THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

BY M'CLANAHAN & DILL. SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1863. VOL. XXIV, NO. 9

RECRUITS WANTED!

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY OF NEW ORLEANS.

OFFICERS OF THIS BATTALION are now in the South to enlist such young men citizens of Louisiana as are with a sufficiency age who may come forward and offer themselves for service.

By special authority of the Secretary of War, any parties who may be enlisted and equipped ready for duty will be assigned to fill up the organization.

A BONUS OF FIFTY DOLLARS will be paid to all men who may join the ranks in New Orleans. Books for enlistment will be opened at the following places:

Capt. J. B. MILLER 3d company, will be stationed at Jackson, as recruiting officer; and Captain C. W. SQUIRES, 1st company, Captain J. B. RICHARDSON, 2d company and Lieut. JOHN BUSH, 4th company, will be stationed at Vicksburg, as recruiting officers, to whom, or to the undersigned at Mobile, applicants may be addressed.

J. B. WALTON,
Major Commanding and Chief of Artillery.

1st Army Corps Department Northern Virginia.

I have established my recruiting office at room No. 82, Barnum House, Jackson, Miss.

C. W. SQUIRES,
Captain and Recruiting Officer.

Artillerists wanted, regular pay and good treatment. Apply to Capt. W. Squires, Jackson, Miss.

Special Order No. 271.

HEADQUARTERS STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Jackson, January 19th, 1863.

Major-General T. C. Tupper:

YOU will issue orders to the several commanders of companies, battalions and regiments in regard to the enrolment of all men under forty years of age, who have already been detailed or volunteered in the service of the State. Special Orders No. 13, issued from this office, and approved by Lieutenant-General Pemberton, copies of which have been furnished you by the Secretary of War, contemplate that all men under forty years of age now serving on State troops, by commission will not be interfered with by the Enrolling officers, as all the disbanding of such organizations.

II. You will complete the enrolment in the several districts in the State, and when a sufficient number of men to fill a company have enlisted into service to the number of twenty, including commissioned officers, you cause all absentees to return immediately to their respective commands.

III. You will order all staff, company and staff officers in the service, and all which makes between this agent and other agents, to report to me at Jackson, and be ready for duty, or report to me in Jackson, if they are not in the service, such as may be liable and fit for such duty, exempted from conscription. All those who have been discharged from conscription, or who are exempt from conscription, and to be enrolled in said draft, will be assigned to duty in the State service.

By order of JOHN J. PETTUS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

JONES S. HAMILTON,
Adjutant and Inspector General of Mississippi.

COTTON FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

AGENTS for the PRODUCE LOAN, in the several counties of the State, are hereby notified: That Rule 1 in the regulating particulars, that "not less than twenty bales of cotton, in one parcel, purchases may be made in any one county but in one location. In all other purchases of ten bales and under, such to those who have already commenced, or may hereafter commence buying in one county, such as may be liable and able to pay transportation from a county. All those who are exempt from conscription, or who are exempt from conscription, and to be enrolled in said draft, will be assigned to duty in the State service.

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The purchase money will be paid in the form of treasury notes and gold.

Rule 2 is to be regarded as the merchantable condition of cotton, and the same may be ginned, packed in bales, and when put up ready with bands and hoops, Provided, that the seller will obligate himself to deliver the same in bagging and rope within twelve miles of the place of purchase, and that the bale, that is, in the meantime, be under secure cover and well raised from earth. That two or more bales be stacked together, and the same may be covered with tarpaulins, or other material. That the cost to be bought at a discount of ten per cent. for a the price established for merchantable cotton that neighborhood, and is free from ice.

3d Certificate blanks to be procured Agents may adopt the form, with the same embraced in section second, or further writing in the margin.

4th Agents will be required to keep the original or in the hands of the purchaser, the name of this party, and the place of sale in all cases. Agents will be required to keep a full and accurate account of them in that position, and when in a public warehouse, the distinctive number must be furnished.

5th Eligible cotton bonds will be delivered over as the agent in Mississippi having already received it in one of the cotton. Their value will be greatly augmented from the fact that after April 1st, the cotton will be taxed three cents per pound.

J. D. B. DEBOW,
Jackson, Miss.

IMPORTANT TO SHOEMAKERS AND TANNERS.

HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL DEPARTMENT, No. 1, Jackson, Miss., January 19, 1863.

