Emancipation Decree.

Washington, Jan. 1, 1863.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Whereas, on the 22d day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1862, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, henceforth and forever, free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and Naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any effort they may make for their actual freedom; that the Executive will on the first day of January aforesaid, issue a proclamation designating the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereon respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State or the people thereof, shall on that day, be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, in a time of actual armed rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary War measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the date of the first above mentioned order, designated to the States and parts of States therein, the people whereof respectively are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit: Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana, (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, La Fourche, St. Mary, St. Martin and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans,) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, (except the 48 counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth,) which except, ed parts are for the present left precisely as if this Proclamation were not issued; and by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within designated States, and parts of States, are and henceforward shall be free, and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of the said persons, and I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense, and I recommend to them that in all cases where allowed they labor faithfully for reasonable wages, and I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh. [Signed]

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

From New Orleans.

NEW YORK, January 1

The steamer S. R. Spaulding, from New Orleans the 24th, has arrived. Among her passengers are Gen. Butler and staff, excepting Col. Jonas H. French and Capt. John Clark, who remain.

Gen. Butler, prior to leaving New Orleans, gave a reception at the City Hall, where hundreds of citizens and officers called on him. General Butler also issued a farewell address to the citizens, in which he says he leaves with the proud consciousness of carrying with him the blessings of the humble and loyal under the cottage roof, and in the cabin of the slave, quite content to bear the sneers of the *salon* or the curses of the rich. He concludes by saying:

"Months of experience and observation have forced the conviction that the existence of slavery is incompatible with the safety of yourselves or of the Union."

The steamer Empire was fired into while loading sugar at Marengo plantation, by guerrillas, killing C. McGill, Assistant Engineer, and several wounding W. J. Reed, a New York merchant, and wounding three others.

On the 24th, Gen. Banks issued an address, appended to which is the President's Proclamation of Emancipation. In his address Gen. Banks, after rehearsing the objects and effect of the President's proclamation, says that, "It is manifest that the changes suggested by the proclamation do not take place at any precise period;" and Gen. Banks calls upon all persons, citizens or slaves, to govern themselves accordingly. All unusual public demonstrations will be for the present suspended, and Provost Marshals are enjoined to prevent any disturbance of the public peace. Slaves are advised to remain on the plantations until their privileges are definitely established, resting assured that whatever benefits the Government intends will be secured to them. Gen. Banks also instructs the officers to secure the strictest discipline in the camps. Attention is also called to the act of Congress forbidding the return of slaves by the army.

"The war is not waged for the overthrow of slavery, but to restore the constitutional relations between the United States and each of the States. If slavery is to be preserved, the war must cease, and the former constitutional relations again be established; for no military man, in the event of a continuation of the war, will counsel the preservation of slavery. The continuance of the war will leave no other permanent check to rebellion but emancipation. Contest in public, as in social life, strengthens and consolidates brotherly affection. It is baseless nationality that has not tested its strength against domestic enemies. Success of local interests widens the scope of human history, and is attended with peace, prosperity and power. It is out of such contests that great nations are born."

Gen. Banks concludes thus:

"Let us fulfil the conditions of this last great trial, and become a nation, a grand nation, with sense enough to govern ourselves, and strength to stand among the world united."

Up to the sailing of the steamer, nothing had transpired as to the intended movements of Gen. Banks, but it was known that a campaign had been marked out, with Baton Rouge as the base of operations.

Nothing new from Vicksburg or Port Hudson.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.

Gen. Butler, with his staff, stopped in this city yesterday. He leaves for Washington to-morrow, and, it is rumored, at the request of the President.

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

Tuesday, January 6, 1863.

The Proclamation of Emancipation.

As was fearfully apprehended, the President issued his proclamation of negro emancipation on New Year's day.

Thus the edict has gone forth to the world that the Executive no longer regards the sacred provisions of the constitution of binding force. He has stretched forth his hand and plucked asunder the last link in the chain which bound the Union together. By this Executive proclamation, the national constitution, as well as State's rights, is set aside, and the people given to understand the President is above written laws.

Our readers will bear us witness that from the commencement of the war and up to the period when the compensation emancipation plan was inaugurated, we steadfastly and faithfully sustained Abraham Lincoln, the constitutionally elected President of the United States, in its prosecution. Until that period we dealt in no harsh criticisms, but when he surrendered himself to the Abolition fanatics, forbearance ceased to be a virtue. And we proclaimed our opposition to his desperate and unconstitutional propositions, and shall continue to cry out against all encroachments of the constitution come from whatever quarter they may.

