The Memphis Appeal.

THE KENTUCKY CAMPAIGN.

CAMP BEAUREGARD, (HOWARD'S BLUFF,) FRANKLIN, KY., DEC. 1, 1861.

EDITORS APPEAL: In my last letter the opinion was expressed that there would be no further military operations of any magnitude in this portion of Kentucky during the winter. That opinion has been strengthened rather than diminished with the lapse of time intervening. This is mainly based upon the want of events occurring. Can events occurred. The boasted legions assembling at Cairo and Paducah, (seventy-five or one hundred thousand, who were going "to smack Columbus in the next twenty days") have turned out to be "men in Barnum." They are not there as yet, and as Louisville and St. Louis urgently need about all the surplus material they have on hand, the "forward to New Orleans," from Cairo, expedition is about fashioned out for the present, and will remain so until further notice.

For the past five or six days our brigade have been actively engaged at building winter quarters—which completed, they will be very comfortable. The cabins are put up each large enough to accommodate eight men, and, being almost perfectly air tight, will form excellent shelters against the wiry blasts of old Boreas.

Gen. Beauregard has erected all the sawmills within reach sawing lumber for his command during several weeks past. Among others was one near Mayfield creek, over half the distance between us and Paducah. The Yankees found this out, and three days ago they dispatched a whole regiment of infantry and a squadron of five hundred cavalry from Paducah to the point. They made a brilliant and an entirely successful charge upon the mill, which was a sort of hermaphrodite concern—consisting of grist and saw combined. The miller was completely routed and taken prisoner and his castle set on fire and burned. The action lasted three hours. The Yankees did not lose a single man. The miller's loss is estimated at five hundred *rats and large tailed mice*. For full particulars see northern journals published any time since.

As a sort of sequel a few hundred feet of timber lost at the mill, we made a descent upon three thousand pounds choice Kentucky tobacco the other day. It belonged to a notorious abolitionist and scoundrel named John Bolinger, who lived in Mayfield, but was now with his brethren in Paducah. The tobacco was taken twenty miles out of our camp, where we found it nicely pressed in hogsheads ready for shipment.

We somewhat regret the alarm (unnecessary, we think) prevailing among our friends in Tennessee, Mississippi, and other States along the river. The policy of creating undue excitement among our people by representing a state of affairs which does not exist, or is at best based upon future contingencies, in order to bring about a more complete preparation, is very questionable. The cry of wolf may be raised one of these days when no one will believe he is there.

Our people ought to be strongly impressed with the opinion that their utmost strength may have to be put forth before their freedom shall be gained, and that every man able to bear arms ought to be well versed in the evolutions of the drill. Now, at the same time, let there be no little alarm and as little noise made about it as possible. Our camps—the priceless boon and heritage we are fighting for—I trust are sufficient of themselves to call out at any time enough men to meet the enemy successfully, without resorting to the desperate shifts above referred to. The recent dispatches and letters from Columbus published in the Memphis newspapers, ought to have been shorn of much of their contents.

The excellent health of our brigade at this time is worthy of note. The sick list is growing less every day, while we have few deaths. This will in all further decimated when we get into our warm "blankets."

SUBALTERN.

PROCLAMATION.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, KNOXVILLE, December 11.

The exigencies of the times requiring the adoption of the strongest measures of military policy, the commanding general feels called upon to suspend, for a time, the functions of civil tribunals.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, William H. Carroll, brigadier-general in the Confederate army and commander of the post at Knoxville, do hereby proclaim martial law to exist in the city of Knoxville, and the surrounding country, to the distance of one mile from the corporate limits of said city. By order:

Brig. Gen. W. H. CARROLL.
A. C. Foster, A. A. Gen.

Exciting Times on the Potomac.

Intelligence from the lines on the Potomac state that on last Saturday and Sunday, there was, from some cause, a general expectation of action on the part of the enemy. General Beauregard had ordered the troops to be held in readiness for a decisive movement; baggage was sent to the rear in huge wagon loads, and litters sent up to the various regiments. Our soldiers were represented as wild with delight at the prospect of a battle. Fortunately for the Yankees, the battle was declined by them.

General Johnston is said to have remarked a few days since that the army of the Potomac was in better fighting trim than it had ever been before.

Infantry fire had reached our lines and had been fully ascertained that the Yankee troops were suffering trouble from the small pox. It is also said to be raging among the Federals opposite Manassas. Precautions had been taken against this infection by Surgeon Williams, the energetic chief of the medical department of our army, who had furnished the medical officers with vaccine virus.

On Friday last a military execution occurred at Shepherd's Ford, near Centerville. Two members of the New Orleans company, known as "The Tiger," were shot for mutinous conduct and an assault upon the officer of the day. We were unable to ascertain their names. They are said to have met their fate with singular hardihood.—*Richmond Examiner, Dec. 11th.*

The Cotton Trade with Mexico.