HAVING been appointed Special Agent by Major Gen. Slaughter, Chief Quartermaster Mississippi, and Major Bull, Chief Quartermaster Department of Mississippi, to collect, distribute, and the distribution of the same among the several tanneries within the said district, and to encourage the making and leather for the Confederate States, I do hereby notify:

That the proprietors of all tan yards and shoe shops within said district, will report to me at my headquarters, in Jackson, on or before the 1st day of February, and be prepared to work out so also the vats in vogue, and the number of hides necessary to fill the same, and how many pairs of leather and pairs of shoes they can make per month, and the time they will be required to work out the same, and labor necessary to carry the business to the extent of their capacity.

The above information is necessary to enable me to apportion the work to be performed to each yard, and to place it where it can be done to the best advantage, and make available all the skillful labor and in the most economical manner.

All tanners and shoemakers are subject to military duty, and are liable to be called in their own trade, and will also report to me if they wish employment.

J. H. WILSON, Special Agent,
Jackson, Miss.

ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER RAILROAD.

From Montgomery to Selma, Ala.

PASSENGERS

Ticketed Through to Montgomery, Ala.

A DAILY PASSENGER TRAIN leaves Meridian at 7 A. M., arrives at Selma at 6 P. M., and Montgomery at 8 P. M. same evening. Leave Meridian 7 A. M.

Leave Montgomery at 7 P. M., arrives at Selma at 6 A. M., and Meridian at 5 P. M. next evening—through from Meridian to Montgomery in 24 hours. Connections are made at Meridian due at Demopolis, take supper at Selma, sleep all night on the steamer Warrior or Cheaha, and breakfast in Montgomery. Passengers for Mobile will find close connection with the cars of the Mobile and West Point Railroad. Passengers will generally take supper at Selma for Talladega and Talladega, on the Tennessee and Alabama River Railroad.

This is the most direct route to Montgomery from Canton, Jackson and Vicksburg, taking the distance twenty hours by any other route. Fare through to Montgomery $14.

D. H. FRIER,
Superintendent W. D.

FOR SALE,

700 GOOD THREAD NEEDLES. Also, a large lot of good Smoking Tobacco. Apply to

R. A. BLUNT,
Marion, Ala.

FOR SALE,

ONE BRASS ENGLISH DRAGOON HOLSTER PISTOL, with the arms of H. B. Evans, on Capitol Hill, suitable for staff officers.

High Court of Errors and Appeals of the State of Mississippi.

JACKSON, January 6th, 1863.

ORDERED, That a special term of the High Court of Errors and Appeals be held at the city of Jackson, in the state of Mississippi, on the third Monday of February, 1863, for the purpose of hearing causes on the criminal dockets of the first and second districts. The criminal dockets of the first district will be taken up on the first Monday of February, and those of the second district will be taken up on the fourth Monday of February, and those of the second district will be taken up on the fourth Monday of February, and the civil cases on the dockets of said first and second districts are disposed of.

A. E. HANDY,
WM. L. HARRIS,
Judges.

RECRUITS WANTED!

LOUISIANA GUARD ARTILLERY, Of New Orleans.

PERSONS desiring to join this Battery, now attached to the 1st Louisiana Regiment, Jackson's brave army, Northern Virginia, will be received and transportation furnished on application to the undersigned at room No 82, Barnum House.

ROBERT L. ROOKE,
Lieutenant and Recruiting Officer,
Louisiana Guard Artillery.

Alexandria (La.) papers please copy and send bills to above address.

$25 REWARD!

STRAYED or stolen, from Captain A. L. Wofford's camp, near Holly Springs, Marshall county, Miss., about the 8th of December last, one SORREL HORSE, about fifteen hands high, one white foot, and a small white star in the forehead. The above reward will be paid to any one delivering said horse to me, or for such information as will lead to his recovery.

J. H. BUSCH,
Lexington, Miss.

WANTED,

A SUBSTITUTE, who is not liable to conscription, to work on my farm this year. Apply to

FOR SALE,

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A. E. HANDY,
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Judges.

The Memphis Appeal.

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Federal Reports from Port Hudson.

Correspondence of the New York Herald.]

BATON ROUGE, December 28.—The following statement in relation to the condition of affairs at the rebel stronghold above here—Port Hudson—embrace the substance of the various statements of negroes and rebel soldiers who have deserted and escaped our lines. I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that it is mainly correct at the time of this writing. But the rebels understand fully the value of time, and a few days may make a great difference in their ability it resist any attack by land and water.

The water defenses of Port Hudson consist of eight batteries, mounting at present only twenty-one guns, some of them being destitute, as yet, of ordnance.

For about five miles above Prophet's Island, the Mississippi is straight, but there is an abrupt turn, forming a hook. A little beyond this abrupt turn a creek, called Thomson's creek, running southwesterly, empties into the river. West of this Thomson's creek is an impassable marsh, which forms a natural defense above.

