THE THIRD MILITARY DISTRICT.

Report of Major General George G. Meade—The Completion of Reconstruction in His District—Defence of His Non-Partisan Course—Suggestions to Increase the Power of the Military.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 1868.

The following is the official report of Major General George G. Meade, commander of the late Third Military District under the reconstruction laws, and now in command of the "Department of the South," embracing the States of Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina and Florida:—

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 31, 1868.

Brevet Brigadier General JOHN A. RAWLINS, Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.:—

GENERAL—I herewith transmit, for the information of the General-in-Chief, a brief abstract of the operations under my command while in charge of the late Third Military District, and subsequently in command of the Department of the South.

War Department General Orders Nos. 104 of the date December 28, 1867, assigned me to the command of the Third Military District, and on the 6th of January, 1868, I assumed the command with headquarters in this city. The Third Military District at that time consisted of the States of Georgia, Alabama and Florida. The condition of affairs was simply as follows:—

In the State of Georgia a convention, elected under the reconstruction laws, was in session in Atlanta, but hampered and embarrassed for want of funds.

In Alabama a convention had met, framed a constitution, nominated a ticket for state officers and adjourned.

In Florida an election had been held for members of a convention, but the body did not meet under the orders of my predecessor till the 20th of January.

It is impossible in a report of this kind to give all the various questions and their details which arose and were adjusted by my action; but, as by the provisions of the reconstruction laws from whence my authority emanated, the power of disapproving any acts was vested in the General-in-Chief of the Army, I, from the first, before taking action in any important matter, laid before that officer my views and proposed course. I have, therefore, deemed it best to append to this report, as part of it, a full file of the letters between the headquarters of the army and myself, and it is with great pride and satisfaction that I refer to the same, as they will show that it was rarely that the General-in-Chief was called on to overrule my judgment. I shall confine myself in this report to the briefest allusion to the special points to which I wish to invite particular attention.