The emancipation decree of New Year's day, caps the climax of Executive usurpation. Disheartened, humiliated, crushed by this last blow at the Union by those who should be its protectors and guardains, the truly loyal men of the North are justified in denouncing the enactment of such an outrage upon the constitution and the good faith of those who have gone forth with muskets in their hands to defend it and to restore its authority.

Thus has the President belied all the promises and professions made at the commencement of the difficulties. He has boldly proclaimed that instead of the war being prosecuted for the restoration of the Union, it is simply for the freedom of the negroes. Three millions of slaves are declared free; and in order to accomplish that object, the lives of hundreds of thousands of white men must be sacrificed.—Such is the programme of Abolitionism; and it grieves us that the President has become a supple tool to their nefarious schemes.

The full effect of this emancipation decree remains to be seen, but we fear that it will prove disastrous. Instead of causing the rebels to lay down their arms, it will make them fight with ten-fold greater desperation, while it will palsy the arms of thousands of loyal men of the North who are fighting for the constitution as it is, and the Union as it was. Surely the war was revolting and barbarous enough without the introduction of this new incentive to the commission of deeds of woe and blood.

The Abolitionists, of course, are jubilant over the emancipation proclamation. But we doubt whether they will step forward to to sustain the President in the rash undertaking.

Speech of Hon. W. A. Richardson.

We would invite the attention of every friend of his country to the great speech of Hon. W. A. Richardson, which we give on the first page of to-day's paper. Though most of our readers may have read the speech already, its re-perusal can be of no damage to them at this particular juncture of affairs.

The illustrious stateman is certainly entitled to the gratitude of every patriot in the land for his noble defence of the constitution, and his bold rebuke of its violators. The people of Illinois have reason to be proud of Mr. Richardson for his great oratorical powers and firmness as a patriot. The usurpers receive little favor from his hands.

There is not a lover of the constitution in this State who does not endorse every sentiment contained in Mr. Richardson's speech. He represents the Democracy and we have no doubt when the proper time comes will be chosen to represent our State in the place made vacant by the death of Stephen A. Douglas. With Richardson in the United States Senate, the people will have a champion in that body who will command respect.

The Legislature.

On yesterday our Legislature met at Springfield. We have not received news of the organization yet. The Governor's message will appear in our next, but will be read with little interest, as our Governor is about played out.

We trust that the Legislature will inaugurate a new order of things about Springfield. The people expect that body to put a stop to the corruption, swindling, fraud and political favoritism that have disgraced our State capital for the past two years.—Let the Adjutant General's office be abolished and an army board appointed that will relieve the Governor from a part of his arduous duties.

To our Patrons.

It will be seen, by reference to our advertised rates, that we have increased the price of subscription to our paper. This we have been compelled to do in consequence of the great rise in the prices of paper, ink and everything else necessary to use in the publication of a newspaper.

The price of printing paper has gone up nearly one hundred per cent. within the last six weeks. This alone is sufficient apology for the advance of subscription. But while printing paper has doubled in price, clothing provisons and all necessary articles of subsistence have advanced in like proportion, so that publishers in order to get along at all are forced to raise the price of their journals.

And we would say to those who owe us for subscription and advertising that they will never find an easier time to settle up than the present.

☞The Abolitionists of Chicago are making a strong effort to have the *Times*, of that city suppressed. They are not at all pleased with its firm support of the constitution and hence are attempting to force the gag rule. Well, the days of negroism are about numbered, and it is no wonder that they make some hideous contortions in their death struggles.

The Old Year.

Every thing of earth has its beginning and end, its first and last. Whatever is blessed with existence will meet an inevitable end. And as everything is changing and and passing away, so the years pass away; and 1862 has just been numbered with those that have been added to the record of time.

A last farewell hath sadness in it, but we must confess in taking leave of 1862, no such feelings possess us. Its records have been too deeply stained with the blood of our citizens, to desire its longer tarry.

The year through which we have just passed, was crowded with events of vast magnitude, not only to our own nation but to humanity everywhere. War of the most revolting and horrid character has raged in our midst and spread devastation and death amongst a once happy and devoted people. Vast armies have been cutting each other to pieces, and there is scarcely a home in our land exempt from emotions of grief and sadness over the loss of some dear one.

The year eighteen hundred and sixty-two has faded away, but its record will live forever. We shrink with awe when we think of the immortal chronicle it has written in letters of blood. In the sad hour of its departure, many a pulse beats low that bounded merrily at its approach. Its departed chimes speak of stern experience: grievous wrongs, and deeds of death. Secessionism and Abolitionism have been spreading their baneful fruits, and our country is well nigh its doom from their terrible effects. On a hundred battle fields the blood of our citizens has flowed in rivulets and the dead have been numbered by thousands, and yet the fanatics, South and North, cry for more carnage—more blood!

