Daily Appeal.

ATLANTA, GA.

SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 9, 1864

CHANGE OF RATES.

From and after this date (January 1st) the subscription price of the DAILY APPEAL will be four, instead of three, dollars per month. This increase is necessitated by the constant advance in the price of everything incidental to newspaper publication.

A DICTATOR.

The Richmond dispatch about the military memorial, which was published a few mornings since, struck us as so extraordinary that we supposed it was one of the electrical eccentricities in which the wires sometimes indulge.

That facts, connected with the integrity or well being of the army, might be the subject of solicitude to those in charge of its interests, we can very well understand, and we can very well understand how these facts might be made the subject of official communication through the regular channels to the President as commander-in-chief, but we cannot very well understand how these facts should be made the occasion of calling together a grave military executive or citizen, in order to be made the subject of formal remonstrance or memorial to the legislative department of Government. Of course we are in present ignorance of what are the facts, which, in the space of one calendar month, are to decide the fate of the army of Tennessee, but from the range given to the legislative ambitiousness of desire of the military memorialists, we are satisfied it is nothing connected with the cardinal question of subsistence, but that it is something connected with the military organism of the army, and the political organism of the country in conjunction; and that these military savans have turned themselves into a corps of political propagandists. Of course, as remarked before, we are in ignorance of the substantive suggestions of the memorial, and are left to guess its probable character from the general abstract published, but we see enough in it to satisfy us that the memorialists have gone rather beyond their official prerogatives, in suggesting to Congress general subjects of legislation.

While we do not deny that there may be much of general intellect—*a fortiori* from their military education—among these military gentlemen, and no doubt as much unquestionable patriotism as may be found generally among men who have power and desire more, yet, we think, it looks, to say the least of it, somewhat unseemly, and somewhat suggestive of Roman, English and French precedent, to see swords and bayonets, *in propriis personis*, presenting themselves before the parliament of the country. *Ne sutor ultra crepidam* is a maxim, we trust, of perdurable application to military men, as also that other embodiment of practical wisdom of the sch of SIRACH: *Men whose proper talk is of bullocks should not pretend to wisdom and understanding*, meaning only in the application of either to say that, while it is highly proper that officers of the army should faithfully discharge the duties of their positions in taking care of their respective commands, it would be wise, and not at all inconsistent in them, to leave the grave interests of legislation to Congress, and only to Congress. We have not the slightest doubt, should Congress desire either their testimony or philosophical suggestions, it will in due time summon the mere intelligent of them to its bar.

The memorial is explained in its general character by the remark of Mr. FOOTE, who explained that it was a petition for a dictator. If this is the remedy to save the army in *articulo mortis*, we hope that extreme unction may be administered to it out of hand. But we do not believe anything of the kind of the army of Tennessee, or if that army is so nearly demoralized as these polytechnic politicians affirm, it is from no disloyalty calling for such a desperate remedy, but from a badly administered commissary and quartermaster department, and from prevalent *petit maître* martinetism, not less political than military, of which we have had much and heard more.

We think we know where the disease of that army has been and is now seated, and we cannot but believe that the remedy suggested in this memorial is intended to draw off the mind of the country from the real cause by directing attention to another. An army so remarkable for concensus as that of Tennessee, so remarkable for the dialectic or polemic accomplishments of its officers, can not but be demoralized, by the spread of dialectic contagion from officers to men. If there are MONTAIGNES and JOMINIS among division and brigade commanders, there will be little MONTAIGNES and JOMINIS among corporals and privates, and if the big MONTAIGNES and JOMINIS write politico-military memorials to the President and Congress for the removal of incompetent officers, or the reconstruction of the *regime* of the army and society, what wonder is it, if the little MONTAIGNES and JOMINIS talk politics, and practically object to an odious officer by dodging his sire of impertinent tyranny in the usual mode. What has troubled the army has been general official debility, and what the army needs is official improvement or change, a remedy within the reach of the Executive without troubling Congress.

The remark of Mr. FOOTE about making General LEE dictator—a mere piece of badinage, we suppose—suggests to us the question why is it that we hear nothing of disputes and petitions and memorials among the officers of the army of Virginia? That army seems to have nothing of the stump-speaking proclivities of our cherished army of the West, but goes along smoothly and quietly, fighting its battles, and doing its necessary work, for all the world like an army of patriots, and unlike an army of military and political politicians. We think it must, in some measure, be owing to the presence of a dictator—General ROBT. LEE—a dictator of unquestioned, undebated power; a power to which every officer and soldier submits without question and without complaint; a power so absolute, that mere dare gainsay, much less disobey in that causes officers of the highest rank to remain uncseated, and stand uncovered before him, and the common soldier, meeting him on the march, to offer him the homage of mingled pride and affection bestowed by a son on a father; a power which harmonizes into mute and graceful submission to himself all the rivalries and jealousies of selfishness, or ambition, or vanity, which beset all aggregations of men, military or civil, especial; a power derived from, or made by rather, of the combined influences of sense, culture, and goodness, the joint power of a Christian, a patriot, a soldier, and a gentleman, a power most perfect in its combinations, and omnipotent in its influence, to which all yield, and against which none rebel.