One of the first questions that presented itself to my action was the financial difficulty on the Georgia Convention. I found my predecessor had endorsed the requisition of the secretary of the Convention and directed its payment out of the treasury, and that the Treasurer had refused payment on the ground that money could only be paid out of the State Treasury on warrants drawn by the Governor. Finding this to be the state of the case I appealed to his Excellency Charles H. Jenkins and requested, in view of the necessities of the Convention, of the laws of Congress authorizing this Convention and its levying a tax for the payment of its expenses, that he would draw the necessary warrant for the sum required for their immediate and pressing expenses. The Governor in reply declined to draw any warrant except under appropriation by law and informed me very distinctly that he did not acknowledge and would not be bound by the reconstruction acts of Congress, which in his judgment were unconstitutional, null and void. On receipt of this communication there was no alternative but the removal of Governor Jenkins, which was accordingly done, and Brevet Brigadier General Thomas H. Ruger assigned to the duty in his place. Subsequently I was compelled to remove the State Treasurer and Comptroller, assigning to these positions Captains Rockwell and Wheaton of the army. I considered it judicious policy to avail myself of the authority granted in the Reconstruction laws to detail officers of the army to perform the duties, as in this way I gave evidence to the people of the State and of the country that my only object in making the removals was the execution of the law, and that the same was free from any personal or political bias. It affords me gratification to say that I believe the effect of these changes was most beneficial and that the administration of General Ruger and his associates, who continued in office till the State was admitted to representation, was in every way creditable to them and satisfactory to the people of all parties in the State. Soon after my arrival at my post I received numerous communications from respectable citizens, complaining of the effect of the passage by the conventions of Alabama and Georgia of acts known as relief laws, which were intended as stay laws to afford relief to debtors from the immediate pressure of their creditors. It was urged that the acts of these conventions, not being binding nor having the effect of law till ratified by a vote of the people, and as it would require some time before this vote would be taken, that in view of the probable acceptance by the people of these acts creditors were hurrying their action and pressing their debtors, thus making these measures really acts of oppression, and I was called on to interpose my authority and give to these acts the force of law until the people could vote on them. Although personally opposed in principle to any laws interfering with the rights of creditors there was nevertheless so much force in the reasoning advanced, and the demand from all classes was so imperative, that after consultation and approval of the General-in-Chief orders were issued making said acts laws until revised and confirmed by the vote of the people. Immediately on taking command I was applied to from all parts of the several States comprising the district for the removal of incumbents in office and the substitution thereon of individuals nominated. These applications were based on various grounds, some purely personal or political, others on the necessity of a change in order to carry on reconstruction, and sometimes on the ground of neglect of duty or malfeasance of office. As it was impossible for me in my ignorance of men to form any judgment on the complaints preferred or on the fitness and capacity of those seeking office, I determined to abstain from making any changes except where there was proved neglect of duty, malfeasance in office or open refusal to obey the reconstruction laws or attempts to obstruct their execution. In all cases I required written charges and evidence to be produced, and where these charges affected, as they did in many instances, whole municipal bodies, directed investigation by boards of officers, and in all cases gave those accused a full hearing and every opportunity to defend themselves. A firm adherence to this rule and the reports of several boards non-concurring in the charges presented relieved me, after a while, from the great pressure brought at first to bear, and during the whole course of my administration there was not a removal made that the archives of the district will not show was made for some cause alleged and after investigation. There were necessarily many appointments made to fill vacancies caused by death, resignations and removals of incumbents from the counties or State they were living in. Another difficulty which operated to compel me to adopt the course above reported was the fact that by the Reconstruction laws no person could be appointed to office without taking the oath prescribed, which was of such a character that it limited to a very small number the persons able to hold office. So great was the difficulty that when I saw a bill in Congress requiring the vacation of all the offices by those not able to take the test oath I felt it my duty to telegraph the General-in-Chief that if this became a law it would be impossible to fill the offices, as there were not persons enough in either of the States to fill half of the civil offices in the States, and I urgently recommended that authority be granted me to appoint to offices registered voters. The bill did not become a law and no change was made in my policy. As previously stated, the Convention in Alabama had, under my predecessor, assembled and framed a constitution which was to be submitted to the people. The convention had fixed the 4th day of February on which to hold the election, and my predecessor directed, in orders, the election to continue for two days with as many precincts as the managers might deem advisable. On representation to me that two days was insufficient to enable all the States to be received, an extension by my authority was made of the time to four days; but the precincts were limited in each county to three. The election was held at the time specified, but owing to a violent storm occurring the first two days, the time was further extended one day, making five days in all. A special report having been made of this election, I deem it only necessary to say here that from all the evidence I can procure, and I caused the most thorough investigation to be made, the constitution was finally rejected by the people under the law requiring a majority of the registered voters to cast their ballots for or against, and that the rejection was based on the merits of the constitution itself, which was obnoxious to a large body of the friends of reconstruction, proved so by the fact that out of 19,000 white voters for the Convention there were only 5,000 for the constitution, and partially from the fact that the Constitutional Convention had made nominations to all the State offices, which ticket was not acceptable in all respects to the party favoring reconstruction. It will be seen by an inspection of the telegrams accompanying this report that I had advised against an election for State officers at the same time the constitution was being voted on, believing that the same was not only not required by the constitution and laws, but that there were objections, arising out of personal and partisan feelings, that would or might affect the vote of the constitution. After the rejection of the constitution I was in favor of its being revised by assembling the Convention, and so officially reported. Congress, however, admitted the State, and the Legislature convened under the constitution has in some measure modified the most obnoxious features. Upon the subject of this election in Alabama I beg leave to refer to my special report and to the telegraphic correspondence hereto annexed. The election for members of the Constitutional Convention in Florida having been held under the direction of my predecessor, he had ordered the assembling of the same on January 20, 1868. Prior to the assembling of the Convention I had referred to me by the President of the United States a memorial sent to him by the Provisional Governor of the State and signed very numerously by prominent citizens, in which the gravest charges were brought against the managers of the election, involving frauds of all kinds, and even charging the registration of the State and the districting of the same as having been fraudulently executed, the memorialists urging me to interpose my authority, suspend the meeting of the Convention and proceed to investigate the charges, which they pledged themselves to prove. Upon an investigation of the law I could find no remedy short of Congressional action, even should these grave charges be preferred. I therefore made no change in the period fixed for the assembling of the Convention, but ordered a board of officers to investigate the charges, notifying the memorialists of my action and pledging myself to place before Congress all the testimony they might give before the board. It is hardly necessary to say that when it was found that the Convention was allowed to meet and do its work the board had but little to do, and after remaining in session for some weeks and calling without avail on the signers of the memorial for their evidence the board closed its session without having any charges proved of all those made. The Convention met; but soon after meeting there arose dissensions and disturbances, resulting in the secession of a large part of the Convention and the claim of both parties to be regarded as the legitimate Convention. For some time I allowed these dissensions to proceed, not seeing clearly how I could act, until I found the Convention which had originally assembled, and which I had recognized as the legitimate body, had, by the secession of its members, been reduced below a legal quorum. When this arrived, I required this body either to bring in sufficient members to give them a legal quorum, or, failing in that, to accept certain conditions of compromise, which, after reflection, I deemed just to both parties; or, if this failed, I intimated that I should assume the authority and proceed, in view of the impossibility of harmonizing the difficulties, to adjourn both conventions and refer the points in dispute to Congress for such action as it might deem proper to take. The compromise proposition having been accepted the two parts of the Convention assembled, reorganized and proceeded to frame a constitution, which was subsequently ratified by the people and adopted by Congress. The Convention in Georgia, after being in session several months, in March adopted a constitution, which, together with a State ticket, was submitted to the people in April and ratified by a very handsome majority of the registered vote, all parties taking part in the election. This constitution, with some modification, was adopted by Congress, and the Legislature which convened in July making these modifications and otherwise complying with the requirements of the Reconstruction law, the State, together with Alabama and Florida, was by act of Congress formally admitted to representation. There is one point in regard to the admission of the State of Georgia to which I feel called upon to make special allusion. When the Legislature was convened by the Provisional Governor and Governor elect the question arose whether, as military commander, I was called to inquire into the eligibility of the members, either under the United States laws or the constitution of Georgia. The Convention of Georgia had in its ordinance calling an election directed that all returns should be sent to the military commander of the district, who was requested to issue the necessary certificates of election. In carrying out this request of the Convention I deemed it my duty simply to require that I should give the member having the greatest number of votes the ordinary certificate of election and that it would be for each House to decide on the eligibility of those members whose seats were on any grounds contested. While I admitted that, as district commander executing the law, I was to see that no one ineligible to office under the fourteenth article of the constitutional amendment should be allowed to take office, I did not see that in the case of a parliamentary body that I was called on to decide on the qualifications of the members. In this view I was sustained by a telegram sent to me for my information from the War Department, which had been sent to the Governor of Louisiana and the Military Commander of the Fifth District, and which I quote:—