But let us try to drive the sad reflections from our minds. It is true the New Year has little of promise. The future is indeed dark and gloomy. There is not a ray of light to cheer the vision. Blood and carnage, and wrong and suffering, promise to darken the record of the New Year as they did the Old. We very much fear that our people have become so enraged that they will make the American name a word of dread before the close of this awful conflict

Yet let us not give up to total despair.—Let us hope that the Almighty Ruler of the Universe will stay the work of blood before the close of the new born year, and save our country from annihilation.

Hardware.

Few people are aware of the immense amount of hardware sold in this city.

Having occasion, the other day, to visit the mammoth establishment of Messrs. Strong & Brooks, on Jefferson st., we were astonished at its magnitude. The first floor or basement is used as a store room in which are vast numbers and various patterns of stoves and heaps of iron and steel. On the second floor is the sales room, in which are displayed the finer articles of hardware, and where customers are waited upon. And when we were there, multitudes of people were in attendance seemingly anxious to exchange Chase's greenbacks for something more substantial.—The third and fourth stories are occupied as store rooms and shops for the manufacture of all kinds of tin ware. Indeed the entire building is filled with articles pertaining to the concern, and large sums of money must change hands there during the course of a year. It is well worth one's while to visit this establishment, especially if they have purchases in the hardware line to make.

And on the west side of the river, on the corner of Exchange and Bluff streets, is another large hardware establishment, belonging to Mr. W. F. Barrett, which though not quite so extensive as that of Messrs Strong & Brooks, nevertheless vies with it in quality of goods and low prices. Mr. Barrett is doing an excellent business, and selling great numbers of stoves, &c. His sales room, store rooms and shops, bear evidence that his trade must be large.

In conclusion, we would say to those of our citizens who desire anything in the hardware line of the best quality and at fair prices, that it is not necessary for them to go to Chicago or anywhere else, so long as we have two such establisments here as those named above.

MORE GREENBACKS—Dispatches from Washington announce that two hundred millions of dollars additional greenbacks are to be issued. At this rate the country will soon be flooded with Secretary's Chase's shinplasters. Gold, of course, will take another advance. Indeed there is no telling how great the depreciation in paper money will become. For fear that we are on the eve of a financial crisis, we would advise people to keep as little paper money by them as possible, especially if they owe anything.

MRS. DOUGLAS.—This noble woman has recently been on a visit to this state, and while here, was the guest of Mrs. S. K. Casey, of this city, for a few days. We understand that her object in coming West at this time, was to hasten the building of her deceased husband's monument. It is said her mission was successful, and that the Directors of the Douglas Monument Association will take immediate measures for commencing the work.

☞The pirate Alabama is likely to be aided soon by another famous rebel privateer which has escaped from a blockaded southern port to pray upon the commerce of the North. The steamer Florida, otherwise and better known as the Oreto, has succeeded in escaping from Mobile, with a crew of one hundred men, having run the guantlet of the blockade in the darkness of night. This vessel and the two others reported by Capt. Starret, of the ship Lizzie Southard, and Capt. Weaver, of the bark Martha's Vineyard, will increase to four the number of piratical crafts now scouring the seas for the destruction of our richly laden argosies.

☞The weather up to this time has been remarkably mild for the season of year.—Considerable rain has fallen and the roads have been very bad. Business consequently has been dull, but little produce coming in.

☞Quarterly meeting will be held at the Methodist Episcopal Church, in this city, on Saturday and Sunday next.—Preaching on Saturday at 2 o'clock P.M.

Will County's Proportion.

Now that President Lincoln has issued a decree freeing the slaves of the rebel States, it may not be uninteresting to our readers of this county to know the number of negroes each town will be entitled to under an equal apportionment.

The President in his annual message of December, in anticipation of his edict of the first of January—and its results, expressed the opinion that a general distribution of the slaves throughout the United States would produce no inconvenience, as it would only give one negro to every seven white persons.

According to such a distribution, which is as near correct as can be calculated now, each town in this county will receive the following additional colored population:

Joliet—1st Ward	200
" 2d "	147
" 3d "	136
" 4th "	324
" 5th "	214
" 6th "	130
Channahon	175
Crete	156
Du Page	137
Florence	108
Frankfort	273
Green Garden	105
Homer	169
Jackson	182
Lockport	542
Manhattan	94
Monee	186
New Lenox	147
Plainfield	283
Peotone	41
Ried	113
Troy	155
Wilmington	327
Wesley	94
Wheatland	126
Washington	74
Wilton	153
Will	24

We do not know how the citizens of the respective towns would receive such an addition to their population, and that of the sable race, too; but, doubtless, if it were put on the ground of a "military necessity," and essential to "a vigorous prosecution of the war," many of them could be constrained to acquiesce.

