military Telegraph, War Department—received at Washington at nine A. M., March 31, 1864.]

CULPEPPER COURT HOUSE, March 30—11:30 P. M.

Major General W. T. SHERMAN:—

General F. P. Blair will be assigned to the Seventeenth army corps, and not the Fifteenth. Assign General Joseph Hooker, subject to the approval of the President, to any other corps command which you may have, and break up the animosity of one general commanding two corps. U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General Commanding.

From a long despatch, dated April 2, 1864, from General Sherman to General Grant, presenting his plan for disposing of the forces under his command, the following extracts, being the only parts pertinent to the subject now under consideration, are taken:—

After a full consultation with all my army commanders, I have settled down to the following conclusion, to which I would like to have the President's consent before I make the orders:—

Third—General McPherson's corps to be commanded by Generals Logan, Blair and Dodge.

War Department.

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1864.

The following telegram was received at Washington at three P. M., April 10, 1864, from Culpepper Court House, Va.:—

Major General H. W. Halleck, Chief of Staff:—

Will you please ascertain [illegible] General F. P. Blair is to be sent to Gen. Sherman. If so, [illegible] army corps commander will have to be named for the Fifteenth. [illegible] Lieutenant General. U. S. GRANT, Lieut. General.

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1864.

To the PRESIDENT:—

You will do me a great favor by giving the order assigning me to the command of the Seventeenth army corps immediately, as I desire to leave Washington next Saturday to join the command.

I also request the assignment of Captain Andrew J. Alexander, of the Third regiment United States cavalry, as Adjutant General of the Seventeenth corps, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. The present adjutant, or rather the former adjutant, Colonel Clarke, has, I understand, been relieved by General McPherson, as adjutant general of the department, and the place of adjutant general of the corps is necessarily vacant. I also request the appointment of George A. Maguire, formerly captain of the Thirty-first Missouri Volunteer infantry, as major and aid-de-camp, and Lieutenant Logan Tompkins, of the Twenty-first Missouri Volunteer infantry, as captain and aid-de-camp, as my staff. Respectfully, F. P. BLAIR.

[Endorsements.]

The Secretary of War will please have General Halleck make the proper order in this case. A. LINCOLN.

April 21, 1864.—Referred to General Halleck, Chief of Staff. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, April 23, 1864.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR:—

MY DEAR SIR—According to our understanding with Major General Frank P. Blair, at the time he took his seat in Congress last winter, he now asks to withdraw his resignation as major general, then tendered, and be sent to the field. Let this be done. Let the order sending him be such as shown to-day by the Adjutant General, only dropping from it the names of Maguire and Tompkins. Yours, truly, A. LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1864.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:—

I respectfully request to withdraw my resignation as Major General of the United States Volunteers, tendered on the 12th day of January, 1864. Respectfully, FRANK P. BLAIR.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 178.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, April 23, 1864.

Major General Frank P. Blair, Jr., is assigned to the command of the Seventeenth army corps. Captain Andrew J. Alexander, Third regiment United States cavalry, is assigned as Assistant Adjutant General of the Seventeenth army corps, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, under the tenth section of the act approved July 17, 1862.

By order of the PRESIDENT. E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

The foregoing constitutes all sought by the resolution so far as remembered or has been found upon diligent search. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

MAY 2, 1864.

The message was referred to the Committee on Elections.

INDIAN AFFAIRS RESUMED.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. BLAINE (rep.) of Me., in the Chair, and considered sundry bills, which, when the Committee rose, were passed, namely:—

The bill providing for the removal of certain stray bands of Indians from Wisconsin.

The bill authorizing the President to negotiate with the Indians of Middle Oregon for the relinquishment of the lands belonging to them by treaty.

The bill for the extinguishment of the Indian title to lands in Utah suitable for agricultural and mineral purposes.

THE PAY AND EMOLUMENTS OF THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL'S STAFF.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., introduced a joint resolution providing that the staff officers of the Lieutenant General shall be entitled to receive the same pay, emoluments and allowances as the staff officers of the same grade on the staffs of corps commanders, to take effect from the day of appointment.

Mr. WASHBURNE said he had a letter which, if desired, he would have read in explanation from General Grant.

Nobody desired the letter to be read, and the House immediately passed the resolution.

MINNESOTA LAND AND RAILROAD BILL.

The House then, after debate, concurred in the Senate's amendments to the House Minnesota Land and Railroad bill.

Recess till seven P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

DEBATE ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE REBEL STATES.

The bill to guarantee a republican government to States subverted or overthrown by the rebellion being under consideration,

Mr. LONGYEAR, (rep.) of Mich., argued that a State is the people united into one body or community for the purposes of government. Sovereignty is an attribute of government. Primarily sovereignty is in the people. States are erected through the forms of government. These forms become living bodies by virtue of the sovereignty imparted to them by the people. The United States government is the supreme State to which all the people owe primary allegiance. When a State of the Union becomes subversive of the ends for which it was created, or seeks, by virtue of the sovereignty with which it has been invested, to bring the people in conflict with the supreme sovereignty to which they owe primary allegiance, or when such State government becomes abrogated or destroyed by any means, the sovereignty with which it was invested returns to the people, to be exercised by them de novo, and such State ceases to exist as a State of the Union. This contest is war, and all the rules of war state, among the rights of the conqueror, the right to dictate to the conquered the form of government they shall adopt. The States in their corporate capacity may be treated as foreign enemies, but the people, in respect to their allegiance to the national government, must be considered and treated as domestic enemies.