WASHINGTON, June 30, 1868.

To Governor WARMOTH, New Orleans:—

We think that persons disqualified under the fourteenth article of the amendment to the constitution of the United States are ineligible to your Legislature. This to be determined by the respective Houses, and no oath can be imposed except the oath prescribed by the State constitution.

JAMES WILSON,
Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.
GEORGE F. BOUTWELL,
J. P. FARNSWORTH,
B. F. PAYNE,
Reconstruction Committee.

It will be seen by the above telegram that the distinguished gentlemen whose names are attached were of the opinion that no one ineligible to office under the fourteenth article could take a seat in the Legislature; second, that the respective houses were to judge of the question; third, that no oath testing this eligibility could or should be prescribed in advance of the meeting of the Legislature. These views being in accordance with my own I acted on them and was present at the organization of the two houses of the Georgia Legislature, to the members declared in my order as having the highest number of votes, there being administered only the oath prescribed by the State constitution, after these houses were organized, the Provisional Governor informing me officially of their organization, but that as far as he could learn no steps had been taken to test the question of the eligibility of members under the fourteenth article. I replied to the Governor that until the State was admitted to representation the Legislature and all the officers were only provisional and subject to the paramount authority of the district commander, and that in the exercise of this power I should consider all acts of the Legislature null and void until satisfactory evidence was presented to me that each House had purged itself of ineligible members under the fourteenth article, provided there were any such in either house, and I desired the Provisional Governor to communicate these views to each house. On the receipt of this letter each house at once ordered an investigation and inquired into the qualifications of each member and duly reported this fact through the Provisional Governor, stating at the same time that neither house had found any member ineligible. The Provisional Governor on transmitting these communications expressed the opinion, founded on evidence presented to him, that several members in both houses were ineligible and called on me to exercise my power and require said members to vacate their seats. On reflecting on this subject I could not see how I was to take the individual judgment of the Provisional Governor in the face of a solemn act of a parliamentary body, especially as, from the testimony presented, I did not in several cases agree with the judgment of the Provisional Governor. The question was simply whether, in the construction of a law and in considering the facts of individual cases, I should make myself the judge or take the opinion of the Provisional Governor in the face of the official information that a parliamentary body had gravely and formally, through a committee, examined, reported and acted on these cases. My judgment was decidedly that I had fulfilled my duty in compelling the houses to take the action they had, and that, having thus acted, I had neither authority nor was it politic or expedient to overrule their action and set up my individual judgment in opposition. By an inspection of the telegrams sent July 18 and the reply of the General-in-Chief July 23, it will be seen that my views and action were approved. I allude thus *in extenso* to this subject because his Excellency the Governor of Georgia, in a public speech recently delivered at Albion, N. Y., is pleased to attribute the failure of Georgia to be properly reconstructed to my action in failing to purge the Legislature of his political opponents, he having advised me when he urged such action that his friends had been relieved of their disability by Congress. The States being admitted to representation, the civil power vested in the military commander by the Reconstruction acts ceased, and civil authority resumed its sway. The inauguration of civil governments was to me, personally, a source of great relief, charged as I had been with almost unlimited powers. Notwithstanding the utmost effort on my part to abstain from all interference except in cases where, in my judgment, there was no alternative, I found myself the subject of virulent abuse, my motives impugned and every imaginable mode of attack resorted to that malice and partisan malignity could devise. I determined from the first to ignore all partisan considerations and to faithfully execute the laws without reference to any personal or political considerations. I encountered, as was to be expected, the animosity of both sides without having the benefit of the sympathy of either. I can, however, with just pride refer to my administration as being free from any design to interfere with the rights and liberties of any individual, much less any portion of the people; and if in some instances, as in the prosecution of the assassins of Mr. G. W. Ashburn, of Columbus, Ga., there were, as I have freely admitted, arbitrary measures resorted to, which in a different condition of society and under a well ordered government might seem to deserve reprobation, I feel satisfied the evidence published in the special report made upon this subject will fully convince any candid and impartial judge that my course was imperatively urged upon me. I encountered from the outset great embarrassment from the want of judgment and knowledge on the part of subordinate agents and from the great desire of those expecting benefit from military intervention that I should interpose my authority and set aside the civil power. Against these influences I opposed a steady resistance. Soon after assuming command I issued an order both to the civil and military officers, in forming the first they would not be interfered with so long as they faithfully executed their duties, and enjoining on the latter to abstain from interfering with the civil powers, and in all cases to report to me and receive my decision before taking any action, as, on my construction of the law, in the military commander and in him alone rested the authority to supersede the civil power. I beg leave to call attention to the report of the Acting Judge Advocate of the department, herewith appended, from which it will be seen that during the whole period of my civil administration, extending over a space of eight months, there were tried by military commission in the three States of Georgia, Alabama and Florida only thirty-two persons. Of these but fifteen were convicted, and of these fifteen the sentences of four were disapproved, of eight others remitted, of two referred to the President of the United States and still awaiting action, leaving but one person convicted and in confinement for violation of a civil law and tried by a military commission on the cessation of military authority. This simple statement of facts I deem a complete refutation of the charges that military power was so despotically and arbitrarily exercised. As with rights of persons, so with those of property. It was my study and effort to zealously guard the rights of individuals without reference to any consideration but that of justice and law, so far as I could comprehend it. The adoption of the relief laws in the several States, the loose manner in which these laws were drawn by several legislatures, involved an immense amount of business in receiving and examining into and deciding on the innumerable cases which were presented—one side always claiming military intervention for their protection. As far as it was possible to do so these applicants were always referred to the judiciary, whose duty it was to construe these laws; and it was only in cases where the courts could not act or could not be referred to, or