However the citizens of Joliet, Lockport, Jackson, Troy, Wilmington, Channahon, Manhattan, New Lenox and Reid would be glad if their proportion of the President's "free Americans of African descent" could be located in Homer, Wesley, Plainfield, Frankfort, Crete, Wheatland and the other towns of the county whose citizens have shown by their votes for several years past, that they hold negroes in higher estimation than they do white men or the constitution of our country.

☞A Washington dispatch to a Philadelphia paper, referring to the vacant seat in the cabinet, says:

"Hon. Schuyler Colfax declines the post, as it would allow the Democrats to gain a member in his district, should he leave Congress."

The same statement has been several times repeated openly in Republican quarters.

The Louisville *Journal* remarks that the admission contained therein is a cheering one. It shows that the radicals are getting into close quarters; in other words, it shows that the people are hunting the radicals into their holes, and stopping up the holes.

HEIGHTH OF MEANNESS.—This consists in taking newspaper for a number of years without paying for it, and then ordering it discontinued without paying back arrearages. We have a few such cases to deal with, and shall take occasion to ventilate them one of these days.

☞Another violation of States rights has been committed. The President has signed the bill dividing Virginia.

UNION FIRE COMPANY NO. 2.—The following are the officers of this company for the ensuing year:

Foreman—P. W. Weber.
1st Assistant—John Lembert.
2d " M. J. Seits.
Secretary—John Brown.
Treasurer—M. A. Ulrich.
Steward—John Weis.

Abolition Heartlessness.

The Washington *Chronicle* (Forney) says that the retrograte movement of the army "proves that a vigorous policy has at last been enaugurated, and that the country may confidently look for early and favorable results."

Is it in a cold blooded way that a semi-official organ of the administration mocks at the national grief over a national humiliation!

Are the feelings of the people, as well as their intelligence, to be eternally trifled with thus?

Had this satrap of the palace nothing but a flippant remark, upon a movement which has sent fifteen thousand gallant men to bloody graves, and plunged many thousands of Northern families into mourning?

Equally cold-blooded and unfeeling is the following from Beecher's N. Y. *Independent*, a journal edited (be it remembered) by a professed minister of God:

"After a well fought battle, although we have failed to gain what we aimed at, we have lost nothing—nothing beyond a host of doubly precious lives, which were nobly devoted and bravely given for the deliverance of their country. Let us thank God that we have them to give, as we have plenty more in reserve to give freely, if needed."

If there is any manliness in the Abolitionist who penned this paragraph, he will forthwith step forward, musket in hand, himself.

It is cowardice, in its most revolting shape, to be thus pushing one's friends and neighbors to danger and death, in order that Abolitionism may flourish, while one's self remain at home, safe from all harm.

From Memphis.

Memphis, Dec. 29

The city is full of rumors concerning Vicksburg, but none are reliable.

The capture of two sutlers' wagons by Richardson's guerrillas, near Germantown, on Saturday evening, caused a report to be circulated that Grant had been whipped, &c.

Gen. McClernand is here, expecting to go to Corinth. He is awaiting orders from Gen. Grant.

There has been no boat from Vicksburg.

Up to Christmas day all of Gen. Sherman's force had not marched from Friars' Point, for that night they burnt the place. The advance could not have gone very far below.

From Little Rock we learn that there are about 75,000 troops in the State. Gen. Holmes, with 10,000, is at Little Rock; there are 10,000 at the Post of Arkansas, River; 5,000 have been sent to Vicksburg; 5,000 are at Austin, Ark.; and 5,000 more are organized guerrillas, well armed and tolerably well clothed. They get most of their clothing from Texas. Their arms have been shipped across the Mississippi. Among them are six and twelve pound brass field pieces.

Poetry of motion—Skating with a pretty girl.

GREAT BATTLE NEAR MURFREESBORO.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Times.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 1.

I have just arrived from a terrific battle on Stone's River, in front of Murfreesboro, west side. It has raged with unremitting fury two days, and at last reports was not decided. It is one of the most ferocious battles of modern times, sustained by both sides with splendid determination.

Gen. Rosecrans marched from Nashville last Friday, with about 45,000 effectives, and 100 pieces of artillery, and skirmished all the way to the battle field, the enemy resisting bitterly. The whole of Tuesday was spent by our forces in reconnoitering. The enemy was found strongly posted on a bend of Stones River, west side, his flanks resting on Murfreesboro, west side. The centre also had the advantage of high ground, with a dense growth of cedar masking completely their position, which gave them the advantage of cross fire.