The first formidable obstacle the gunboats will have to contend with in ascending the river will be a battery stationed on a bluff some eighty feet high, which hight enables the rebels to cover the decks of our vessels by plunging shots. This is of great importance in the case of an iron-clad, which has sloping sides, like the Essex, as it enables them to fire into her at right angles.

There are two water batteries—one of them masked—and five other batteries on the bluff, the last one being just above the mouth of Thompson's creek. I have placed the total number of guns in these batteries at twenty-one, which, may be, is rather small; but I am satisfied they mount less than thirty, all told.

They have a one hundred and twenty pounder, which was brought by railroad from Clinton last week. The rest of the guns are twenty-four, thirty-two and forty-two.

In addition to these batteries, it is reported that within the last few days the rebels have obstructed the channel between Prophet's island and the eastern bank of the Mississippi, by driving spiles and creating a bridge, which enables them to cover the right battery over to the island, and prevent the progress of the gunboats, if not to compel them to go up the channel on the opposite side of the island, which will deprive them of the shelter gained by passing the eastern channel. It is doubtful, however, whether these reported obstructions will really prove to be a serious obstacle.

The water defenses, saying nothing of this last, extend about three miles and a half along the banks of the river, and, if properly worked, will no doubt seriously engage the attention of our fleet.

The land defenses of Port Hudson are mainly of very recent construction, having been mostly thrown up since our occupation of Baton Rouge.

They are nine to ten miles in extent, consisting of a parapet wall, fronted by a ditch and more or less abatis. These works commence at a point on the river just below the first river battery, and extend in a semi-circular form to Thompson's creek, where the impassable marsh already mentioned forms a natural terminus and defense. The works are extended so far to the rear that they can be manned without danger of molestation from the gunboats, being out of range of our guns, and will have to be carried by a land attack, unless, indeed, the gunboats should succeed in silencing the batteries on the river, enabling our troops to enter from the river side.

On these land defenses are mounted about thirty guns, some of them of heavy caliber, and in addition to these the enemy is provided with four field batteries, which can be readily moved to any part of the works.

The rebel forces at Port Hudson are commanded by Gen. Bell, who was, I believe, educated at West Point.

The commissary department issues rations for fifteen thousand men: but this includes the negroes at work on the fortifications, the sick and the camp followers of every description. The number of soldiers is about twelve thousand, and the effective fighting force is not less than ten thousand.

The rations consist chiefly of corn bread and molasses, with meat, when it can be obtained, which is seldom.

Desertions are numerous, and the sick list is large.

According to a Jackson paper, Jeff. Davis was in Jackson, Mississippi, on the 30th inst., and left that day for an "important point." Just about this time we heard of him at Port Hudson, and there is no doubt he was there, probably on the 21st. The details of his visit are very meager, and he seems to have kept Homewhat secret at the time. Port Hudson is of great importance, as the terminus of the Clinton railroad, and no doubt every possible effort will be made to hold it.

General Beauregard is also reported to have visited Port Hudson about the time of Jeff's visit.

The Port Hudson *Chronicle*, of the 27th, has been received here. It consists of two short columns of matter—one on each side of a small slip of brown wrapping paper, and is altogether the most startling example of the scarcity of printing paper in Dixie, which I have seen. It is devoted mainly to startling rumors from the North.

A body of rebel cavalry, from fifteen hundred to two thousand strong, separates on the western bank of the river, opposite and below Baton Rouge. It is in command of General Sibley, of New Mexico fame. It watches every opportunity to fire upon our transports when the gunboats are not around, and watches our movements with great vigilance. It is undoubtedly detached from the Port Hudson army for that purpose.

FOREIGN ITEMS.—The Emperor Napoleon has conferred upon Colonel John E. Gowen, of Boston, the order of "Chevalier of the Legion of Honor." The Boston *Herald* says: "Col. Gowen has fulfilled his promise to clear the harbor of Sabine pilot of the obstructions occasioned by the Crimean war, but the work not having been performed within the time specified, the Russian government seized and confiscated all the property accumulated by him, even the smallest articles as well as the apparatus sent by him from the United States, the value of which would not be less than $300,000."

Brazil is now the chief country in the world for the cultivation of coffee, and yet it is scarcely a century since it was introduced into that region. Previous to 1825, Java, Cuba, and the English colonies in the East and West Indies were the principal producers of coffee. Since that time Brazil has distanced them all. For a number of years she has produced her exportation nearly half the coffee of the world, and some years she even exported more than half. In 1858 Brazil only exported 5000 bags; 1861-2, no less than 1,633,144 bags were exported.