The editorial correspondent of the New Orleans *Picayune* writes as follows of a late visit to New Braunfels, Texas:

I was astonished to see the life and bustle in New Braunfels; cotton coming in and cotton going out; cotton here, cotton there, everywhere. The enterprising house of F. Maveau is purchasing largely for the Mexican market, making all payments in Mexican dollars, and there is certainly no lack of the hard currency in Comal county. Cotton is hauled in American wagons and Mexican carts; the roads are lively with the sharp cracks of drivers' whips as they jog on toward the Rio Grande. A Frenchman from Mexico is also engaged in the transportation on huge wagons, drawn by twelve mules and I was told that he loaded, no less than twenty-four bales on one of his immense vehicles, and that he attracted as much attention on the road as a traveling circus or menagerie. He has been heretofore hauling cotton from Matamoras to the interior of Mexico, but is now going regularly into the business from this section. If the war is to go on, and the blockade continues, King cotton must hold court for awhile at New Braunfels, and Mr. Maveau will prove a prompt and active first lord of the treasury. He will disburse hundreds of thousands of dollars this year, all in Mexican dollars.

ANOTHER "SENSATION" ON THE PENINSULA.—Official dispatches were received from Gen. Magruder, yesterday, urging the sending of additional reinforcements to the Peninsula. It was reported that the enemy, as Fortress Monroe, had been reinforced by a number of regiments and that a large force had landed at Newport News. The impression last night, in official circles was that the report was sensational, and would probably amount, in fact, to nothing of real importance. Although many persons made it their business to alarm the street corners by congregating the force supposed to have been landed at Newport News to forty thousand men, and spreading the intelligence that Gov. Letcher had been aroused by the news as to have determined to call out all the militia in Tide-Water district to repel the invasion.—*Richmond Examiner, December 9.*

SMALL CRAFT FOR A LARGE EXPEDITION.—The New York *Journal of Commerce* states that vessels now owned or chartered by the government and sitting out with great celerity at that port amount to sufficient tonnage to carry 80,000 troops. The process of adapting them to the service for which they are designed has been executed with a rapidity which has no precedent in any history. We suppose it is not desirable at present to indicate the destination of the expedition, and we therefore withhold further particulars.

A BRITISH MAN-OF-WAR.—The English steamship-of-war, Racer, of eleven guns, Capt. Algeron Lyons, arrived off this harbor on Friday afternoon last. She left New York on Tuesday, and brought dispatches to her Britannic majesty's consul. The latter visited her on Saturday morning in the steamer Carolina, and the Racer soon after left for Port Royal, from which place she is expected to return this day, and will soon after sail for New York.—*Charleston Courier, 7th.*

A BILL FOR THE SALT SPECULATORS.

On the 11th, in the Senate of the Tennessee Legislature, the following bill was introduced, read the first time, and passed:

By Mr. Hill, of Hamilton. To authorize the Governor to take possession of all the salt in store, on shipboard, or held for sale in the State, for the public use, and for other purposes.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee*, That whenever, in the judgment of the Governor, the public necessity and public use require it, he is hereby authorized to take possession of all the salt in this State, which is stored, on shipboard, or held for sale, for the public use, and to make such disposition of the same as the public necessity may require, and he is hereby authorized to employ all the means necessary to accomplish these purposes.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That just compensation shall be made, to the owner of any salt, which shall be taken under the provisions of this act. If the compensation shall be agreed upon by the owner and the Governor, the Governor shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the owner, for the amount agreed upon; but if the owner and Governor shall fail to agree on the amount of compensation, at the time the salt shall be taken, the sheriff of the county in which the salt is taken, or his deputy, shall, on the verbal request of the Governor, or of the owner, forthwith summon a jury of twelve freeholders or householders, who, after being duly sworn, by the sheriff or his deputy, to assess fairly the amount of compensation to be paid to the owner of the salt, taken by the Governor, for public use, shall fix the amount of compensation to be paid to the owner of the salt, from him taken by the Governor, shall proceed to assess by their verdict the amount of compensation so to be paid, and for the amount so assessed, the Controller, at the instance of the Governor, shall forthwith draw his warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the owner, unless he shall elect to restore the salt to the owner, which he is authorized to do; or unless an appeal shall be taken, either by the Governor or owner, from the verdict of the jury, to the next term of the circuit court of the county in which the verdict is rendered; which appeal is hereby authorized to be taken, either by the Governor or the owner, within five days after the rendition of the verdict, by the appellant giving security for the costs of the appeal, to be approved by the sheriff or his deputy, who shall have summoned the jury; and when an appeal shall be so taken, such sheriff or deputy shall thereupon return the verdict appealed from to the next term of the circuit court of his county, and the assessment of the amount of compensation shall be made *de novo*.