Gen. McCook's corps closed in on their left, on Walkerson's Creek. Negley, of Thomas' corps, worked with great difficulty to the front of the rebel centre. Rosecrans' division being in reserve. Crittenden's corps was posted on comparatively high ground, on their left; Palmers' and Van Cleve's divisions in front, Wood's in reserve.

The battle was expected all day Tuesday, but the enemy merely skirmished and threw a few shells one of which killed Orderly McDonald, 4th United States Cavalry, not ten feet from General Rosecrans.

That P. M. the Anderson Penn. Cavalry on McCook's flank, was drawn into an ambuscade, and its two Majors, Rosengarten and Waid, were killed. Crittenden's corps lost 4 killed and 21 wounded that day, including Adj't Elliot, of the 57th Ind., severely. McCook's loss was about 50 on the same day.

The rebel cavalry made a dash on our rear at Laverge, burnt a few wagons, and captured 35 prisoners.

That night dispositions were made to attack the enemy in the morning. After dark the enemy was reported moving upon McCook, obviously to attack our right wing. This corresponded with the wishes of Gen. Rosecrans, who instructed Gen. McCook to hold him in check stubbornly, while the left wing should be thrown into Murfreesboro, behind the enemy.

At daybrake on the last day of December, everything appeared working well.—The battle had opened on the right, and our left wing was on hand. At 7 o'clock omicious sounds indicated that the fire was approaching the left. Aids were dispatched for information, and found the forest full of flying negroes, with some straggling soldiers, who reported whole regiments falling back rapidly.

Meantime, one of McCook's aids, had announced to Rosecrans that Gen. Johnson had permitted the batteries of his division to be captured by a sudden attack of the enemy, which had somewhat demoralized the troops. This was obvious.

The brave Gen. Sill, one of our best officers, was killed; Gen. Kirk severely wounded, and Gen. Willich killed or missing, besides other valuable officers.

Gen. Rosecrans sent word pressing McCook to hold the front; he would help him and it would all work right. He now galloped to the front of Crittenden's left with his staff, to order the line of battle, when the enemy opened a full battery and emptied two saddles of the escort.

Van Cleve's division was sent to the right, Col. Beatley's brigade in front. The fire continued to approach on the right with alarming rapidly, extending to the centre, and it was clear that the right was doubling upon the left. The enemy had compelled us to make a complete change of front on that wing, and were pressing the centre. Gen. Rosecrans, with splendid daring dashed into the furious fire, and, sending his staff along the lines, started Beatty's brigade. Some six batteries opened, sustaining a magnificent fire.

Directly a tremendous shout was raised along the whole line. The enemy began to sally back rapidly. The General himself urged the troops forward. The rebels, thoroughly punished, were driven back fully a mile. The same splendid bravery was displayed in the centre, and the whole line advanced.

Meantime, the enemy made formidable demonstrations upon our left, while they prepared for another onslaught on our right.

Meanwhile, orders had been issued to move our left upon the enemy. Before they had time to execute them, they burst upon our centre with awful fury, and it began to break. Rousecran's division was carried into the breach magnificently by their glorious leader, and the enemy again retreated hastily into the dense cedar thicket.

Again they essayed our right, and again we were driven back. This time the number of stragglers was formidable, and the prespect was discouraging; but there was no panic. The General, confident of success, continued to visit every point of the field and, with the aid of Thomas, McCook, Crittenden, Rousseau, Negly and Wood, the tide of battle was again turned.

Early in the day we were severely embarrassed by the enterprise of the rebel cavalry, who made some serious dashes upon some of McCook's ammunition and subsistence trains, capturing a number of wagons and artillery. Ammunition was alarmingly scarce. At one time it was announced that not a single wagon load of it could be found. Some of our batteries were quiet on the account. This misfortune was caused by the capture of McCook's train.

About 2 o'clock the battle had shifted again from the right to the left. The enemy, discovering the impossibility of succeeding in their main design, had suddenly massed his forces on the left, crossing the river, or moving under cover of high bluffs from his right; and for about two hours the fight raged with unremitting fury, to the advantage of the enemy, for a considerable length of time, when they were checked by our murderous fire of both musketry and artillery. The scene at this period was magnificently terrible. The whole battle was in full view; the enemy deploying right and left, bringing up their batteries in fine style; our own vomiting smoke and iron missiles upon them with awful fury, and our gallant fellows moving to the front with unflinching courage, or lying first upon their faces to escape the rebel fire until the moment for action. There was not a place on the field that did not give men a satisfactory idea of a hot fire. Solid shot, shells, and Minie balls rattled around like hail. Rosecrans himself was incessantly exposed. It is wonderful that he escaped. His Chief of Staff, the noble Lieut. Col. Garesche, had his head taken off by a round shot, and the blood spattered the General and some of the staff. Lieut. Lyman Kirk, just behind him was lifted clear out of his saddle by a bullet, which shattered his left arm. Three Orderlies, and gallant Sergeant Richmond, of the 4th United States Cavalry, were killed not ten feet from the General, and five or six horses in the staff and escort were struck.