Such is the dictator of the army of Virginia, and such should be the desire of the army of Tennessee. This is all it needs, and we trust that even this will be supplied by the presence of Gen. JOHNSTON, since the memorial went forward. We believe that Gen. JOHNSTON is a soldier, a patriot and a gentleman, who, to judge from the reverent attachment of those who know him, as from the high influence of his presence in the armies hitherto commanded, will meet meet fully the want of the army of Tennessee for a dictator, a dictator whose power none will venture to resist, and whose functions or qualifications will be the subject of neither petition, memorial nor remonstrance.

☞ Attention is called to the advertisement of Capt. Payton, who desires to employ a good wagon-master, and also to hire ten negro teamsters.

☞ The attention of the public at large is invited to the card of Messrs. Mill & Powell, auction and commission merchants. They are already too well and favorably known to require a word of commendation from us, suffice it to say, they are prompt and energetic business men, and will give faithful attention to all business confided to them.

☞ The South Carolina papers announce the death of Chief Justice O'Neall, of that State. He died suddenly at his residence near Newberry Court House, on the 27th of December last.

☞ The superior brigade of Gen. John C. Vaughn, says the *Register*, is to be mounted, by order of the Secretary of War. The brigade is now at Ragsdaville, Tenn., where it was ordered to assemble. Gen Vaughn now commands his old brigade and the 4th brigade, formerly commanded by Col. A. W. Reynolds.

CORN ABUNDANT.—Within a scope of fifteen miles around this village, says the Edgefield (S. S.) *Advertiser*, there are 25,000 bushels of corn over and above the requirements of the producer and the tithes of the Government. This calculation is based upon safe data, and may be considered reliable.

AT NEWBERN.—There is every reason to believe, says the Wilmington *Journal*, that the enemy is concentrating heavy reinforcements at Newbern, with what view has not yet appeared, though circumstances would indicate an extension of his lines and a probable advance on Kinston, threatening the Wilmington and Weldon road, and consequently our line of communication. His lines now extend to Trenton on the west and White Oak river on the south. He probably contemplates extending them to Kinston on the one hand and New river on the other.

Peace Propositions.

From the Richmond Sentinel.]

A few journals and public speakers have been declaiming much upon the propriety of making overtures of peace to the enemy, at the same time that we prosecute the war. This has been objected to on the ground that such a step is unnecessary and would prove injurious. It is unnecessary because the defensive attitude which we avowedly maintain is itself a standing overture for peace. It is a daily proclamation to the enemy that they can have peace whenever they will it. If we should go farther, and make special overtures, our action would naturally and undeniably be misunderstood as dictated by weakness, and as giving provocation of speedy submission, if only the war shall be vigorously prosecuted against us.

Such advances on our part would at any time have been made only to be rebuffed with rudeness by the enemy. It is not forgotten, when it was surmised that Vice-President Stephens was charged with peace overtures, and when in point of fact he was clothed with an important mission in the interest of humanity, how swift the Washington authorities were to reject his embassy, and to refuse him even a hearing. But it has pleased those who burn incense to Lincoln on Capitol hill, to give us another proof of the demoniac vindictiveness which animates them, and to place another barrier in the way of amicable overtures. We trust that with this new light before them, the few citizens to whom we have referred, will no longer disturb the general sentiment and distract the public energies, by talk of peace propositions. Rejected, spurned, scouted in advance, to think of offering them now is to part with every particle of self-respect, and means and can mean nothing but submission.

The last papers from the United States inform us that, on the 17th inst., Mr. Smith, of Kentucky, offered the following resolution, full of Buncombe and malignity:

Resolved, That, as our country and the very existence of the best government ever instituted by man is imperiled by the most causeless and wicked rebellion that the world has seen, and believing, as we do, that the only hope of saving the country and preserving this government is by the power of the sword, we are for the most vigorous prosecution of the war until the constitution and laws shall be enforced and obeyed in all parts of the United States, and to that end we oppose any armistice, or intervention, or mediation, or proposition for peace, from any quarter, so long as there shall be found a rebel in arms against the government; and we ignore all party names, lines and issues, and recognize but two parties in this war—patriots and traitors.

Mr. Cravens moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was disagreed to—60 against 109.

The above resolution was then agreed to by a vote of 93 ayes to 64 noes.

The vote was next taken on the following, also offered by Mr. Smith:

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of Congress to pass all necessary bills to supply men and money, and the duty of the people to render every aid in their power to the constituted authorities of the Government in crushing out the rebellion.

This resolution was agreed to by 157 ayes—only one vote, (Mr. Harris, of Maryland,) against it.

A third resolution by Mr. Smith, thanking the soldiers in the field for their gallantry, was passed—yeas 166; noes, Mr. Harris, of Maryland.