The Paris *Monde* says that a priest having applied to the Pope to know whether all those who have signed addresses calling for his renunciation of the temporal power, have incurred the pains and penalties of excommunication, his holiness, after serious consideration, has resolved the question in the affirmative. It follows, therefore, that half the Italian clergy and the great majority of the Italian people are excommunicated.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Emancipation Proclamation Will Detach Kentucky and Tennessee from the Union—Intervention by Napoleon Certain in the Spring.

Special Correspondence of the Chicago Times.]

Within a day or two past, intelligence of a most alarming character has been received here from Tennessee and Kentucky. The citizens of those two States were not taken unawares by the reception of the emancipation proclamation. Feeling, as they did, the most intense interest on the subject, they took care to keep themselves well posted on the course of events here. They were well aware of the powerful efforts that were made, during the month of December, to induce the President to pause and to abandon a step which, if taken, would plunge the country into ruin; for these efforts originated with themselves. The Union man of those two States (and these are no better Union men in the whole nation,) used every means in their power—argument, entreaty, warning—to induce the President to draw back from the course upon which he was bent; and they have seen that all these efforts have been vain. Their arguments were answered by silly cant; their entreaties were derided; their warnings were scorned, and they knew full well, and informed their fellow-citizens, that New Year's day would see the proclamation issued. The people of the two States, therefore, took counsel together as to what their course should be in the event of the proclamation being issued. Public meetings were everywhere held; the subject was discussed, not only at them, but in every family circle, for weeks before the fatal day; and the press, as you have seen, warned the people of the peril that impended over them. They understood full well how much benefit it would be to them to have their two States exempted from the immediate action of the proclamation. They, as well as their fellow citizens of the States further north, had heard President Lincoln solemnly declare that he had no desire, and no legal right, to interfere with the institutions of the States where it existed; and they were convinced that having violated this solemn declaration in the case of the other slave States, he would, without scruple, violate it in the case of their own States, whenever it suited him to do so. The decision to which they came, therefore, was, that, having no guarantees of their rights, and no safeguard for their property in the Union, it was better to leave it and join their fortunes to those of the other slaveholding States.

Such is the substance of the news that now engrosses public attention here. It is now understood that the people of Tennessee and Kentucky are not going to stop with the mere declaration of that decision, but that they have already taken measures to put it in force, and to give in their formal adhesion to the Southern Confederacy. They are convinced of the holiness and iniquity of all the professions of the administration as regards the objects and purposes of the war. They are satisfied that it never was intended to be a war for the restoration of the Union, and that the secession leaders were for the abolition of slavery, and that that, and that alone, is the only purpose for which it will in future be waged.

In such a war Kentucky and Tennessee will take no part. In such a war the soldiers of Kentucky and Tennessee will not fight. It is understood, therefore, that the Tennessee and Kentucky regiments will at once leave the army, and place themselves under the direction of their State authorities; and it is believed that the latter, after taking measures to make a levy upon the entire fighting population of the two States, will order the State troops to join the Southern army.

Such is the substance of the news that will engross the attention of the Cabinet at their meeting to-morrow. As regards its authenticity, I have not the slightest doubt. A distinguished member of Congress from Kentucky well expressed the feeling of the two States, in conversation, a few days ago. "Sir," he said, "Kentucky will give all of her sons, and shed them all side; she will give her last dollar; she will see her fields desolated, and her cities in ruins; she will do and suffer all this, and do and suffer it cheerfully for the Union and Constitution. But her people stand upon the Constitution. Whatever that instrument guarantees to them, that they will have. And they will never raise a hand to aid in a war which is to rob their neighbors of their property, and to excite insurrection among the slaves."

The friends of the administration endeavor to shut in light of these intelligence, and say that they are satisfied of the loyalty of both Tennessee and Kentucky; and that, had it been otherwise, those States would not have been excepted from the effects of the emancipation proclamation. It is a sufficient answer to this to say that these two States are loyal to the Constitution and to the government which it provides; and that the citizens of those States are satisfied that Mr. Lincoln has violated the Constitution, and that his administration is by no means such a government as the Constitution provides for. These being the views of the citizens of Tennessee and Kentucky, it would not be strange if they should act in accordance with them. It is feared, therefore, by those who read most clearly the signs of the times, that a very few weeks more will see both these States out of the Union, and in full fellowship with the Southern Confederacy. Such are the first fruits of Mr. Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

I am not informed as to the military strength of Tennessee. But Kentucky has a fighting population of 150,000 men. Of these 40,000 are already in the Confederate army. In the Union army there are forty-two regiments of Kentucky infantry and fourteen regiments of Kentucky cavalry, amounting probably to 20,000 men in all. Will it be a slight thing not only to lose these 50,000 troops, with their guns and horses, but also to see them arrayed in the ranks of our enemies!