in cases where legislative action was necessary—in other words, cases where action on the part of the military commander seemed to be imperative—that I would take any action; and it is gratifying to be able to state that since the resumption of civil authority and the right of appeal given to the dissatisfied parties, I have had no call for any papers or evidence touching any of the few cases acted on. The amount of labor performed in carrying on the civil and military administration of my command, independent of what specially related to the civil bureau during the period covered by the report (from January 1 to November 1, 1868), will be seen by referring to the accompanying statement of my Assistant Adjutant General, wherein is shown that there were 5,432 letters received and 1,883 letters and 6,084 endorsements, covering orders, instructions and decisions, sent from my headquarters. The States comprising the district having been admitted to representation, orders were issued declaring the cessation of all intervention on the part of military officers in civil affairs, and the troops that had suffered greatly in discipline by the manner in which they had been detached and scattered were concentrated on railroad centres from whence, in the event of their service being required, they could be promptly moved. This movement proved very distasteful to the people and the civil authorities who, having accustomed themselves to rely on the troops for maintaining order, were at first apprehensive of the consequences of their withdrawal. Instructions were received from the President and Secretary of War confining the troops to the simple preservation of the peace, and that only. After the civil authorities had exhausted all the means in their power and called on the military through the proper channel, it now became my embarrassing duty to decline using the forces under my command and to impress on all parties the altered condition of affairs. Soon after announcing the position of the military the outrage at Camilla, in Georgia, was committed, where, as I have stated in a special report, the evidence would seem to show that the authors of the outrage were civil officers who, under the guise of enforcing the law and suppressing disorder, had permitted a wanton sacrifice of life and blood. At the same time the report stated that the opposite parties (for the affair was a political one) had, by their want of judgment and their insistance on abstract rights in the face of the remonstrances of the law officers, given those officers the opportunity of acting as they did. Immediately on this outrage being reported an officer was despatched to the scene, who made a thorough investigation and report. I found from the report that the affair lasted but one day and that there was no occasion to employ troops for the preservation of order or the protection of the people. Being satisfied that the matter had been, and so far as the detection and punishment of the criminals was concerned, should continue to be, in the hands of the civil authorities, I transmitted the report of the investigation, together with the evidence collected, to his Excellency the Governor of Georgia. Early in August, by the order of the President of the United States, the Second and Third Military districts were abolished and consolidated into the Department of the South, to the command of which I was assigned. This added to my command the States of North and South Carolina, increasing greatly the duties, because in these States, particularly in South Carolina, military authority had, during reconstruction, almost entirely superseded the civil. Soon after taking command of the Department of the South I received communications from the Governors of North and South Carolina urging the use of the troops in sustaining the civil governments in these States and notifying me of their possessing satisfactory evidence of armed bodies being organized for the purpose of overthrowing the government. I had previously received somewhat similar communications from the Governors of Georgia, Florida and Alabama. The sum and substance of these letters were an admission that the several State governments were powerless, unable to enforce the laws without the aid and assistance of the military. I replied to these several applications that I could find nothing in the existing laws or the instructions from superior authority which would justify my answering their call, which virtually amounted to taking charge of the State governments, employing the civil officers as agents of the military; that my sole and exclusive duty was to preserve the peace, and that alone, after it was evident that the civil power was unable so to do and had called on me in the manner prescribed by law. These applications became so numerous and pressing that, in view of the approaching Presidential election, on which day by the act of Congress, approved March 2, 1865, I deemed I was authorized to employ the military forces to preserve the peace and calm the apprehensions of the anxious and make known my views to the evil disposed, I issued early in October an order distributing the troops in the several States in the department and gave in the order, not only instructions to the officers and men, but deemed it my duty to make an appeal to the people of the several States, urging calmness and abstinence from those political excitements tending to riot and bloodshed. Although particularly careful to require all intervention of the troops to be subordinate to and in aid of and in co-operation with the civil authorities, this order was misconstrued and subjected to the most virulent criticism. I am gratified, however, in being able to state that the effect of the order and the movements made by virtue of it were in the highest degree satisfactory. At the same time I take this occasion to call the attention of the General-in-Chief, and through him those having the power to act, to the anomalous condition of affairs existing in this department and the necessity, if it be deemed proper for the military to intervene in civil affairs, that more power be given to the Department Commander than existing laws confer. I beg leave to refer to the report of the several heads of the staff department, at these headquarters, for the necessary information in relation to the position, condition and discipline of the troops. So soon as the approaching election is over it is contemplated to reconcentrate the troops and to require the strictest attention to be paid to the drill and discipline of the several commands. I take the occasion to express to my several district commanders, and to the officers of the staff department, and to the officers and men of the several commands my thanks for the prompt and efficient co-operation I have ever received at their hands. No army in previous history was ever called on to discharge such delicate and responsible duties, involving powers that, if abused, might have led to the most serious consequences, and yet the transition from military to civil power was so imperceptible as to have passed unnoticed but for the special means by way of proclamations, orders, &c., to make it public. I do not mean to deny but that there were individual exceptions, and that in some cases bad judgment, political bias or personal feelings may have influenced the course of some individual officer or soldier. This is no more than is to be expected from all nature; but I do maintain, that taking the large force extending over such an extent of territory and vested with supreme power, that instead of the few instances where, perhaps, criticism might be appropriate, the wonder was—and it is to be said to the credit of the army—that so little abuse was made of a power by those who might very readily be supposed difficult to be restrained and controlled.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE G. MEADE,
Major General U. S. A., commanding.