These resolutions and the votes upon them, show us the heart and the purpose of our foe, and teach us to summon every resource of war in resistance to their designs.

It is our duty to be roused, not dismayed, by these outgivings of the enemy. We must call on the God of battles afresh, and meet new declarations of malice by new exhibitions of zeal and manliness. Our Confederacy must prepare for a grand effort in the coming year. Our rulers and the people must abandon or subordinate every other idea, to that of making a grand and overwhelming campaign against our foul invaders—one that shall drive them back to their own land, and crown our independence with peace.

List of Unclaimed Freight Received at the Southern Express Company, December 29 and 30, 1863, and Jan. 1, 1864.

Capt McCaglie, box; M S Gass, pkg; Lieut P T Minor, valise; S S Miller, pkg; W M McCarthy, carpet bag; C T O'Kelt, box; Webb & Sage, box; R T Wilson, bdl; J P Bailey, 2 trks; W Stone, trunk; M Lynch, pkg; Smith & S, bag; W Blyth, box; H Smith, box; Waldrough & Conly, bag; W A Lansdale, pkg; C S Jones, pkg; E J Sharman, bale; H Eady, bale; F M Hamond, box; J M Burnett, bag; P Defora, box; W Mitchell, pkg; C Knolz, pkg; Capt Mangum, pkg; F T Browning, pkg; W A Paller, box; C D Jackson, bale; W R Parker, bdl; Lieut J W Jasett, bdl; C J Dennis, box; J R Sprague, 2 boxes; L Kranshaw, 2 boxes; A J Hanston, pkg; J F Lane, pkg; J F Hill, box; Maj A S Deving, pkg; M H Witter, pkg; J E Boehe, pkg; J B Hill, pkg; E P Christian, bag; Col M Myers, 2 boxes; S M, str; no mks, str; J J Jeffries, str; A S H, str; J B, str; Cate Cox, 3 boxes; J H Solsburg, bag; C R Car, 4 pkgs; J H Odenal, pkg; Mrs Ada Sargent, pkg; J T Rowland, 2 cotn rops; Mary Warner, 2 pks; Lieut R S A Linch, bag; Capt Jones, bag; L S Northcutt, bdl; Capt F Hewell, bag; O Lynch, pkg; H Vallentine, pkg; J M Butts, bdl; W A Paller, box; J M Winchery, pkg; R T Wilson, box; F M Analey, pkg; A M Griswold, box; W H Marlow, carpet; J R Brent, box; J D Puckett, pkg; A Diamond, 3 bags; W M McLaity, box; G McGinly, bdl; J Meuth, pkg; C Bonfield, pkg; J Ansley, 4 box; W L Saxon, trk; B Joiner, box; Q R Bering, bag; J Eskin, bdl; T Kelly, pkg; W Watkins, box; T J Mitchell, pkg; J B Carpenter, box; A G Wadsworth, box; Stewart & Moore, baskets; S T Freeman, trk; J S Turnsley, 5 pks; Mrs E Cox, pkg; J T Turner, box; G Barnsley, 3 bdls; E R Rawson, box; S C Ropley, bag; J W Clark, bdl; V Drake, pkg; B B Tremblin, box; Mrs M Alexander, 3 cases; L Hartley, box; White county, box; Hall county, box; A J Hinson, bx; Capt M D Oliver, box; Lieut. J P Wood, box; Mr Dill, box; Lieut Potts, trunk; C M Green, bag.

OUR ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

Special correspondence of the Appeal.]

LONGSTREET'S CORPS, NEAR ROGERSVILLE, December 11, 1863.

The attack on fort Loudon was made on the 29th. It was the last and only attempt to capture the city or any of its outposts. The advance of reinforcements from Grant at Chattanooga became a startling fact, and their presence in our rear was expected with as little anxiety—less, however, by Gen. Longstreet than by any one else. On Tuesday the 31st, the Federal cavalry arrived near Loudon. We had at this point also a small body of cavalry, under Gen. Vaughn and Col. Rucker, and these attempting to check the advance of the enemy, were defeated by overwhelming numbers and forced to seek safety in flight. A large amount of personal and public property, which had been accumulating at Loudon, awaiting transportation to the army, including many valuable contributions of food and provisions to the soldiers from friends at home, were destroyed by our forces before evacuating the place. Among these were four engines and several trains of cars loaded with supplies, which were run into the river. Several pieces of artillery, for which there were no horses, shared in the general destruction.

On Wednesday and Thursday our wagons were engaged in passing around Knoxville, toward Morristown, where they were to await the movement of the troops. The latter did not commence to retreat until Friday night, although the enemy, who appeared to be fully aware of the design, were constantly inquiring across the picket lines why we did not move before. Gen. Longstreet, with his usual obstinacy, waited until the last moment, and it must be confessed, not without exciting anxious forebodings of the future. The signal guns of the enemy were at this time ringing out like a knell in the midnight air, announcing to their approaching compatriots that they still remained in possession of the stronghold.