The facts in regard to foreign intervention are now so well known that there is not a single diplomatist of note here who is not satisfied that the Emperor Napoleon will acknowledge the Southern Confederacy, break the blockade, and assist the South with an army, early in the spring. If he has been waiting for pretexts, he has got enough now. He can intervene in the interest of humanity, in order to prevent servile insurrections; and in order to prevent a revolution at home, for his people are starving on account of getting no cotton from America. Letters have been received here from Paris by the last steamer, in which these facts are set forth with certainty; and it is stated that a treaty has already been made with Slidell, in which, in consideration of great commercial advantages, Napoleon is to act as above.

☞ There is perhaps not another city in the Confederacy so well abused and so indiscriminately "cussed" as Jackson. We cannot undertake to defend the city in all respects, for we have seen many things which ought not to be. High prices, extortion, speculation, etc., have had quites run here; many of our tradesmen acting like they thought the war and the troubles of the country afford them the proper opportunity to extort unreasonable prices and hoard up gains at the expense of suffering thousands. But while this city has so many real sins to account for, it is very hard that she should be made the victim of entirely false and slanderous reports.

As a community, the conduct of our people has been unexceptionable, patriotic and liberal. Toward the soldiers of our army many of them have been lavish with provisions and other comforts. We have yet to learn of any family who have refused to accommodate them when it was possible for them to do so. Yet the ridiculous and foolish reports have gained circulation that the authorities of Jackson had denied to soldiers the privilege of walking our streets, and our people had been charging them ten cents a drink for wat We don't believe, however, this many of our gallant soldiers or other persons have been found soft enough to give these or similar reports any credence; yet it is evident a bitter prejudice has been engendered in the minds of some against this city on account of some such slanders as the above. We know that all such reports are unfounded, and the prejudice against the city wholly undeserved. *Mississippian.*

Congressional Proceedings.

Abridged from the Richmond papers.]

[In this abstract we omit any mere repetition of what has already been reported by telegraph.]

FRIDAY, January 23.—*Senate*—Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, asked leave to introduce the following bill "for the future issue of treasury notes and other purposes," which was referred to the committee on finance:

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, that the treasury notes not bearing interest and bearing interest, issued previous to the 1st day of December, 1863, if not funded before the 1st day of July, 1863, shall not be afterward fundable at the pleasure of the holder. All call certificates which are reconvertible into treasury notes fundable in bonds bearing eight per cent. interest, shall no longer be reconvertible into such notes after the 23d day of April, 1863, but shall afterward be convertible into notes fundable into bonds bearing seven per cent. interest until the 1st day of July, 1863, but after that day if not previously reconverted and funded, they shall be deemed to be bonds bearing six per cent. interest and payable at the end of —— years.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That in lieu of all other powers to issue treasury notes bearing no interest, which have been heretofore granted to the Secretary of the Treasury, he shall be authorized to issue monthly an amount not exceeding fifty millions of dollars of such notes, payable six months after the ratification of peace between the Confederate States and the United States. Each note shall specify the month of its issue, and declare that it shall be fundable in bonds bearing six per cent interest, and payable at the end of six years, for the period of twelve months from the first day of the month of its issue, and also that it shall be receivable in payment of public dues, except the export duty on cotton, for the like period. But after the lapse of the said twelve months, the said note shall no longer be fundable or receivable in payment of public dues, but it shall be paid at the time specified on its face without interest. Any holder of notes issued under the authority of this act shall be allowed to fund them in a call certificate bearing six per cent. interest, and to be reconvertible into such notes in the manner hereinafter provided. The said certificate shall specify the date of the notes funded, and shall be reconvertible within the period during which those notes were fundable. But after that period it shall no longer be responsible, but deemed to be a bond bearing six per cent. interest per annum, and payable at the end of —— years. The Secretary of the Treasury shall use any disposable means in the Treasury which can be applied to that purpose without injury to the public service to the purchase of the treasury notes bearing no interest and issued since the first of January, 1863; until the whole amount of such issues shall not exceeded one hundred and fifty millions. The treasury notes hereby allowed to be issued shall be of any denomination of not less than five dollars, which is now authorized by law, as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct. The authority hereby given shall cease at the expiration of the session of Congress which shall follow the conclusion of a treaty of peace, or at the end of two years, should the war continue beyond that period. The Secretary of the Treasury, in addition to the authority hereby given shall cease at the expiration of the session of Congress which shall follow the conclusion of a treaty of peace, or at the end of two years, should the war continue beyond that period. The Secretary of the Treasury, in addition to the authority hereby given to issue treasury notes, shall be allowed to issue as many not bearing interest as may be necessary to meet all the requisitions outstanding on the 31st day of January, 1863; but the notes thus issued shall only be fundable after the 31st day of December next, and after that date shall not be receivable in payment of public dues, but shall be redeemed according to the tender thereof.