STIRRING SCENE AT A CONCERT IN PHILADELPHIA.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 30.]

At the matinée given by Miss Clara Louise Kellogg on Saturday afternoon, at Concert Hall, a scene transpired not announced in the bills, but which created a greater sensation among the audience than Miss Kellogg's vocalization. When the programme was about one-half through a thin cloud of smoke was perceived to pervade the hall, and which gradually increased in density. A slight feeling of uneasiness affected a number of the lady portion of the audience, a suspicion of fire creeping over their minds. This uneasiness increased as it was observed that a number of those seated nearest the door quietly got up and left the hall. Others then arose in their seats and looked towards the door of exit, when the feeling of uneasiness culminated into positive alarm, which was quickly generated into a regular panic by a man among the audience crying out at the top of his voice "Fire." A scene of bewildering excitement ensued; the audience rose *en masse*, and a rush was made for the doors, which, owing to the presence of mind of a gentleman present, were quickly closed, and a number of valuable lives were thus probably saved, as the stairways would in a few moments have been completely blocked up with affrighted ladies and children, the consequences of which may readily be imagined, particularly if the banisters had given way with the press of people upon them. Finding the main source of exit cut off, a rush was made for the stage and back doors, and the scene was heightened by Signor Petrelli, who was singing at the time the panic occurred, and who, not understanding our language, did not know what was the matter, commenced pulling ladies on the stage as fast as they presented themselves. About this time the proprietor of the hall mounted the stage and cried "order" as loud as his lungs would permit, and then announced that there was no danger and that he would at once see what was the matter. He retired, but speedily returned and informed the audience that the smoke was caused by lighting the fires in the auction rooms under the hall, and advised all present to be seated. The panic then subsided and the performance was continued.