Mr. DONNELLY, (rep.) of Minn., said that the great question involved in the solution of the question of the reconstruction was the safety of the nation, and that everything must be made to give way to this; that the close of the war would simply restore us to the condition of affairs out of which the war arose, and that we must change that condition by the extirpation of slavery, or we would have a series of wars and rebellions. The President's amnesty proclamation did not go far enough, and it was the duty of Congress to supply that deficiency. He contended that the safety of the country could not be permitted to rest solely in oaths of allegiance; that the conscience of the rebels justified them in committing perjury against the nation; that it was the duty of the North to regenerate the South, and compel freedom of speech, freedom of the press and universal education everywhere; that these measures were required by our safety, and that we could not permit the Southern people to return to the social condition which prevailed in the South before the war. He further showed the importance of the Union to the West, and argued that the West would continue to insist upon the unity of the nation in spite of all disasters; that it was the right and necessity of the West to reach the sea in every direction over kindred territory.

Mr. DENISON, (opp.) of Pa., was opposed to the bill. It was proposed at a time when we have not the power, even if we had the right, to reorganize a single State. The States had been treated as if they had no reserved rights. All State constitutions had been trampled upon, and placed at the mercy of the war power. A solemn act had been passed to protect the military against any crime they may think proper to commit. The last vestige of State rights and the protection of citizens, together with all other powers, are sought to be centralized in the general government. This he was not prepared to sanction by his vote. The bill was intended to legalize and perpetuate the unconstitutional proclamation of the President. It had been said that slavery must be eradicated in order to preserve permanent peace; but this was the cry of unrelenting and cruel fanaticism. It was an effort on the part of the strong to justify their attack on the weak. The only reconstruction there ever can be is to spread the kindly influences of the old constitution over all the land. He did not justify secession, which was brought about by foolish men who deserve punishment, and who preferred their own wicked projects to the welfare of the country. He believed there were good men enough North and South to overwhelm both the abolitionists and secessionists, and once more restore the glorious old Union. The existing usurpation of monstrous military power should be removed. There does not exist a more despotic government than this on earth, and Abraham Lincoln is not merely a despot in name, but in fact.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., repeated the points heretofore made by him, viz:—That the rebels were entitled to no rights under the constitution and laws, and could invoke the aid of neither in their behalf; that they were to be treated during the war as belligerents, according to the laws of war and nations; that they could claim no other rights than those of foreign nations with whom we might be at war, and were subject to all the liabilities of foreign belligerents; that their real and personal property may be taken to pay the expenses of the war and to relieve the wounded soldiers and the families of the fallen. While the innocent should be spared, the morally and politically guilty should be punished. He proceeded to reply to the attacks made upon these positions, arguing from the crimes of the belligerents we were justified in exacting the extreme demands of war. The people were the absolute sovereigns, and there was no other government independent of these sovereigns. When they made any unjust war all their property, both public and private was subject to forfeiture. The Confederate States were a republic, however bad might be the sovereigns, and they spoke for the entire people. To allow them to return with their property untouched would be rank injustice to loyal men. If, as had been contended, they were in the Union, where were their representatives here? We were making war upon them for going out of the Union without law, and they should never again be received until they had repented, and been rebaptized into the national Union. Alluding to the late speech of Mr. Blair, of Missouri, he spoke of that gentleman as stealing the mantle of the President and stabbing the friends of the President in the latter's name. He concluded by saying that if he (Mr. Stevens) could live to see the land no more trod by the foot of a slave, he would be content with any lot.

Mr. STRODE, (opp.) of Pa., said free and voluntary enlistments existed no more, for the reason that the war had been diverted from its original purpose as declared by a solemn vote of this House, viz: that this war was not waged for purposes of conquest or subjugation, but to defend the supremacy of the government with the equality of the States unimpaired; and that when obedience to the constitution and laws should be secured, the war ought to cease. But instead of this we had confiscation, abolition, the destruction of State lines, violation of the constitution and a national debt, the contemplation of which is frightful. Notwithstanding all this, they were told by the stipendiary Swiss Guards of the administration that all is well and plenty of money. All hopes of peace were dispelled so long as the administration shall adhere to its present policy. We cannot subdue eight millions of people and hold them in subjection. In order to success the administration must retrace its steps and President Lincoln divest himself of the fallacy that he is the government. The democratic party is the only organization for restoring the seceded States to their former status, in order to secure a more perfect Union. Democrats were opposed to the shedding of blood in the effort to raise the negro to the equality of the white man, and to gratify the abolitionists of New England and their brother fanatics of Old England. While he hated secession, he could not shut his eyes to the fact that the constant agitation of slavery in the North is the primary cause of the war, and secession the consequence. He repeated, this war is the result of abolitionism and its object is the extinction of slavery and the extermination of the whites, with the negroes for vassals to the breed of the Vandals and Goths under the Confiscation act. Unless we accompany the sword with the olive branch we will never have the Union.

Mr. GRAVES, (