Sec. 3. That in addition to the authority heretofore given to the Secretary of the Treasury to issue treasury notes, he shall be authorized to issue notes of the denomination of one dollar and fifty cents, to such an amount in addition to the notes of the denomination of one dollar heretofore issued, shall not exceed the sum of fifteen millions of dollars.

Sec. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to sell bonds bearing six per cent interest per annum, and payable at the end of 30 years, at par for treasury notes issued on the 1st of January, 1863, to such of the Confederate States as may desire to purchase the same, or he may sell such bonds upon guaranteed by the States of the Confederacy for treasury notes as aforesaid; provided, however, that the whole amount of such bonds shall not exceed three hundred and fifty millions of dollars; and, provided further, that the treasury notes thus purchased shall not be re-issued if the effect of such re-issues would be to increase the whole amount of treasury notes bearing no interest, which are in circulation to a sum greater than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. The Secretary of the Treasury is also hereby authorized, if he shall deem it fit to do so, to exchange the proceeds of any sales of raw produce certificates that he may make, for treasury notes issued since the 1st of January, 1863, at their market value.

Mr. Yancey, from the committee on naval affairs, reported back the bill to regulate the action of the Secretary of the Navy upon the decisions of naval general courts-martial with an amendment, with the recommendation that it pass.

Mr. Wigfall, of Texas, introduced a bill to conscript marines and ordinary seamen, to serve in the navy of the Confederate States.

The object of the bill is to retain in the navy, marines and seamen now enlisted.

Mr. Sparrow, of Louisiana, introduced the following, which was referred to the committee on finance:

Resolved, That the committee on finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law to pay the coupons of interest on all bonds, except those issued for the fifteen million loan, in cotton delivered at the ports of Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, or at New Orleans, within ninety days after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, upon the basis of twelve cents per pound for New Orleans middling; and allowing interest on said coupons from the time they are payable at the rate of six per cent. per annum, when said coupons are presented in sums of five hundred dollars at once.

Mr. Phelan, of Mississippi, introduced a bill providing for the printing of all acts and resolutions passed by both houses of Congress, and also a journal of both houses, setting forth how the printing shall be contracted for and in what style it shall be executed. Referred to the committee on printing.

House.—The resolution for inquiry into the authority of the Secretary of War under the exemption act, by which he has decided that when substitutes become liable to military service, the exemption of their principals shall expire, was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Holt, of Georgia, the committee on rules was instructed to inquire into the expediency of so changing the rules of the house as to limit debate on bills and resolutions, unless the same are before the house for final action. Agreed to.

Mr. Gartrell, of Georgia, introduced a bill to be entitled an act to declare what persons shall be exempt from military service, and to repeal all acts, and parts of acts, heretofore passed. Referred to the committee on military affairs.

Mr. Strickland introduced a bill to be entitled an act to provide for the visitation and general improvement of hospitals. Referred to the committee on the medical department.

Mr. Clark, of Georgia, offered a resolution instructing the committee on hospitals to inquire and report by what authority sick and wounded officers and soldiers are refused furloughs. Agreed to.

Mr. Reed, of Kentucky, introduced a bill to continue in pay all discharged soldiers, by reason of wounds and injuries received in service. Referred to the committee on military affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Maclom, of Kentucky, introduced a bill authorizing the acceptance of troops from the States of Missouri and Kentucky for a term of service not less than three years. Referred to the committee on military affairs.

Mr. Clutchin introduced a bill to refund to the State of Alabama the amount overpaid by said State on account of the war tax. Referred to the committee on ways and means.

Mr. Lyons offered a resolution, which was agreed to, requesting the President to inform the house whether Richard Thomas, otherwise Zarvona, was an officer of the Confederate army at the time of his capture, and the circumstances of his capture, if known to the President, and why he has not been exchanged.

A Day of Peace.

From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 24.]

On the vast expanse of froth and scum which the war has called into existence, an idea at last floats into view. The speech of Vallandigham lately made in the Federal Congress, and a synopsis of which is now published, contains the first practical and tangible plan for ending this struggle, the first solid thought which the mind of the United States has produced for two years.