SEC. 3. That when an appeal shall be taken by the owner, as provided in the second section of this act, if the amount of compensation assessed in the circuit court be the same as that assessed by the verdict appealed from, or less, the owner shall be taxed with all the costs, and execution shall be issued against him and his security for costs for the amount thereof; but if the amount of compensation assessed in said circuit court shall be greater than that assessed by the verdict appealed from, the costs shall be taxed against the State. And if the Governor shall appeal from the verdict so provided for in the second section of this act, and the amount of compensation assessed in the circuit court shall be less than that assessed by the verdict appealed from, the owner shall be taxed with all the costs, and execution shall be issued against him and his security for the costs, for the amount thereof: otherwise the State shall be taxed with the costs.

SEC. 4. That for the services of the sheriff or his deputies, in each case, provided for in the second section of this act, he shall receive five dollars, to be taxed in the bill of costs; and each juror who serves as provided by said section, shall receive one dollar, to be likewise taxed.

SEC. 5. That for any costs or necessary expenses incurred by the Governor under this act, the Controller shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, as occasion may require.

SEC. 6. That for the amount of compensation assessed in the circuit court on appeal, the Controller shall, as soon as practicable, draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, in favor of the owner of the salt, for which the compensation is assessed.

SEC. 7. That, for the purpose of making compensation for any salt which shall be taken by the Governor, under the provisions of this act, and of paying any necessary expenses and costs that may be incurred by him, under the same, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any unappropriated money in the State Treasury.

SEC. 8. That if any person shall, after the passage of this act, send or remove any salt from this State, or shall secrete any, with intent to evade the provisions of the same, he shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined in a sum not less than one thousand dollars, and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a period not less than one year.

SEC. 9. That from and after the passage of this act, it shall be unlawful for any person, except an agent of this State or of the Confederate States, to send any salt out of this State, or to sell salt to any person to be sent or carried out of the State, without the consent of the Governor.

SEC. 10. That any person who shall violate any of the provisions of the ninth section of this act, shall be liable to indictment, and on conviction shall be fined any sum the jury may assess, not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand dollars; and at the discretion of the jury trying the case, may be imprisoned in the penitentiary for any period not exceeding five years.

The Yankee Congress and the Nigger Question.

The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* writes under date of the 5th inst., as follows:

Congress moves with exemplary slowness thus far. The dubious state of men's minds regarding the great issue of the times, involves much debate and delay. Spite of the numerous pauses for the partial or total abolition of slavery through the necessities of the war, which have been thrown before Congress and the country, the great majority of the members are still reluctant at any assumption of the tremendous responsibility. They lingeralitering on the brink of the precipice of fate, hesitating whether it is safe to temporize or to plunge.

And again he says:

It becomes more and more evident, however, especially since the speech of Senator Trumbull, this afternoon, that the sweeping emancipationists cannot count up a victory in the vote, unless occurrences yet to come shall change the minds of men.

English Mills and Operatives.

In an article on the "Cotton Famine," the London *Times* has the following:

From particulars furnished by correspondents of the the Manchester *Examiner*, the following figures have been compiled, which, although not complete, are sufficient to show generally the state of employment in the various localities of the cotton trade:

Mills working full time	220
Mills working five days	53
Mills working four days	50
Mills working three days	112
Mills stopped	41
Total	477

An analysis also gives the number of work people in each town and the periods for which they are employed, and the gross result is as follows:

WORK PEOPLE.

Number working full time	61,760
Do. five days	15,022
Do. four days	19,267
Do. three days	28,852
Do. stopped	8,023
Total number of work people enumerated	132,924

These returns are imperfect, as there are several important districts not enumerated, and it is feared that the last item of the number of work people totally out of employment, and for whom no resource is left but the poor or charitable subscriptions, is below the actual state of the case, and that the total will continually increase. With reference to the reiterated recommendations to mill-owners to work only three days a week, and to the speculations as to the effect such a course would have on the cost and supply of cotton, one correspondent remarks that they show a very imperfect knowledge of the condition of the trade. There are, perhaps, four or five hundred mill-owners in Lancashire, but the cost of working short time is comparatively so great that it is questioned if there are more than a hundred that could afford to resort to it beyond six months. In corroboration of this, the fact is cited that numerous masters are giving notice to the work people that their mills will be entirely closed as soon as their present stock of cotton is exhausted.

HOW PRICE SUBSISTS HIS ARMY.—It has been a puzzle to many how Price, without governmental resources, has managed to subsist a considerable army in a country almost desolated. His system is not known in the "Regulations." He never complains of want of transportation, whether he is about to move ten miles or a hundred miles. He pays for what he takes in Missouri State scrip. His men go into the corn field, shuck the corn, shell it, take it to mill and bring it into camp ground into meal. Or should they have no flour, they take the wheat from the stack, thrash it themselves, or with horses and wood, and so with the corn, set the aid of the miller to reduce it to flour. Such an army can go where they please in an agricultural country.