COST OF INDIAN WARS.—A compilation from official records regarding Indian wars shows the cost of the various wars of the past forty years to have been as follows:—Black Hawk war, 400 lives and $5,000,000. The Seminole war, 1,500 lives and $100,000,000, only 1,500 of the Indians being warriors. A war with the Creeks and Cherokees about the same time cost $1,000,000; the Sioux war of 1852, 300 lives and $40,000,000; the war of 1864, 1,000 lives and $60,000,000; the Cheyenne war of 1867, 300 lives and about $12,000,000; the Indian troubles on the Pacific slope for the last twenty years, about $300,000,000; three campaigns against the Navajoes $30,000,000. The whole trouble in New Mexico, of which the last item forms a part, $150,000,000. The members of the peace commission will meet here in a short time and urge upon Congress to pass all measures necessary to carry out the policy it has adopted.

A NEW RAILWAY PROJECT.—We notice that the Central Pennsylvania Railroad Company have received a charter from the Legislature of West Virginia, and have run several experimental lines for a railroad from Williamsport, through Martinsburg and Bunker Hill, to the Frederick line. This will be an important road to the Valley, forming a connection with the Cumberland valley and the Central Pennsylvania railroads, and opening almost direct routes with the cities of Philadelphia and New York, while the completion of the Winchester and Strasburg road will give us two routes to Baltimore. When our road is extended, as it certainly will be, southward, connecting at Staunton or some point west of that place with the Chesapeake and Ohio, and at Salem with the Virginia and Tennessee railroads, this will certainly become one of the greatest thoroughfares in the United States.—*Shenandoah Herald, Woodstock, Va.*

OFFICIAL VOTE FOR PRESIDENT IN TWENTY STATES.

States.	*Grant.*	*Seymour.*	*Grant's maj.*
New Hampshire	37,718	30,571	7,147
Massachusetts	136,477	59,408	77,069
Vermont	44,167	12,045	32,122
Connecticut	50,995	47,952	3,043
Rhode Island	13,933	6,548	7,385
Pennsylvania	342,280	313,382	28,898
Ohio	280,272	239,032	41,100
Illinois	250,293	199,141	51,152
Minnesota	43,666	28,117	15,549
Alabama	76,366	72,086	4,280
South Carolina	62,300	45,137	17,163
Michigan	113,219	82,364	30,855
Nebraska	9,729	5,439	[illegible]
Indiana	176,552	166,480	10,072
			Seymour's.
New York	429,259	429,675	9,416
New Jersey	79,871	82,725	2,854
Delaware	7,618	10,960	3,345
Maryland	30,474	62,437	31,963
Georgia	57,134	102,822	45,688
Louisiana	34,224	74,672	40,448

Grant's majority in fourteen States 329,215
Seymour's majority in six States 133,714

ARREST AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A COUNTERFEITER.—Thomas Mudgett, of Lawrence, was arrested yesterday by officer Bicknell, of the United States Marshal's office, on a charge of passing counterfeit money. The case is an old one, Mudgett having been indicted two years ago and placed under bonds for trial. These he forfeited by leaving for parts unknown. Returning to Lawrence last week, he was taken in custody, as above stated, and jailed. Soon after he was locked into his cell the turnkey discovered him in the act of drinking the contents of a phial, which, upon being taken from him, proved to be laudanum. He had not imbibed a sufficient quantity, however, to produce a fatal result, in the opinion of a physician who was immediately consulted, and was brought to this city last evening. He pleaded guilty to the charge against him in the District Court this morning and was remanded to jail until Tuesday, when he will be arraigned for sentence.—*Boston Transcript, Nov. 28.*

NARROW ESCAPE OF A MAN ON THE NEW HAVEN ROAD.—Friday evening, about half-past five o'clock, as the Boston express train was going into New York it struck a man near Seventieth street, who had apparently just stepped out of the way of the Harlem train going out. The engineer immediately stopped the train, "supposing," as he said, "that the man had been knocked all to pieces." To his surprise the man got up, wanted to know the name of the conductor who had hit him, and walked away. Had he been one foot nearer the track he never would have inquired. The engine simply touched him and rolled him over without injury.—*New Haven Register, Nov. 28.*

REMARKABLE GEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ILLINOIS.—The spring in the bluff back of the Penitentiary, at Joliet, from which that institution is supplied with all its water, has for some time past given indications of failing, the volume of water becoming greatly reduced. As a precaution, the commissioners determined to sink an Artesian well in the Penitentiary grounds. They commenced drilling for this purpose about a month ago and have now gone down over 100 feet. It is the first time that the remarkable rock formation of this Des Plaines valley has ever been penetrated to any great depth, and already some remarkable developments are being made.

EUROPEAN MARKETS.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—LONDON, Nov. 30—5 P. M.—Consols closed at 94⅝ for money and account. American Securities closed quiet at the following rates:—United States five-twenty bonds, 74⅝. Railway stocks closed steady. Erie, 27¼; Illinois Centrals, 96.