The way to end the war is indeed a difficult problem. Both the belligerents are so committed that neither would agree to any treaty that the other could possibly propose or permit. Foreign nations might compel the peace if they possessed a motive; but so little do they understand the feelings and the interests of the contending countries, that any arrangement which they would invent would certainly be considered an insult and an outrage by one or the other. It is difficult indeed to conceive a definite conclusion of the business other than that which would come of anarchy on one side and exhaustion on the other.

Vallandigham proposes a termination of the combat which evades these manifest difficulties. He suggests a peace without a treaty. He would have the war ended by an armistice, and the invincible repugnance of the people to take up arms again when once they are laid down. For sometime America would present the unparalleled spectacle of two nations nominally at war, without a boundary, and carrying on the extensive commerce which would be instantly resumed without a tariff. In this situation, he believes that the passions now agitating both parties, would soon subside, and that after a few years a convention might settle the causes of quarrel and restore the Union.

Those who believe the reconstruction of the Union possible, under any circumstances, must look on this precious scheme with considerable apprehension. It is certainly the most taking yet that Yankee ingenuity has yet contrived to catch the South. But those who believe it dangerous do not know or realize the profound depth of hatred which the conduct of the United States has dug in the Southern heart. Nor do they know the true cause of the origin of this war. It was not slavery; it was not the tariff; it was the great fact that in the process of time and under the influence of many circumstances the North and the South had gone to be two distinct peoples, two rival nations. National antipathy, not temporary interests, divided the Union, and will keep the fragments alternately sundered. We entertain no fear that they will, under the influence of Vallandigham's armistice, "like the pieces of a fractured bone," unite and grow again.

At the conclusion of such an interval in the war the belligerents would probably conclude that mutual interest would be best served by the formation of a boundary, the arrangement of a commercial treaty, and the envoy of ambassadors.

But many things yet intervene between the present hour and the day of Vallandigham's armistice. The emission of the idea will, however, not fail to attract universal attention, and is, in fact, the first plan for finishing the war yet heard of, involving the faintest shadow of possible success.

Federal Officers in Tennessee.

Richmond Correspondence of the Knoxville Register.]

I have just left the house of representatives, which has before it incidentally, the question presented in the President's message, affecting the disposition to be made of officers captured by us. By reference to the code of Tennessee, you will find that such officers can only be confined in the State penitentiary for a period of from two to ten years. After our State courts have thus condemned these officers to such punishment it might become necessary for us to consider a exchange of prisoners. How would the President obtain the release of these criminals? Our code must needs be amended, or President Davis must reconsider his purpose as set forth in his late message. Then, since Tennessee is mercifully exempt from the operation of Lincoln's proclamation liberating all slaves within the rebellious States, can our courts, in accordance with the forms of common law, convict the prisoners recently captured by Wheeler? Should not the plan of President Davis for disposing of such officers be modified? Would it not be as well to have these officers shot by Gen. Bragg's order? Would not the punishment be more certain, and therefore more effective? And should not President Davis, in order that we may still be deemed in the right by the Christian world, show how we have been forced into these barbarous practices by a formal protest against Lincoln's barbarous proclamation? We should not such a protest be sent to Washington under a flag of truce? Would it not strengthen the peace party of the North and weaken the adherents of Lincoln's administration?

These suggestions have occurred to me as pertinent to the proposed military policy of the government, and they may present themselves to the honorable gentlemen who have charge of the recommendations contained in the President's message.

FIRE.—A fire broke out just before 5 o'clock yesterday morning, in a double tenement, on the north side of Poplar street, owned by A. J. Walt, Esq., and occupied. The fire steamer was quickly on hand, and did good work notwithstanding the cold, but the building was destroyed. A considerable portion of the furniture within them was saved. The snow on the roofs providentially acted as a protection to the neighboring frame houses, or the conflagration would have been an extensive one. The fire steamer, since she was last repaired, has worked well, and at this fire the advantage was of good utility, for the burned houses were so situated that notwithstanding the snow, a number of others would have been the consequence but for the excellent work she did, under the spirited and energetic efforts of Chief O'Neil and "his boys."

Memphis Bulletin, Jan 18

☞ The Yankees are stealing from Old Abe and rummaging among his old effects—no doubt of finding his famous "Scotch cap and military cloak." The Northern papers say that "so many depredations have been committed in the green room and east room of the Executive mansion, that Mr. Train, the chairman of the committee on public buildings, moved, to-day, in the house, an appropriation for a watchman to guard these premises against the raids of unscrupulous visitors. From the statement made by Mr. Train it appears that some rich valentine patterns have been cut from the damask curtains of the White House, and rich ornaments carried off, and that the character of the people who inhabit Washington since the commencement of the war is such that more vigilance is necessary in guarding property."