Between 4 and 5 o'clock, the enemy apparently exhausted by his rapid and incessant assaults took up a position not assailable without abundant artillery, and the fire on both sides slackened, and finally ceased at dark, the battle having raged eleven hours. The loss of life on our side is, considering the terrine nature of the firing, comparatively limited. The whole casuality list that day, excluding captures, did not exceed, perhaps, 1,500, of whom not more than one forth were killed. This is attributable to the care taken to make our men lie low. The enemy's loss must have been more severe.

When the battle closed the enemy occupied the ground which was ours in the morning, and the advantage is therefore in their favor.

The object in attacking was to cut us off from Nashville. They almost succeeded. They played their old game. If McCook's corps had held more firmly against Hardee's corps and Cheatham's division, whom he fought, Rosecrans' plan of battle would have succeeded.

At dark the enemy had a heavy force on our right, leading to the belief that they pretended to pursue. Their cavalry, meanwhile, was excessively troublesome, cutting deeply into our trains behind us, and we had not cavalry enough to protect ourselves. The 4th Regulars made one splendid dash at them, capturing 67 and releasing 300 prisoners; the enemy have a large number.

Gen. Rosecrans determined to begin the attack this morning, and opened furiously with our left at dawn. The enemy, however, would not retire from our right, and the battle worked that way. At 11 o'clock matters were not flattering on their side. At 12 o'clock our artillery received new supplies of ammunition, and a terrible fire was opened. The enemy began to give way. Gen. Thomas pressing on their centre, and Crittenden advancing on their left. The battle was more severe at that hour than it had been, and result was yet doubtful. Both sides were uneasy, but determined. Gen. Rosecrans feels its importance fully. If he is defeated, it will be badly, because he will fight as long as he has a brigade. If he is victorious the enemy will be destroyed. At this hour we are apprehensive some of our troops behaved badly, but most of them were heroes.

Stone's River, Tenn., Jan. 2.

The terrific battle of Stone's River is not yet decided. It has continued three days, with intermissions yesterday and to-day. Old soldiers pronounce it the gamest conflict ever fought on this continent.

After the great battle of Wednesday, the enemy persisted in moving upon our right, to cut us off from Nashville. Our right was thrown out to Osternan's Creek; but, on Thursday, finding our right too strong, they suddenly rushed upon our centre, but were bitterly repulsed by the left of the corps commanded by Thomas and the right of Crittenden's corps.

Later in the day they fiercely assailed the right centre, and were again repulsed.

Both sides spent the remainder of the day in sharp skirmishing and manœuvering for position.

During that night the enemy appeared to be concentrating again upon our right.—Their commands were distinctly heard in our camps; but, suspecting a ruse, Gen. Rosecrans threw Bentley's brigade of Van Cleve's division across the river on our left, with supports, where they rested.

At about 10 o'clock this morning the enemy made another formidable dash at at our centre, but were handsomely repulsed.

At between 3 and 4 o'clock this afternoon a tremendous mass of the enemy was suddenly precipitated upon Bentley's brigade, and drove it, after a gallant struggle, clear back across the river. Negley's superb division, which had already immortalized itself and its heroic commanded, and the faithful division of Jeff. C Davis, were thrown in successively. The most desperate contest of the battle ensued. Both sides seemed furiously determined to win a victory, and both threw in their artillery until nearly all the batteries of both armies were at work. The uproar of musketry and artillery was of the most furious description. The whole field was soon shrouded in a pall of smoke. Our brave fellows were sadly cut up, but they marched to the assault with unflinching determination.

Gen. Rosecrans, in the midst of fire and carnage, ordered an advance of the whole line, and at dark the dense forest blazed with fires of fierce intensity, our line sweeping forward with wild enthusiasm; but darkness made it impossible to press our advantage to a conclusion. Nevertheless, the left was fairly established on the east bank of the river; the centre advanced to the position heretofore bled by the enemy; and the right again advanced almost to the line from which it was driven on Wednesday.

Thus, you perceive, the decided advantage is with us. To-morrow morning, however, the battle will be resumed. We feel confident of victory.