PARIS BOURSE.—PARIS, Nov. 30.—Bourse steady; Rentes, 70fr. 50c.

FRANKFORT BOURSE.—FRANKFORT, Nov. 30.—United States five-twenty bonds quiet and steady at 79⅝.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Nov. 30.—The cotton market closed active and buoyant at the following quotations:—Middling uplands, on spot, 11½d. a 11¾d.; do., to arrive, 10¾d.; middling Orleans, 11¾d. a 11¾d. The sales of the day foot up 20,000 bales.

HAVRE COTTON MARKET.—HAVRE, Nov. 30.—Cotton is firm, both on the spot and to arrive. Sales have been made at 125 f. per cwt. for low middlings to arrive.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS AND PROVISIONS MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Nov. 30—5 P. M.—Market unchanged.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS AND PROVISIONS MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Nov. 30.—The market is dull and unchanged.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Nov. 30—5 P. M.—Naval stores unchanged. Other articles the same.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKET.—LONDON, Nov. 30—5 P. M.—Calcutta linseed, 53s. Petroleum, 1s. 5¼d. for refined; 9d. for spirits. Tallow, 51s. Other articles unchanged.

PETROLEUM MARKET.—ANTWERP, Nov. 30.—Petroleum—Sellers ask 55½f., buyers bid 55f.

EUROPEAN MARINE NEWS.

QUEENSTOWN, Nov. 30.—The steamship Etna, from New York, arrived at this port to-day.

SOUTHAMPTON, Nov. 30.—The Hamburg American steamship Holsatia sailed from Southampton for New York on Saturday, November 28, at eight A. M.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Almanac for New York—This Day.

Sun rises ..... 7 05 | Moon rises.....eve 6 31
Sun sets ..... 4 34 | High water..morn 9 13

Weather Along the Coast.

NOVEMBER 30—9 A. M.

Port.	*Wind.*	*Weather.*	*Thermometer.*
Portland	NW	Cloudy	38 above
Boston	SW	Cloudy	41 above
New York	SW	Cloudy	40 above
Philadelphia	SW	Hazy	36 above
Wilmington	SW	Clear	40 above
Washington	SW	Clear	46 above
Fortress Monroe	SW	Clear	50 above
Richmond	SW	Cloudy	46 above
New Orleans	W	Clear	50 above
Key West	NW	Clear	75 above
Havana	SE	Cloudy	78 above

PORT OF NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 30, 1868.

Herald Packages.

Captains and Pursers of Vessels arriving at this port will please deliver all packages intended for the HERALD to our regularly authorized agents who are attached to our Steam Yacht fleet. The New York Associated Press do not now collect marine reports nor attend to the delivery of packages, as will be seen by the following extract from the proceedings of the regular monthly meeting held March 3, 1868:—

Resolved, That on and after April 1, 1868, the Associated Press will discontinue the collection of ship news in the harbor of New York. Passed unanimously.

☞ The office of the Herald steam yachts JAMES and JEANNETTE is at Whitehall slip. All communications from owners and consignees to the masters of inward bound vessels will be forwarded free of charge.

CLEARED.

Steamship Germania (NG), Schwensen, Hamburg—Kunhardt & Co.
Steamship Arago, Brown, Bremen—North American Steamship Co.
Steamship Franconia, Sherwood, Portland—J F Ames.
Ship Anna M Smith (new), Packer, San Francisco—Sutton & Co.
Ship Atlantic, Wolff, San Francisco—Samuel W Osgood (before reported cleared 23d).
Ship Prince Royal (Br), Alcock, Liverpool—Booth & Co.
Ship Robena, Wade, Havre—Boyd & Hincken.
Bark Rival (Nor), Jergensen, Cork for orders—Funch, Meincke & Wendt.
Bark Speedwell, Patten, Cadiz—P Balen & Co.
Bark Juliane (NG), Kroger, Montevideo—Funch, Meincke & Wendt.
Brig Rio (Br), Johnson, Antwerp—H J DeWolf & Co.
Brig Marie (Ital), Savarese, Gibraltar and Genoa—Funch, Meincke & Wendt.
Brig Iris (Br), Burrill, Cow Bay—B F Small & Co.
Brig Nuevitas, Wood, Philadelphia—Bryan & Pease.
Schr Gersh Banker, Swinerton, Para—L E Amsinck & Co.
Schr Golden City, Nickerson, St John, Antigua—B J Wenberg.
Schr Clara Woodhouse, Russell, Brownsville—Woodhouse, Southmayd & Rudd.
Schr Fred Smith, Smith, Savannah—H W Loud & Co.
Schr Gen Meade, Allen, Portsmouth, NH—Jed Frye & Co.
Schr Talma, Underwood, New Haven.

ARRIVALS.

REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS.