Both Thursday and Friday were unmarked by any note-worthy events. The order of march for the night was for Bushrod Johnson and Gracie to precede the army, followed by McLaws and Jenkins, and the cavalry. The troops left their encampment about ten o'clock; the pickets, about four o'clock in the morning, so silently that the Federals were totally unaware of any change, and, by daylight, the head of the column was eight miles away. March was resumed, two hours after, and continued until evening. Thus, without molestation, we have marched about sixty miles. We now await further demonstrations on the part of the enemy, before "showing our own hand" for the winter.

As intimated in a previous letter, our situation in respect of provisions and strength, is all that can be desired. The railroad from Bristol only awaits the construction of trestle work and bridges to be completed and brought into army use. With this at our back and a teeming country all around us, we may bid defiance to the enemy for the winter, and with a proper exercise of authority on the part of our conscript and enrolling officers, be prepared to enter upon a triumphant campaign early in the spring.

At present we are negatively threatening Knoxville, West Tennessee and Kentucky, and, of course, the enemy's line of communication with his rear. What we may do on the resumption of active operations, is, of course, purely problematical; but holding, as we do, the advantage of position, in the very heart of East Tennessee, we confidently hope that a few months will see a change wrought in the affairs of the country, and the fair daughters of the Confederacy aroused from the prevailing despondency, and happy in the contemplation of a speedy peace.

To one subject I would call your attention. Thirty-five hundred men are to-day barefooted, without other means to protect them from the inclemencies of the season, than the rags they may strip from their backs. When you remember that the weather is so cold that water freezes in ten minutes after nightfall, that the icicles which fringe the mill-races are thick and long as a man's body, and that these poor fellows are driven to the extremity of cutting up the reeking bloody hides of slaughtered beef to form a temporary pair of moccasins, which last only ten or twelve hour's marching, at best, you can imagine somewhat of the suffering to which our brave soldiers are exposed. They are useless to the service in their present condition, and unless Government or people can afford relief promptly, few among them will ever be in condition again to take their places in the ranks of "our country's defenders."

QUELQUUN.

INTEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY.

RESACA, GEORGIA, Dec. 29, 1863.

EDITORS APPEAL: Intemperance in the use of intoxicating drink has always proven a bane to society at home. Its mournful fruits have always been the breaking of woman's loving and too trusting heart, the blighting of her happiness, the impoverishment of her home, the ruin and degradation of her children, and finally, the abject ignominy and unlamented death of its votaries.

In view of these fearful truths it has been wisely sought, by most of those who have had supervising authority over our military forces, to prevent indulgence in this vice in the army; and to their honor be it said, some of them have illustrated the force and beauty of precept by noble example. They well understood that to tolerate drunkenness in the rank and file of the army, would be to sanction its demoralization and destroy its efficiency to avert the woeful subjugation which our enemies promise us; and, duly impressed with this fact, laws, regulations and orders have been instituted and published by them, prohibitory of this evil, and imposing severe penalties for their violation.

But the almost daily observation of every soldier affords unmistakable proof that the effort has been, to a great degree, abortive. He sees officers and privates staggering, with brazen faces, poisonous breath and Heaven-daring profanity, about hotels and barrooms, or in camps, in open violation of all laws and all orders; but how seldom are the offenders held to accountability, or punished!

And why is this? It is—it must be—either because enactments and "orders" are powerless for good in this behalf, or because of the wilful neglect and refusal of those in authority, upon whom the duty is enjoined, to "see that the laws be faithfully executed." If it be the former, why waste precious time and devote labor and material in "getting up" laws and regulations on the subject?

If, on the contrary, the latter be correct, why is it so? Do these "defaulting" military officials lack a proper sense of duty and obligation to country? Are they deficient in patriotism? Are they fond of the "critter" themselves? Do they use the "prestige" of their "positions" to obtain the gratification of their appetites, even to disgraceful surfeiture, and, therefore, dare not perform the duty of seeing this order promptly executed, or that one "rigidly enforced," lest some "wronged one" might turn, with sure revenge, against his persecutors and hurl them from their offices? Is it because General —— and staff, while fully impressed (theoretically) with the importance of preventing drunkenness in the army, will occasionally avail themselves of their "distance," by virtue of rank, from their commands, get upon a "bender," and, in an "unguarded moment," publish their "happy condition" to all who can see or hear; and, after the ardor of "convivial feelings and enjoyment" has subsided and reflection holds away awhile, they become a little "tender-toed" on the subject of strict and impartial discharge of duty.