My informant compares the devotion of the men to him, and their confidence in him, as equal to the regard of the elder Napoleon's armies for the "Little Corporal." This is a high compliment, coming as it does from a professional soldier, an *alere* of West Point.—*Cor. Charleston Courier.*

☞ There are 542 cotton mills in England, of which, at last accounts, 49 had stopped, 118 running three days in the week, 205 running four days, 75 five days, and 295 on full time. The number of work people involved is 17,257. The mills are constantly shortening up, and the greatest alarm is felt in the manufacturing districts for the winter.

TEXAS INTELLIGENCE.

A gentleman connected with the quartermaster's department informs the Galveston *News* that unless the government furnishes notes of smaller denominations soon, he fears he will be unable to make any more purchases. The planters are unable to use the $100 and $50 notes.

SALT.—Excellent salt is said to be made, and any quantity obtained, at the saline, in Freestone county.

The Nacogdoches *Chronicle* learns that several persons have engaged in salt making at the salines near that place, which exist in great abundance.

THE VOTE FOR GOVERNOR.—The Austin *Intelligencer* mentions a rumor that returns received after the inauguration of Gov. Lubbock, give Clark a majority over him of some three hundred votes. The *Gazette* says this is not true; that no returns have been received.

IS HOUSTON IN DANGER?—Comment upon the proceedings of a meeting held at Houston for the purpose of effecting a thorough military organization, the *Telegraph* thus holds forth:

We have so often expressed our opinion on the subjects of the action contemplated by the resolutions, that we have very little to say which would not be a repetition. It does seem to us, however, that our people do not realize their actual situation. They repose in a false security, and slumber upon a mine which may say day explode and overwhelm them in utter ruin. We know that many think that Houston will be in no danger, even if Galveston is occupied by the enemy. Upon what this hypothesis is founded, or what good reason can be assigned for such an opinion, we are utterly at a loss to conceive. With Galveston in possession of the enemy, ten thousand men would be inadequate to the task of guarding the exposed points on our coast where the enemy could land in easy striking distance of Houston. Five thousand men on Virginia Point could easily be flanked on both sides by an enemy in possession of both the East and the Bay. Such is the truth, and it is well for our people to understand it.

We must get ready to defend the approaches to Houston, and we have delayed so long that there is but little time left for preparation.

The Austin *Intelligencer* mentions a rumor that returns received after the inauguration of Gov. Lubbock, give Clark a majority over him of some three hundred votes. The *Gazette* says this is not true; that no returns have been received since the official count; and there is no doubt if all the votes were in, Lubbock's majority would be increased.

The *Intelligencer* says an old man named Samuel Lane, was killed by Indians about two miles from the town of Comfort, in Kerr county.

The *Gazette* says the amount of money in the treasury for distribution for school uses, is much smaller than for any previous year, owing to the failures of the railroad companies to pay interest on the school fund loaned them.

The Goliad *Messenger* notices the passage through Goliad of several ox carts loaded with cotton for Mexico. The cotton was shipped by merchants of Goliad, Victoria, and Lavaca, and they expect to receive goods and groceries in exchange. This is right, and we are glad to see it. Nothing will go further toward maintaining friendly relations with Mexico than this interchange of commodities.

The Nacogdoches *Chronicle* learns that several persons have engaged in salt making at the salines near that place, which exists in great abundance. Appearances indicate that salt will be a cheap article in Texas ere long.—*Houston Telegraph, Dec. 6.*

Brownsville, as we learn from a letter in the Galveston *News*, is in a more defensible position than since its occupancy by Confederate troops. It is now considered ready to receive Old Abe's invasion, via Mexico. The *News* has also the following:

Many droves of beeves are being sent from various parts of Texas to New Orleans.

A large bark passed this city yesterday (6th) morning, sailing westward, and passing within five or six miles of our coast, she was plain view from our lookouts. Reliable and good judges, who observed her with spyglasses, say her decks were covered with armed men. Her destination is only a matter of conjecture. We shall probably hear from her.

The Dallas *Herald* says:

Diptheria, we learn, is prevailing to an alarming extent in the neighborhoods between Dallas and Cedar Hill. It is said that fourteen children have died with this terrible scourge within the last ten days.

Presbyterian General Assembly.

From the Augusta Chronicle, Dec. 13.

At the morning session yesterday, Thursday, Mr. Wohl's resolutions recommending the adoption of the address to the churches, reported and read by Rev. Dr. Thornwell, and for printing 2,000 copies of the same, etc., were adopted.

After some discussion, Memphis was, by vote, decided upon as the place for holding the next meeting of the assembly.

Richmond was chosen as the location of the committee of publication.

Dr. Thornwell called the attention of the assembly to the resolution which recommends that all the Presbyteries shall carry on their operations through the central committee. He preferred that it be stricken out. After some discussion, the matter was postponed till the night session.