U S steamer Talapoosa, McRitchie, Washington, DC, with ordnance stores.
Steamship City of Boston (Br), Roskell, Liverpool Oct 18, and Queenstown 19th, 4 PM, with mdse and passengers, to J G Dale. Nov 27, lat 40 28, lon 68 40, passed steamship Hammonia, hence for Hamburg; 28th, lat 40 30, lon 69 12, steamship City of Baltimore, do for Liverpool.
Steamship Alaska, Gray, Aspinwall, Nov 22, with treasure, mails, mdse and passengers, to the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. Nov 27, lat 29 44, lon 78 57, spoke steamship Henry Chauncey, hence for Aspinwall; 29th, passed steamships Geo Cromwell, Sherman, Champion, Alabama, and San Jacinto, all bound S.
Steamship Manhattan, Woodhall, Charleston Nov 28, with mdse and passengers, to H R Morgan & Co.
Steamship Saratoga, Alexander, Richmond, City Point and Norfolk, with mdse and passengers, to the Old Dominion Steamship Co.
Steamship Hatteras, Roberts, Norfolk, &c, with mdse and passengers, to N L McCready.
Steamship E C Knight, Denty, Alexandria, with mdse and passengers, to Phillips & Brown.
Ship Ellen Goodspeed (new, 1291 tons), Preble, Bath, Me, 7 days, in ballast, to Goodspeed & White.
Bark G W Roosevelt, Harriman, Cadiz, 32 days, with mdse, to J E Ward & Co. Had fine weather up to Georges, since strong W and NW winds; split sails, &c.
Bark Rebecca Caruana, Lissagang, Matanzas, 20 days, with sugar, &c, to Wayden & Co. Has been 9 days north of Hatteras with heavy NE gales; split and lost some sails.
Bark Annie Augusta, Creighton, Baltimore Nov 25, with coal, to the Manhattan Gas Co.
Brig Eliada (Br), Summers, Rio Janeiro, 46 days, with coffee, to Geo F Bulley. Crossed the Equator Oct 29 in lon 29, Oct 26, lat 9 55 S, lon 35 26, spoke bark Thomas Darrell, from Rio Janeiro for New York.
Brig J & H Crowley, Crowley, Calais, 7 days, with lumber, to Jed Frye & Co.
Brig Open Sea, Coombs, Boston.
Schr Adelia (Br), Heisler, Ship Harbor, NS, 9 days, with lumber, to Merchant & Co.
Schr Kaima, Cook, Indianola, 29 days, with hides, &c, to N L McCready & Co. Had strong head winds all the passage.
Schr Conservative, Boyd, Jacksonville, 19 days, with lumber, to Jonas Smith & Co.
Schr Breeze, Overton, Jacksonville, 16 days, with yellow pine, &c, to Van Brunt & Slaght.
Schr Caroline Hall, Vickers, Virginia.
Schr J H Rapp, Cale, Virginia.
Schr M S Tichnis, Shaw, Virginia.
Schr Helen Mar, Ward, Virginia for New Haven.
Schr S W Bunnell, Bunnell, Georgetown, DC.
Schr A R Wetmore, Lemon, Georgetown, DC.
Schr Helen Mar, Nickerson, Philadelphia for Boston.
Schr William, Hudson, Philadelphia for Cohasset.
Schr War Eagle, Crowell, Philadelphia for Providence.
Schr John Cadwallader, Steelman, Philadelphia for Norwich.
Schr Com Kearney, Philbrook, Calais, 8 days, with lumber, to Chase, Taylor & Co.
Schr Gen Banks, Ryder, Bangor, 7 days, with lumber, to Fettigrew & Watson.
Schr Ann Carlet, Weston, Bangor, 8 days, with lumber, to Simpson & Clapp.
Schr Nevada, Robbins, Ellsworth, 8 days, with lumber to order, Harlem.
Schr D Willams, Robinson, Rockland, 5 days, with lime, to W S Brown.
Schr Wm Capes, Ryan, Boston.
Schr H P Ryder, Williams, Boston.
Schr Alaska, Strout, Nantucket, 4 days, with fish, to S W Wright & Co.
Schr M J Mead, Thrasher, Taunton.
Schr Ney, Chase, Fall River.
Schr R E Pecker, Sherman, Providence for Philadelphia.
Schr D Baldwin, Hale, New London.
Schr Capitol, Forrester, Portland, Ct.
Schr Wave, Ryan, Hartford for Philadelphia.
Schr Harriet & Sarah, Allen, New Haven.
Schr Chancellor, Ferguson, New Haven for Baltimore.
Schr Edward Lindsley, Hill, New Haven for Elizabethport.
Schr S Applegate, Steelman, New Haven for Elizabethport.
Schr W Baltimore, Flynn, Bridgeport for Trenton.
Schr Erie, Mills, Bridgeport for New Brunswick.

SAILED.

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