How long shall colonels of regiments be permitted to revel in the "seclusion" of their "quarters," or at "taverns" and "grogshops," distant from their posts, in bestial drunkenness and debauchery, in shameful violation of patriotic—aye, sworn duty and neglect and disregard of the welfare, comfort and efficiency of their commands? How long shall captains and lieutenants of companies be allowed to set at naught the claims of self-sacrificing and patriotic men, whom they "command," upon them, and to devote themselves, at will, to "getting drunk?" How long shall the poor sick soldier, smitten down by the sudden stroke of disease, lie upon his "bed of straw," or upon his blanket, which alone intervenes between his aching limbs and the cold, damp ground, and await the coming of the drunken "surgeon," who heeds not, until sober, the message that has been conveyed to him? How long shall the "good men and true," of both the rank and file of the army, be compelled to witness, with mortification and sorrow, the disgraceful and unpatriotic conduct of those who have been honored with commissions and entrusted with military power, in this war, for the defense of a cause which has been styled the "just" and "holy" one? And how long shall these noble men have to endure the deprivations, sufferings and human neglects, for which they are, in so many instances, indebted solely to "drunken officials?"

Is the "justice of our cause" sufficiently potent with the God of nations and of battles, of itself, to claim and insure its triumph by His decree? And is there, therefore, no obligation resting upon the officers and soldiers engaged in its bloody defense, to conduct themselves, and to discharge the duties incumbent on each, in his station, as becomes men who profess to be battling for all that is dearest to the interests of humanity, civilization, honor and religion?

"NO. 5."

Narrative of an Escaped Confederate Prisoner.

The following letter gives interesting details of the first escape, recapture, and second and final escape from Yankee durance of a member of the Richmond Hussars, from Augusta, belonging to Cobb's legion.

CAMP NEAL, FREDERICKSBURG, December 26, 1863.—I have succeeded, after the second attempt, in making my escape from the enemy. The sad news has probably reached you of the death of Lieuts. Pugh and Cheesborough. I remained with them until they both died, when I had them decently buried. Cobb's legion had lost two gallant and brave officers by their decease. After their burial, I went to Gettysburg and returned to Gen. Patrick, provost marshal—told him I had a parole and wished to be sent on for exchange. He told me that my parole did not amount to anything; that there had been orders issued against it. He then sent me around to an old barn in Gettysburg, where there were about four hundred men. We remained there some time and then set out on our march.

We had for an escort Gen. Patrick and staff, and the 5th U. S. regulars—I cannot call them soldiers or men, for they were more like brutes than either. They were certainly the meanest men that ever disgraced a uniform. I cannot go into a detail of the horrible treatment we received at their hands—it would take more time and paper than I care to waste on them. In passing through towns, especially, they would manifest their brutality by jilting the prisoners with the butt of their guns—those who were sick and wounded, were forced in this manner to keep up with them, who had plenty to eat and plenty of rations in their haversacks. We had not eaten anything but six hard crackers for six days. Oh, how my blood did boil within me to see our men treated in this manner! But we were in their power and had to take it.

We at length reached Frederick City, Maryland, where we were to take the cars, and it was fortunate for me, for I do believe it would have been impossible for me to march ten miles. The next day my feet were sore and I could hardly touch them to the ground. But I could not grumble at that, for the majority were in a worse fix than myself.

Nothing of interest occurred on our arriving at Baltimore. A lady was arrested for speaking to her husband, who was a prisoner, and she was taken off to some Yankee fort. We were then put on board a transport and sent to Fort Delaware, which is certainly one of the dirtiest places on the globe. There was a large number of prisoners there, and they were dying at the rate of thirty per day. The guard there was very little better than the 5th regulars above mentioned, in firing at the man for disobeying orders. They have killed three or four men who were lying asleep in their bunks.

I will pass over the many acts of savage cruelty they have perpetrated, and try to tell you of my escape from there on the night of the 13th of August. I had four canteens tied to my breast to act as life-preservers and plunged into the Delaware river, three and a half miles wide at this point, with my clothes on; but I soon found that I could not swim with my coat and pants on, so I disencumbered myself of them, and after much exertion succeeded in reaching the opposite shore, in a state of complete exhaustion. After lying there about two hours I set out with a companion who escaped with me. I could not travel by daylight without coat or pants, so I had to take darkness for it. We travelled seven nights and at the end of that time I found myself exactly where I started from. This was somewhat discouraging. I told my companion (whose name was McCalthern) that I was going up to the first house I came to and tell them just who we were and ask for assistance. I accosted the farmer and told him my story, asking him if he would not give me a pair of pants. After some hesitation, he said he would, and gave me a pair. He gave us directions how to travel to reach Maryland. We set out in the day time, and reached Maryland without much difficulty, only that our feet were very sore from going barefoot so long. We lived on fruit, which was very abundant at that time. I will not mention any names, but I fell into good hands soon after reaching Maryland, where I got plenty of good clothing and plenty of Yankee money.

I found the people of Maryland as willing to assist a "rebel" as though he was one of their own children; and after I found friends once, I assure you I did not want for anything.