At the close of the morning session, Dr. Pryor made a feeling allusion to the great calamity in Charleston, and by prayer and the Moderator closed the session by making the care of the afflicted city the burthen of his prayer to the throne of things.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION.—The committee on education asked the use of the time of the assembly for the purpose of holding a meeting on education to-night, (Friday) which was granted.

Dr. Thornwell withdrew his memorial to Congress proposing an amendment of the Constitution.

Dr. McMullen, from the committee to whom was referred a paper for the closer union and communion of Christians, presented from interesting report, which was put on the docket.

A portion of the time was consumed in debate on the report of the committee on domestic missions, the assembly voting against striking out the article which recommends the presbyteries acting through this central committee.

The assembly will probably continue its sessions till some time next week.

In the morning session yesterday, a standing rule for the general assembly for the annual election of the members and officers of the executive committee was adopted.

The committee on education made a report, through Dr. Lacy, embodying resolutions and articles touching the responsibility that rests on the church to maintain for itself a pious, gifted and learned ministry; that the General Assembly appoint an executive committee to superintend the work of educating young men for the gospel ministry; calling upon the officers and members to aid all such young men as wish to devote themselves to the holy work of the gospel ministry; and that the first Wednesday in December be designated as a day of special prayer for the youths of the country.

The resolutions with their articles were taken up and acted upon separately, and their principal features adopted. It was decided that the operations of this executive committee should be located at Memphis.

Mr. Perrin, from the standing committee on finance, made a report, which was adopted.

The committee on church extension made a report, to which was a resolution setting forth the importance of expending aid to feeble churches in erecting church edifices, and that the duties of the committee be assigned to the committee on domestic missions, until otherwise ordered by the General Assembly. The resolution was adopted.

A NATIONAL FLAG.—Much discussion is now going on as to the expediency of adopting a new style of national standard. The richmond *Dispatch* is one of the journals most interested. The design of a flag to be called "the Flag of the Sun," is urged—a solid field with a sun blazon in the center. We are not among its admirers. We think no better flag can be designed than the new "Battle Flag" of the Confederacy. This we may not now describe, but we are convinced that when it is generally known, and is thought hallowed by the victories of the many battlefields over which it is doubtless destined to wave in triumph, the voice of the people will unanimously proclaim for its adoption as the national standard, in lieu of the hybrid bunting in use during our transition state from attempted to confirmed independence of the country of whose flag it is a plagiary. The "Battle Flag" is a splendid banner of grand design, as gorgeous and majestic as St. George's Cross.

THE COST.—Six hundred and sixty thousand is reported by the Federal Secretary of War to be the number of troops which the North has now under arms; and, according to the New York *Tribune's* estimate, of a thousand dollars to a man, six hundred millions of dollars must be the annual outlay of that section upon the war. The official reports will doubtless show a smaller expenditure. It is one of the strategems of war to conceal its cost, even from those who have to defray it. And, even if the official statements be candid and fair, the whole expense of military operations does not become developed for some time after the debts are incurred. It will be found in the sequel that one thousand dollars a man will fall short of, rather than exceed, the actual expenditures.—*N. O. Bulletin.*

RAILROAD FROM BLAKELY TO PENSACOLA.—A charter has been obtained for the construction of a railroad from Blakely to a point thirty-five miles distant on the Florida boundary, at Hall's Bridge, across the Perdido river. From that point there is already railroad connection with Pensacola, via a road six miles long to a point of junction with the Montgomery and Pensacola road. Thus by the construction of thirty-five miles of road through a country singularly favorable to the work, Mobile bay will be brought within three or four hours' ride of Pensacola bay, the distance from water to water by this route being but sixty-five miles.—*Mobile Advertiser and Register, 14th.*

IMPORTANT MILITARY BILL.

The following having been passed by Congress and approved by the President, is now the law of the land:

A Bill providing for the granting of Bounty and Furloughs to privates and non commissioned officers in the Provisional Army.

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That a bounty of fifty dollars be, and the same is hereby granted to all privates, musicians and non-commissioned officers in the Provisional army, who shall serve continuously, for three years or for the war, to be paid at the following times, to-wit: To all now in the service for twelve months to be paid at the time of volunteering or enlisting for the next two ensuing years, subsequent to the expiration of their present term of services. To all now in the service for three years or for the war, to be paid at the expiration of their first year's service. To all who may hereafter volunteer or enlist for three years or for the war, to be paid at the time of entry into service.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That furloughs, not exceeding sixty days, with transportation home and back, shall be granted to all twelve months men now in service who shall, prior to the expiration of their present term of service, volunteer or enlist for the next two ensuing years subsequent to the expiration of their present term of service or for three years or the war, said furloughs, to be issued at such times and in such numbers as the Secretary of War may deem most compatible with the public interest; the length of each furlough being regulated with reference to the distance of each volunteer from his home: Provided, that in lieu of a furlough, the commutation value in money of the transportation herein above granted shall be paid to each private, musician, or non-commissioned officer, who may elect to receive it, at such time as the furlough itself would otherwise be granted.