THE VENANGO OIL REGION.—The value of the oil thus far obtained from the Venango oil region is estimated on good authority at $4,000,000, yet the producing territory is but about five miles long, with an average width of less than forty rods. The present daily yield of the Venango oil wells is about 4000 barrels, and the value of this, at present prices, is $32,000. This, of course, is exclusive of the daily product of the Oil creek refineries, some thirty in number, of capacities ranging from fifteen to three hundred barrels per day.

THE RETIRING ENLISTMENTS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—A correspondent of the New York *World* thus writes from Burnside's army about the troops whose terms of enlistment are soon to expire:

Officers and soldiers who count the days and weeks and months of their term of service are conscious of what the people are not, viz: that the whole or I ought to say of six hundred thousand men who marched into the field at the outbreak of the rebellion is on the average, now on the last half of its term of service, and that at least fifty of its regiments (ten years' men) will march home toward before the first of next June.

We read from time to time in the newspapers; but the morning reports of the armies hold the statement. We speak of our brigades, divisions and corps, and number their strength by the number of rank and file; but the ranks have been thinned out. The only place where eight hundred thousand men exist is found in the pay rolls. And the government is to day paying some men out of the army to hospital, or as thirsted or unauthorized leave of absence, and on special or unauthorized detached service, than it is now in the ranks, doing regular duty. Half of every regiment is really in descriptive lists, proceed by sick hospitals and elsewhere from their company officers, and forwarded to their paymasters.

☞ The New York *World* reminds Butler of his promises. When in Washington this winter, on attempt being made to arrest and jail, he put his head out of the window and exclaimed: "I will not make a speech till I've had a fight." Gen. Butler has not yet had his fight. The *World* thinks, therefore, that he should forego his speech.

Federal Tyranny in Norfolk, Va.

A brief paragraph has appeared no long the arrest of a lady in Norfolk by the wife—or mistress, it is not certain which—of General Viele, the military commander of that place. The following is a letter from the lady herself to a friend in Lynchburg, giving the particulars of the affair. It is dated Portsmouth, January 4th:

According to promise, I will write you a correct account of my difficulty with the Yankees. On the 20th of December I went to Norfolk; on returning home there was a carriage on board of the boat with a Yankee and my two children in it. While going over she hastily raised the carriage window and put a newspaper up against it to keep the ladies should not look at her. Such unladylike behavior drew the attention of all on the boat. She appeared to be very much tormented at something. My opinion is that her intent was to have a difficulty before she left the boat, to show her power. She ordered me to the captain of the boat; a gentleman remarked that it was conducted by regulations. She replied: "Do you intend to insult my sir?" To which "Oh no, madam," and passed on as quickly as possible, for fear of getting into a row. She called for the corporal of the guard to arrest the two women in the cabin, intending to take them all up for looking at her. To my good surprise she addressed me personally, saying she would have me arrested and reported to General Viele; accused me of making remarks about her. I said, "Woman, who has made any remarks about you? you are not worthy of notice."

She ordered the guard to arrest me. I went before the provost marshal in Portsmouth at once, and the prisoner was released without a trial, and acquitted. The charge was I told Mrs. General Viele she was no worth cursing. I replied, "the woman in the carriage called me, and I replied." I acknowledge I did tell her, and further more, I intended to resent any insult offered me regardless of the consequences. She might be a general's wife, but I considered myself as good as she was. I did not recognize her only as "the woman in the carriage." I told him it was no new sight to me to see horses and carriages. I had been at one one of them all my life time. My sister, who was in company with me, remarked, aloud, I said that, "we taken from her seldom's stables, either." He said that Mrs Gen Viele had a perfect right to order the guard to arrest me. I answered, I did not know that it was necessary for all officers wives to command the guard. Using his own language, "Madam, I do not wish you to put words in my mouth. I wish to try the case in my own fashion."

I informed him with the proviso that I could not be permitted to pass to Norfolk. On that day an order was issued by Brig. Gen. Viele that no female should pass over the ferry without a written order from headquarters and a guard over site in the cabin of the boat to keep them from talking.

On the first of January, my son William was arrested by a negro girl who belonged to us, and had left six months ago. She carried him, and he struck her three times. Captain Cook ordered the guard to take him for the night. The girl was drunk and a fighting.

I went to the captain and found him sitting with his back to me, with his feet upon a table, smoking. I thought, of course, that when I addressed him, he would change his position, but he did not. I said to him, "Captain, are you compelled to keep my son in the guard house all night?" He said "No," as if he was speaking to a servant.

I then cried, "Will you permit him to sleep at home, and he will be at his trial in the morning?" He said "He's very drunk, and I can't do that." I said, "What is my son? Is he not a free born citiz