After staying on the other side of the Chesapeake as long as I wished, I got on a boat and went to Baltimore, where I tarried two weeks, and then took the cars on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, with the intention of getting off at the first station the other side of Harpers' Ferry. When the cars stopped we jumped off, and to our misfortune were hailed by the Yankee guard. We could not give a very correct account of ourselves and the men were going to treat us as spies. We told them we were escaped prisoners, but they would not believe it until they telegraphed to Fort Delaware and found out the facts. After they found out who we were, they sent us back to Fort Delaware, when we were carried before Gen. Schoepff. We were clad in citizens' attire, and I suppose the general took a fancy to our clothes—any how, he ordered the sergeant who had us in charge to take us down to the "dead house" and give us some dead rebel's clothes, and bring those good clothes to him.

The sergeant obeyed the order and we were both soon rigged out in old worn out uniforms which we were compelled to take orders without. He then ordered the sergeant to put me in the dungeon, where I was kept for a day or two, and then sent me back to the barracks. We had orders to go to Point Lookout. We were crowded on the transport with nearly two thousand more prisoners and all sent down into the hold. I know there was not half so much cruelty shown in the African slave trade in crowding slaves on vessels as the Yankees displayed here. Several men died from suffocation. One half had to sit down and the other half stand up, and relieve each other that way, for three days. They would not let us stay on deck for fear we would capture the boat.

We at length reached Point Lookout, where we fared a little better in the eating line. In the forenoon we got five hard crackers, and water called coffee; in the afternoon we had five crackers, a small piece of bacon or beef and a cup of soup. I can say for the 2d and 5th New Hampshire volunteers, who were on guard there, that they treated us as prisoners should be treated; but we dreaded the 12th New Hampshire on guard. They never let the prisoners know their orders, and of course we were ignorant of doing wrong. They would seen let you know, however, by sending a ball after you. This regiment I think never came on guard but what some of them died in the camp—and firing into a camp or nine thousand, they were very apt to kill some one. Ask some of the mere civil of the men why they are so fond of firing at the prisoners, and they will tell you that they do it that they may have it to say after the war that they have killed a rebel.

If I was to attempt to give you an account of all the ill treatment received by the prisoners, I should certainly weary your patience. The Yankees have not given out 900 blankets to the men, who are almost starving with cold, and who have to carry their wood three miles on their backs. Only five out of a company of 100 men are allowed to carry wood—for the balance, 25 men are detailed for wood chopping for the Yankees, and sent out three miles beyond the picket every morning. There are always plenty of volunteers from the prisoners to go on this duty for the sake of the extra rations.

I thought I saw a very good chance to escape by going out on this detail, so I bought a fellow's place on it, dressed myself in Yankee uniform, threw a blanket around me to hide it, and was marching along with the rest of the prisoners, part of the guard being at the head of the squad and part in the rear. After going two and a half miles beyond the picket, I handed a friend my blanket and turned right round and made out I was a Yankee going back to the camp. The guard did not hail me; they were marching one way and I the other. After passing the guard I ran through a field and got into the woods, and soon found the Yankee cavalry after me. I put as many fences as possible between us, reached a small creek and swam that, and then I was perfectly perfectly safe. I saw the Yanks on the other side of the creek, but they did not know I had swam it. There is no difficulty in finding good rebels when you get over there, and I soon found friends to put me across the Potomac. After traveling through Virginia for three or four days, I appeared in our camp, taking the boys completely by surprise.

I have written you a longer letter than I expected, but I have shown you how the enemy treat their prisoners—but have only given you a few instances of their cruelty. Our prisoners I believe are treated well, all that I have ever seen were treated as well as we could treat them.

G. C. T

Northern Conservative Views.

The following article from the New York *World*, written immediately after the defeat at Missionary ridge, will convey some idea of the views and opinions entertained by the conservative masses of the North:

The military prospect has, within the last two days, became so hopeful that we may confidently anticipate the substantial annihilation of the military power of the rebels before midsummer of next year. This favorable prospect is not a reason for relaxing, but, on the contrary, for invigorating our military operations. The rebels should be allowed no breathing-spell, no interval for such partial recuperation as their enfeebled resources may permit. They must, with all possible energy, be pushed to the wall. The war must be ended before they can reap another harvest to replenish their supplies of food; before the aspect of European politics changes to our disadvantage; before the infusion of our currency culminates in a commercial crisis. Much may be expected from Gen. Grant's immediate operations; and as a winter campaign is perfectly feasible in such a climate as that of Georgia, we may perhaps, without being over-sanguine, expect to see the whole region west of the Alleghanies and extending down to the gulf fully recovered before spring. If, meanwhile, Gen. Gillmore captures Charleston, the shrunken remnant of the rebellion may easily be disposed of in a vigorous spring campaign.

With this cheering prospect, we may fairly demand that our success shall begin to bear some of the appropriate fruits of success. The time has come when there is not only no excuse, but not even a colorable pretext, for interfering with the ordinary course of judicial proceedings in the loyal States. Even the blindest and most servile partisans of the Administration must now confess that illegal searches, seizures, and imprisonments cannot be justified on the plea that they are required by the public safety. The country has a right to demand that the strong measures which, have, for the last two years, made the military independent of and superior to the civil authority, shall immediately be discontinued. The reason (or pretense) on which the negro policy of the Administration was originally advocated having ceased, that policy should cease also. The original argument was that slavery is the main prop of the rebellion, the labor of the slaves being the means by which the rebel armies are supported in the field. We do not insist on the fact that this argument has been refuted by the logic of events, there being at present a million more slaves in the area not yet recovered, than there were before the war.