Our losses have been serious. Since Wednesday morning they amount to about 4,000 killed and wounded, of whom 600 are killed. Our loss of prisoners is several thousand.

The enemy, on the first day, captured about twenty-six guns and disabled six.—We captured four from them on Wednesday.

The rebel loss, as estimated by themselves, is between 4,000 and 5,000 killed and wounded, including Brig. Gen. Rains, killed.

Altogether we have captured about 1,000 prisoners, from all the southern States. Gen. Cheatham's Adjutant General and Sundry field officers were captured.

From Cairo.

Cairo, Dec. 31.

An infantry Captain has arrived here direct from Corinth. He has information from Jackson up to Saturday night, and left Trenton on Sunday morning.—The garrison at Corinth was on half rations, but that, with what could be secured by foraging, was good living. The railroad was in running order from Corinth to Jackson, and from Jackson to Holly Springs.

Gen. Grant had sent a train to Memphis for supplies

Colonel Murphy, of the 8th Wisconsin regiment, was in command at Holly Springs when it was retaken by Van Dorn.

Colonel Lee, with a strong cavalry force, is in pursuit of Van Dorn, and it is believed he will catch him, if any man can.

The road has been so repaired that trains now run from Jackson to Trenton. The construction trains run to within nine miles of Trenton.

Every station house between Moscow, twelve miles below Columbus and Jackson is burned, and every bridge between Moscow and Trenton is destroyed; also, all the bridge timber along the line of the road. Some of this was piled on the track and burned, thus destroying the rails.—Between three and four miles of trestle-work is destroyed, and much of the track torn up. A small force went out on the train yesterday from Columbus.

A force of several thousand left Trenton on Sunday morning, going in the direction of the Tennessee river.

St. Louis, Dec. 31.

General Blunt telegraphs to General Curtis from Van Buren, Ark., December 28th:

"We are shelling the rebels across the river, five miles below here. If the enemy don't retreat during the night, we shall endeavor to cross our troops in the morning, and offer battle.

"We captured four steamers, three of which are heavily laden with supplies, a ferry boat and a large amount of ammunition.

Cairo, Jan. 2.

A private letter from a person attached to the Mississippi gunboat fleet, written only thirty miles above Vicksburg, on the 3d, state that the gunboats were to be concentrated at the mouth of the Yazoo, while the army were to mass at a point above and march for some point a few miles back of Vicksburg, so as to attack simultaneously. "We left," says the letter, "at Helena, 50,000 Federal troops, besides a large force in Memphis."

The *Appeal* states that Gen. Pillow has been assigned to the troops under Buckner.

Smallpox is spreading in Canton, Mississippi.

Jeff. Davis addressed the Legislature of Miss on the 27th.

The *Appeal* is jubilant over Grant's retreat and the rebel guerrilla successes, and tells very large stories of Jackson and Van Dorn.

Gen. Quimby's escort and supply train had reached Memphis, and were to start on their return to Holly Springs.

Col. Murphy was placed under arrest by Gen. Grant, charged with misconduct at Holly Springs, and he is now at Memphis.

The gunboat fleet accompanying Gen. Sherman's expedition have gone up the Yazoo river.

The Bee, which arrived this morning direct from the fleet, brings a report that they had encountered a battery up the Yazoo, at Haines' Bluff, and that there had been a severe cannonade, in which the Benton was struck sixteen times, three balls penetrating her, and severely wounding Capt. Gwin.

It is understood that Sherman's force will depart up the Yazoo, and march to the rear of Vicksburg.

Cairo, Jan 4.

Gen. Sullivan left Jackson, Tenn, some days ago, with 6,000 men, in search of Forrest's cavalry, and came up with them Dec. 31st, at Hunt's Cross Roads, near the Tennessee River, and in the vicinity of Lexington. Desiring to make sure of his prize, he sent back for reinforcements, and 4,000 additional troops immediately left Jackson to join him. A gunboat patroled the river to prevent the rebels crossing.—Being thus hemmed in they fought desperately, and on both sides many were killed and wounded. The Union loss is reported to be 800, and the rebel loss 1,400. We took 350 horses and 400 prisoners, besides six pieces of artillery. The losses may be exaggerated, but it is certain that they were heavy. Forrest's force is supposed to be annihilated.

Gen. Grant's headquarters are still at Holly Springs. He thinks it necessary to keep the old line of communication from Columbus *via* Jackson open, in order to protect Western Kentucky from being overrun with guerrillas. The road is being repaired as fast as possible, and the rebel sympathizers along the line are being pressed to assist.