SEC. 3. This act shall apply to all troops who have volunteered or enlisted for a term of twelve months or more, in the service of any State, who are now in the service of the said State, and who may hereafter volunteer or enlist in the service of the Confederate States under the provisions of the present act.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all troops re-volunteering or re-enlisting shall, at the expiration of their present term of service, have the power to re-organize themselves into companies and elect their company officers, and said company shall have the power to organize themselves into battalions or regiments and elect their field officers; and after the first election, all vacancies shall be filled by promotion from the company, battalion or regiment in which such vacancies may occur: Provided, that whenever a vacancy shall occur, whether by promotion or otherwise, in the lowest grade of commissioned officers of a company, said vacancy shall always be filled by election: And provided further, that in the case of troops which have been regularly enlisted into the service of any particular State prior to the formation of the Confederacy, and which have, by such State, been turned over to the Confederate government, the officers shall not be elected, but appointed and promoted in the same manner and by the same authority as they have heretofore been appointed and promoted.

The Patent Office.

We are indebted, says the Richmond *Whig*, to Mr. Rhodes, the Commissioner of Patents, and his obliging assistants, for the annexed list of letters patent issued since the organization of this department. There are upward of one hundred applications now pending, besides some twenty cases in which patents have been awarded, but not yet issued. The increase in the business of the office will soon require larger accommodations, and we learn that the third story of the building formerly known as the "Mechanics' Institute," will be appropriated for the purpose. The models of patented inventions will then be arranged for public exhibition:

Victor Arnaut, of New Orleans; improvement in apparatus for clarifying cane juice.

C. E. Brown, of Charlottesville, Va.; improvement in stirrups.

Boyle, Gamble & Macafee, of Richmond, Va.; improvement in method of attaching sword bayonets.

John S. Boothby, of Savannah, Ga.; improvement in tanning leather.

T. W. Coder, of Portsmouth, Va.; improvement in revolving pistols.

P. P. Clements, of Eufaula, Ala.; improvement in water wheels.

N. J. Cheshire, of Colquitt, Ga.; improvement in plows.

J. H. Clarke, of Natchez, Miss.; improvement in the manufacture of cannon.

J. D. Evans, of Pleasant Hill, Ga.; improvement in plows.

J. W. Fraser, of Abbeville, S. C.; improvement in steamboat wheels.

F. J. Gardner, of Newbern, N. C.; improvement in cartridges.

R. W. Habersham, of Beaufort, S. C.; converting a cavalry sword into a lance.

P. W. Hall, of Springfield, Texas; automatic breech-loading cannon.

J. L. Jones, of Tally Ho, N. C.; improvement in carriage wheels.

Armand Pilott, of Gravel Hill, Va.; improvement in method of attaching lance to grass.

G. B. Sloat, of Richmond, Virginia; design for sewing machine work-box.

G. B. Sloat, of Richmond, Virginia, design for sewing machine stand.

J. D. Stewart, Jackson, Miss; improvement in sash fasteners.

J. H. Van Houten, of Savannah, Ga.; improvement in breech-loading cannon.

J. M. Walden, Fort Valley, Ga.; improvement in railroad switches.

Discharges of Soldiers "Unfit for Service."

There is not a day that there may not be observed on the streets of Richmond a great many soldiers who have sufficiently recovered from sickness to return to camp, but who have by some means succeeded in obtaining a discharge, and spend their time in loafing about the city. The facility with which these discharges are obtained, is a cause of great complaint among the officers of the army, who are constantly losing their men after they get to Richmond, on the pretense that they are unfit for military service. We hear of an instance where five dissatisfied members of a single company were allowed to go to Richmond, succeeded in obtaining discharges, when there was scarcely anything the matter with them. We hear stories of petty bribery and corruption in this matter, which we are unwilling to believe, although it does seem that the facility of obtaining certificates for discharges implies a recklessness which by itself is criminal enough, without hunting further in this matter for subject of censure and indignation.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

WHAT THE FEDERALS SAY OF OUR BATTERIES.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* says:

Gentlemen just arrived from the lower Potomac say, on Friday and to-day the Confederates threw a number of immense shells across the river—*a distance of over four miles*—some of which struck and exploded near the encampment. One of these death-dealing missiles fell almost in the midst of a squad of men, buried itself six feet in the earth and bursted, but, miraculously, no one was injured. Other equally large fell and did not explode. Fifteen or twenty of them dropped on the Maryland side, without doing injury. They were replied to with shells, which were seen to burst over and near the enemy's batteries, where troops could be seen distinctly moving about.