These slaves have been sent there for security from the slave States in possession of our arms. Had we left slavery unmolested, this million of laborers would have been contributing during the last summer to the resources of the Union, instead of those of the rebellion. But this consideration belongs to the past, and we will not now press it. The point we wish to present is, that, from this time forth, the labor of the slaves can contribute nothing to the support of the rebellion. In all reasonable probability, the rebels have gathered the last crops they will harvest before the destruction of their armies. What is planted next spring cannot be harvested before next summer and autumn, when the rebel armies will be past succor. His only as a war measure that Mr. Lincoln has ever attempted to justify his proclamation; but even if it had ever had any efficacy as a war measure, it is now so plainly obsolete in that view, that the argument can no longer be urged. It ought, therefore, to be abandoned (or at least ignored) in all future proceedings.

Our generals, if not unduly interfered with, are competent to give the *coup de grace* to the tottering rebellion, and the Administration would do well, while giving them efficient support, to devote a reasonable amount of attention to the momentous political problems that emerge in proportion as the rebellion wanes. The wisest thing it can do with the proclamation is to cause it to be understood that it will not take another step in the matter, and leave all the questions of property involved to the decision of the supreme courts. In the present posture of affairs no political proceeding would contribute so much to the termination of the war and the speedy pacification of the South. In January and February, the leading practical question with the planters will be, what crops they shall plant the coming season. If the war is soon to end, it is neither for their interest nor for ours that they should devote their fine cotton lands to cereals.

The country does not want the enormous overplus of breadstuffs that would result from this direction of Southern industry. The country does need the great addition to its wealth which would be made by a successful cotton crop the coming year. Soon after the close of the war we must return to specie payments; and we need to provide, by all reasonable means, against the shock to business and the fall in values which will naturally accompany the change. A large export of cotton would save us the necessity of exporting an equal value in gold, and it would likewise give increased value to our breadstuffs by reopening for them a most important market in the South. The country needs this great resource. If there is any statesmanship at Washington, the Government will do its best to induce the South to make a cotton crop next year.

Another most important question grows out of the hopeful military situation. The President who succeeds Mr. Lincoln will not be elected on a war issue—which will be obsolete before Mr. Lincoln goes out of office—but on political issues growing out of the condition of the country at and after the return of peace. The subdued South will have even a greater interest in these questions than the victorious North. The South will be fairly entitled, unless we abandon republican principles, to have a voice, and to their proportionate weight, in the administration of the Government in the restored Union. Every facility and encouragement should therefore be given to the Southern States to participate in the presidential election. They should be allowed such participation because it is just in itself, and because there are no other means so promising for reviving Union sentiment and fellow-feeling with the North among the people of that alienated section.

The Degeneracy of the Church.

From the Chicago Times.]

An old divine, in making an appeal to an audience on behalf of a missionary scheme, urgently craved them to give their money and their prayers. But the cautious and reasonable gentleman added, that he preferred their silver to their supplications. He was well aware of the efficacy of prayer, but he knew as well that missions would fail unless the treasury were constantly replenished.

The members of the New England Church, which is located on the corner of Wolcott and Indiana streets, are of opinion that, after a few prayers their duty to their country, in the present crisis, is at an end. They are dyed-in-the-wool Abolitionists, and go in for a rigid prosecution of the war to the bitter end. But, they are like the people of whom Artemus Ward tells—ready to sacrifice everybody on the altar of their country, if they can keep their own precious bodies free from harm. It is not in their line, as Aminidab Sleek would say, to seek the bubble reputation in the cannon's mouth. They have adopted another role. They want others to do the fighting, and they are prepared to do the praying and thanking God for the victories. This costs them little, and they are safe from the bullets of the enemy while at the same time they are building up a character for bogus loyalty. If a few of those tame gush and rigidly righteous" individuals would visit the court house square and enroll themselves as true defenders of their country, the people would have some respect for them. But while they stay at home and prate about their loyalty without doing anything practical to uphold it, then it becomes necessary to look upon them with suspicion.

About a couple of dozen of these individuals held a special thanksgiving in the New England church above mentioned, on Wednesday evening.