We learn from Grenada that the enemy has 65,000 men on a line of fortifications twenty miles long. They expected to reinforce Vicksburg from Jackson, but Sherman got between them.

From Arkansas.

Fayettville, Ark., Jan. 1.

Rebel newspapers captured at Van Buren, Ark., admit the loss of the rebels, in killed and wounded, at the battle of Prairie Grove, to be 4,000.

The entire telegraphic correspondence of Gen. Hindman was taken. It contains much valuable information, and will be forwarded to the War Department.

The destitution of the rebel army is most pitiable. Four thousand of Hindman's army are without shoes.

The loss to the citizens by the recent raid amounts to over $500,000.

It is reported that the rebels have met with a heavy loss at Arkadelphi, 55 miles southwest of Little Rock.

Gen. Schofield has assumed command of the army of the Frontier.

The Execution of Indians in Minnesota.

The following detail of the closing scene at the execution of thirty-eight Indians who were tried and convicted of having actively participated in the recent massacres in Minnesota, is taken from the Saint Paul *Press*. The execution took place at Mankato, on the 26th ult.

At precisely ten o'clock the condemned were marshaled in procession, and headed by Capt. Redfield, marched out into the street, and directly across through a file of soldiers to the scaffold, which had been erected in front, and were delivered to the officer of the day, Capt Burt. They were eager and cheerful, even crowding and jostling each other to be ahead, just like a lot of hungry boarders rushing to dinner in a hotel.

The soldiers who were on guard in their quarters stacked arms and followed them, and they in turn were followed by the clergy, reporters, &c.

As they commenced the ascent of the scaffold, the death song was again started, and when they had all got up, the noise they made was truly hideous. It seemed as if a Pandemonium had broken loose. It had a wonderful effect in keeping up their courage. One young fellow who had been given a cigar by one of the reporters, just before marching from quarters, was smoking it on the stand, puffing away very coolly during the intervals of the hideous "Hi-yi-yi," "Hi-yi-yi," and even after the cap was drawn over his face, he managed to get it up over his mouth and smoke. Another was smoking his pipe.

The noose having been promptly adjusted over the neck of each, by Capt. Libby, all was ready for the signal.

The scene at this juncture was one of awful interest. A painful and breathless suspense held the vast crowd which had assembled from all quarters to witness the execution.

Three a few, measured and distinct beats on the drum by Major Brown, who had been announced as signal officer, and the rope was cut by Mr. Dolly—the scaffold fell, and thirty-seven lifeless bodies were left dangling between heaven and earth. One of the ropes was broken, and the body of Rattling Runner fell to the ground. The neck had probably been broken, as but little signs of life were observed, but he was hung up again.

While the signal beat was being given, numbers were seen to clasp the hands of their neighbors, which in several instances continued to be clasped till the bodies were cut down.

As the platform fell, there was one, not loud, but prolonged cheer from the soldiery and citizens who were spectators, and then all were quiet and earnest witnesses of the scene.

For so many, there was but little suffering; the necks of all, or nearly all, were dislocated by the fall, and the after struggling was slight.

The scaffold fell a quarter past ten o'clock, and in twenty minutes the bodies were examined by surgeons and life pronounced extinct.

The bodies were then cut down, placed in four army wagons, and, attended by company K, as a burial party, and under command of Lieut. Col. Marshall, were taken to the grave prepared for them among the willows on the sand bar nearly in front of the town. They were all deposited in one grave, thirty feet in length, by twelve in width, and four deep, being laid on the bottom in two rows, with their feet together and their heads to the outside. They were simply covered with their blankets, and the earth thrown over them.

An Impudent Contraband.

A correspondent from the head quarters of Burnside's army relates the following anecdote:

"On our onward march we came across some darkies working in a field. An officer asked a likely looking "chattle" if he would go on with our troops.

The darkey with a cunning leer, said: "Well, I guess not massy, jist now; wait till ye come back! You'll be back this way in a day or two, and then I'll be think about it. You've been this way before, and you came back, and I guess you'll come back now."

And with a chuckle the impudent contraband resumed his work.

ONE WORD OF WISDOM FOR TWO FOOLS.—The Tribune talks still about journals which "venture to the very verge of foolhardy rashness" in their criticisms upon the government, and the oracular dog of the president (Forney) yelps out anticipative wrath against Gov. Seymour if he shall dare to say or do certain things foreshadowed in the canine imagination of that fierce familiar.

Will these frantic sycophants of a fleeting power never understand, not the decencies, but the loyal states will not be cowed by their insolence, but the day may come when neither the remonstrances of the press nor the interference of the authorities they so insanely insult can save themselves from the consequences of the passions with which they so obstinately trif