The Cincinnati Gazette is an admirable delineator. In his *Tribune* he says:

An "abolitionist" is also an infidel, an agrarian, a foe to human government, a dupe to his conscience, a woman's rights man, an anti-Sabbatarian, a spiritualist, a phrenologist, a water cure, a vegetarian, a Fourrerite, and an opponent of tobacco and capital punishment.

A more perfect picture of the white-coated gentleman himself, could not be got up. He fills the inventory of requisites to make an abolitionist, precisely.

THE BLOCKADERS.—The steam gunboat Florida, Captain Goldsborough, and the steam gunboat Alabama, together with a bark, were off this port yesterday. During the afternoon a large side wheel steamer—supposed to be the John P. King—came down to the bar, and it is thought brought letters and papers to the fleet, as she was just from some northern port. She also supposed to have troops on board, no doubt for Port Royal, as we believe that a large reinforcement is being sent to that place. There was another large steamer off shore steering southwest.

The Susquehannah was not in sight, and has probably gone to Port Royal for supplies. The strange looking craft which was visible near the bar a few days since, and which looked like a floating battery or dry dock, could not be seen yesterday.—*Charleston Courier, Dec. 13.*

FROM THE PENINSULA.—A report has reached here from the peninsula, under circumstances apparently entitling it to credit, that the Yankees had occupied Little Bethel in force. Indications again point to an early engagement on the peninsula. We learn further that Gen. Magruder has revoked the leave or absence of all officers and soldiers in the regiments serving on the peninsula, requiring them to return immediately and join their respective commands.—*Richmond Examiner.*

THE BRITISH WAR SHIPS.—The English steam sloop Racer returned to this bar from Port Royal yesterday, took on board the consular dispatches, and started immediately for New York. She is expected to come back from the latter city to this point at an early period. While at Port Royal the Racer was visited by flag officer Dupont, of the Lincoln fleet. The British steam frigate Immortalite was still at Port Royal, but would leave in a few days for Bermuda.—*Charleston Courier, Dec. 13.*

☞ A balloon was observed about 1 o'clock this morning, in a southerly direction from the city, showing a bright blue and red light. This may be the celebrated balloon of which we have heard so much on the Potomac, and which has been transferred to Port Royal.—*Charleston Mercury, 16th.*

LOCAL MATTERS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.—The proceedings of the regular meeting of Council, held last evening, will be found in our columns this morning.

IMPORTANT TO THE LADIES.—The auction sale of ladies dress goods, domestics, et cetera, will be continued this morning at 10 o'clock. Call at 330 Main street for bargains.

THE WEEKLY APPEAL.—The issue of this morning will be found filled with the latest news and choice miscellaneous matter. Single copies, in wrappers or otherwise, can be procured at the counting room.

WANTS AN OWNER.—Morton & Co., at the wharf boat, can give information of a boy mare, consigned to Capt. W. W. Leake, for which no owner has been found. Who claims the boy?

RECORDER'S COURT.—This court is doing an active business. There were thirty-seven cases on Monday morning, and twenty-eight yesterday morning, out of the latter nineteen persons paid $126 in fines, three were sent to the chaingang, five were discharged, and one appealed from his sentence.

WOOD FOR THE POOR.—The city owns four hundred cords of wood at the mouth of Wolf river, for which the Mayor offers ninety cents a cord for cutting, but finds it difficult to obtain hands. Where can it will be given to the unemployed. Who will go to the Mayor and undertake to cut wood for the city at a fair price?

CONTRIBUTIONS.—Mr. Hunter, on Monday, paid over to Mr. Lofland $250, the proceeds of a concert given by the lovely and patriotic ladies of Little Rock, Ark., for the benefit of the wounded soldiers. He also received $50 from the ladies of Fort Gibson, Miss., for the same object.

MUSICAL FESTIVAL AT THE NEW MEMPHIS THEATRE.—We refer our readers to the programme of this entertainment in our advertising columns. The selections are of the first order, both vocal and instrumental, and all lovers of good music should not neglect so rare an opportunity. Prof. Kutrowski hopes to realize a handsome amount for our gallant soldiers.

GENERAL ORDER.—We publish this morning in our advertising columns a general order from General Brooks, requiring the captains of volunteer companies at Memphis, Henderson Station and other points, to order back to camp all who are absent on furlough, or otherwise, as the companies will soon be ordered to move. New companies are urged to complete their organization.

MEMPHIS MADE STARCH.—Starch is an article for which we have been heretofore dependent on the North. By the enterprise and skill of H. Hecht & Co., of this city, this is no longer the case. This firm are manufacturing an unsurpassed article of starch, orders for which will be received at Hecht's wholesale liquor store, on Shelby street, between Union and Gayoso.

ANOTHER ENTERTAINMENT.—Having learned through the Rev. John W. Campbell, that the Mississippi soldiers in the Knoxville Hospital "are suffering greatly for the want of many necessities, the teacher and pupils of the Sardis Academy will give an entertainment for their benefit on Thursday, December 26. The performances will consist of charades and music, in which last they will be assisted by the ladies of that place."