The proceedings opened with the singing of a hymn, followed by a prayer in which the divine vengeance was called down upon the devoted heads of the enemies of their country. This war succeeded by more singing and praying, and then the pastor, Rev. Mr. Nichols, stood up to explain the object for which they were met to give thanks. He commenced by telling his audience that it was all nonsense to think the downfall of Sebastopol decided the fate of the Crimean war. That issue, he said, was decided before the allies went before the fortress, and arose out of the failure of Paskiewitch to take a Turkish fort, the name of which he did not remember. Having laid down this as a basis, he next tried to prove that Chattanooga was the key to the whole North, and, if Burnside had not successfully resisted Longstreet, that the rebels would speedily have overrun the whole of the Northern States, and all would have been obliged to fight in defense of their homes. But, as they were not driven to this dreadful alternative, he thought it was incumbent on them to give thanks to God for the victory. They could claim nothing for their own strength, but their success depended entirely on the righteousness of their cause. They should not, he said, be chickenhearted about such victories, but ought to proclaim them and thank God for them. They had other things to be thankful for, and among others the fact that they had a decent man for President, who was not afraid or ashamed to ask the nation to lift up their hearts to God for victory. Other Presidents had seemed to act as if the Lord had nothing to do with this country, and therefore they ought to thank God for giving them such a man as Abraham Lincoln to rule over them.

The reverend speaker concluded this very pious harangue by telling his audience that it was not blasphemy to curse the rebel flag. After some more devotional exercises the congregation quietly dispersed.

Experience of Prisoners at Richmond.

Capt. N. T. Anderson, of the 51st Indiana, and Lieut. J. T. Shelton, of the 17th Iowa, who escaped from the Libby prison, have reached Baltimore. A letter says:

They represent that whilst the supplies furnished by the rebel authorities were of very poor quality and very meager, still it was the best they had to give. Apart from this the conduct of the rebel officers and guards had been generally kind, though there may have been individual cases of harsh and perhaps cruel treatment. So far, however, as their own experience goes, they feel it due to say that there has been much exaggeration. The supplies of food sent from here and from the North were most timely, and doubtless there would have been more intense suffering but for such relief.

The condition of our prisoners on Belle Island, these officers says is far worse than those in Libby prison. At least 1500 of our poor fellows there are without shelter of any kind, and most of the tents are worn and threadbare as to afford but little protection. These they are exposed to the cold winds and wet sand, and must suffer intensely, apart from the scarcity of provisions.

Latest from Europe.

The steamer Hibernia, from Galway, on the 8th, has arrived, bringing nine days later dates from Europe.

The political news is unimportant.

There is no change in the state of the Danish-German question.

GREAT BRITAIN.

English politics are unimportant.

The Cabinet Ministers were leaving town for the Christmas holidays.

The battle of Chattanooga attracts the comments of the English press.

The *News* takes it for granted that Bragg was defeated in a position selected by himself, and that unless Longstreet was determined to risk all at Knoxville, he would have retreated and rejoined Bragg, thereby relieving Knoxville. It thinks both Bragg and Longstreet in danger.

The *Times* sees no reason to dispute General Grant's claim to a victory, and says the rebel rearguard is the penalty for missing their opportunity after Chickamauga.

It accepts the minor details with reserve, and suggests that some of the reports from Knoxville may have been a little colored to suit the exigencies of thanksgiving day.

THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.

It was resolved by the Danish Council of State to regard any occupation of Holstein as a declaration of war.

The Danish Government had withdrawn the objectionable royal patent of March 30.

King Christian issued a proclamation to the Holsteiners on the 6th inst. He asserts his claims, and says that the maintenance of the integrity of the Danish monarchy is his duty, and he is resolved to put down insurrectionary movements with armed force. He hopes that when Holstein finds herself contented on constitutional freedom, which is granted, her troubles will end.

A proclamation is also issued to the Lauenburgher, thanking them for not having been led away from their duty as subjects in spite of the overtures made to them from without.

COPENHAGEN, December 3.—The proclamation of the King of Denmark to the people of Holstein declares that he will prevent insurrectionary movements by force of arms, and that he will give autonomy to Holstein and Lauenburg, and hopes thus to guarantee the integrity of the kingdom.

The following is the translation of the official text of the Swiss reply to Napoleon:

BERNE, November 28, 1863.—*Sir*: We have received with lively interest the letter in which your Majesty invites the Swiss Confederation, with the sovereigns and governments of other States, to a great international congress.

Your Majesty calls attention to the condition of various countries, and points out the dangers to general peace visible upon nearly all sides. You propose to regulate the present and secure the future before irresistible events hurry Governments away in opposite directions.

The Swiss Confederation, to which nature as well as history and treaties, has assigned a neutral position in the midst of Europe, knows how to appreciate all the benefits of peace. It understands the inestimable value of a free and reciprocal consecration of the rights and duties of each, the true base of a sincere and cordial understanding between the nations. We can only, therefore, accept with eagerness the overture your Majesty has designed to make.

Existing treaties proclaim the inviolability the neutrality and independence of our territory. The clauses referring thereto have not been violated, and the people—scrupulously observing its international obligations—has maintained and defended at the price of the greatest sacrifices the guarantees which have been secured. These guarantees thus form part of the true interests of Europe, and the Great Powers cannot but recognize, now as formerly, their permanence and their necessity.

Ready to participate in the name of the Swiss Confederation in the solemn deliberations which are announced, we consider it our duty to express to your Majesty our gratitude for your loyal appeal, and cherish the hope that we may have your Majesty's ef