MUSICAL.—At Atlanta, Ga., they have an amateur association which has given concerts in that city, Savannah, Macon, Augusta and other places, by which over $7000 has been contributed to the soldier's relief fund. The manager of the association, Mr. W. H. Barnes, is now in the city, on forwarding agent of freight to Atlanta; he both writes song and sings them, and is willing to give his aid for patriotic purposes in Memphis.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED.—In this crisis of national affairs, when every arm is wanted to aid in defending the country against the invading enemy, there are many who would willingly enter the army who are withheld by their affairs or other important obligations not permitting a protracted absence from their families and their homes. Such will find an excellent opportunity by applying to Capt. Harding, at No. 6 Adams street, near Front Row, who wants a number of six months volunteers. This offers a fine opportunity of serving service without a protracted engagement.

AMUSEMENT AT LAST.—We have heard of people spoiling for a fight, but the people of Memphis are now spoiling for amusement. The times are grave, newspapers are grave, conversation is grave, events are grave; a leaden gravity is cast upon everybody, and the very soul seems borne down and looks around for the means of recreating its elastic spirit and getting into that healthy, cheery condition which is best adapted for the gravy part the citizen is called upon to play at this grave period. "The play, the play's the thing," and we learn from Mr. Tannehill that he has succeeded in getting together a company of good and experienced performers who will perform comedies, farces, and sparkling vaudeville pieces nightly, at Odd Fellow's Hall. Mrs. Pennoyer, Miss Lena Lessmann, Mrs. Tannehill, and Messrs. Tannehill, Frank Gibson, Farmer, and others, are among the company. To-morrow begins the first performance; the pieces will be the comedy of the Barrack Room, and the ever welcome farce of the Two Gregories. We doubt not this effort of Mr. Tannehill's will be well sustained, and the public will receive with pleasure an announcement that offers something mirthful and agreeable for the approaching holiday season.

MEMPHIS MILITARY.—Attention is profoundly awakened at the present moment to the importance of securing a full, efficient and working organization of all the persons in the city able to carry arms. The militia system was considered populiar—the home organization in being have a feeble existence, and a desire exists to see a system of force and that of recklessness laid aside for the vigorous and practical home military system prevailing in New Orleans. At the present moment—when the great bulk of the ardent, glowing, active spirits among us have left to engage in actual conflict—we may consider the population as being divindled into two parties, one of which is zealous and ready to join the army, but are kept in the city by the necessity of holding the business together, or seeing to their families. These are often placed in circumstances that detain them from the field in consequence of the absence of sons, brothers, business partners or others who are already in the army. These are the "Cant go aways." The second class—we despise to acknowledge there is such a class, and hope it is a very little one—is composed of those who, for whatever reason we know not, are anxious to shirk their duty altogether. They want their personal rights and property protected, and they want somebody else to do the protecting business while they stay at home and grumble about paying taxes to support their protectors. These are the "Wont go aways."

Here is the material—how is it to be organized? The public answers that question by suggesting, give us the New Orleans system. To practice this system every man able to bear arms, not engaged in making munitions of war, must be enrolled in a company and regularly attend drill. To ensure this a committee must be appointed, as in New Orleans, to scour the streets during the hours of drill, find what places of business are opened at the time when they have been ordered to be closed for drill. To enter those houses and see who are in them, to accost all able-bodied men walking about the streets, to take the names of all street corner patriots, and lamp-post newsmongers they find dangling at their accustomed gossiping places. Of all such their names must be ascertained, their residences, then they must be cited to appear before a proper officer to undergo the fine for not belonging to a company, or if belonging to one for being absent from drill. This system will bring all up to their duty. The "Can't go aways" would be impelled into, and when they were spring at once into the home organization, the "Wont go aways" would be impelled into, and when they were once drilled and the sight of steel and the flash of powder had waked up their dormant souls, would rush in as noble instances to the call of their duty, for, let it never be forgotten, the home company is the school that volunteers are formed in. In its home company martial ambition is awakened and a love of arms engendered, and individuals—squads—whole companies join the volunteers, as we have already seen them do in this city.

But these home companies—under whose command shall they be? By a law recently enacted, they are required to protect their own neighborhood until some exigency arises, then they may be summoned into camp. When such an exigency exists, is decided, not by the will of the home companies, but by that of the military general in whose district they are. Therefore, by means of the pass of "exigency," though intending when joining their companies to go to the field only when fighting time comes, they might be placed on regular camp duty while their business were going to ruin, or their families were starving. The "Can't go aways" will not agree to it. What then is the alternative?

There is a bill before the Legislature of this State—we believe it has passed the lower House—which provides for the organization in this county of a regiment, to be called the Shelby County Legion; it is to consist of ten companies of not less than fifty, nor more