

TERMS: Two Dollars a Year, payable in advance. Advertising notices over twelve lines, charged at the regular advertising rates.

Athens, Friday, October 3, 1862.

"The News." The war news this week is rather light and scattering. Since the late heavy victories in Jackson's splendid victory at Boteler's Mill, both armies seem to be seeking repose; or rather, the papers on both sides the line are silent as to the whereabouts of either, being no doubt as ignorant of their movements as we are.

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The "Knoxville Register." This old journal comes to us enlarged and much improved in its dress and mechanical appearance. There is no good reason why a place of as much importance as Knoxville should not have a first rate Daily; and if brother SPEAKY will rise to a proper view of the position, he can largely extend the sphere of his usefulness, and put money in his purse.

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Call for a Public Meeting.

In our columns today will be found a call for a public meeting, to be held at the Court-house, Athens, Monday next, the 6th instant. The call is numerously signed, and the object is, as we understand it, to bring together, harmonize and unite those who have, from causes we need not stop to mention, been kept asunder and estranged on the great question of the day—the struggle and contest in which we are really all equally interested, and which must eventually in placing us all in a state of vassalage and degradation.

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Martial Law—Letter from Vice President Stephens.

We are certain a very large majority of our readers will thank us for publishing the letter below, from Vice President STEPHENS, upon the subject of Martial Law and the usurpations of the Military over the Civil Power. For the last few months the tendency towards absolute despotism, under the plea of "military necessity," has been rapid and alarming; and at this time the civil law, in many places, stands paralyzed and dumb before the arrogant front of military assumption and domination.

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General Lee's Object in Maryland.

Military operations are not conducted on haphazard chance; nor do generals march their armies about "like roaring lions, seeking whom they may devour;" but accomplish their purpose by pre-arranged campaigns, having certain and well defined objects. Gen. Lee did not march out of Richmond towards the sources of the Chickahominy seeking an enemy; but knowing the position of his enemy, he performed those celebrated manoeuvres by a previously arranged plan; nor did he move his army to Piedmont Virginia, without first determining what would be his course upon reaching the theatre of war.

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Old Abe's Proclamation Freeing the Slaves of the Rebels.

The following is a copy of the Proclamation of President Lincoln, declaring free the slaves of all rebels from and after the first day of January next: By the President of the United States—Proclamation. Washington, Sept. 22, 1862.—I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy thereof, do hereby proclaim and declare that hereafter, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relation between the United States and the people thereof in which States that relation is, or may be suspended or disturbed; that it is my purpose, upon the next meeting of Congress, to again recommend the adoption of a practical measure tendering pecuniary aid to the free acceptance or rejection of all the slave States, so called, the people whereof may not then be in rebellion against the United States, and which States may then have voluntarily adopted or thereafter may voluntarily adopt the immediate or gradual abolition of slavery within their respective limits; and that the efforts to colonize persons of African descent, with their consent, upon the continent or elsewhere, with the previously obtained consent of the governments existing there, will be continued; 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 any designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be thenceforward 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 press such person or persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom; that the executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof 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 State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof have not been in rebellion against the United States.

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The Story of the Enemy.

The Northern papers which we have received contain very voluminous accounts of the military operations on the upper Potomac. We publish many extracts in another column. We pass over their long accounts of the battle, the swaying of the opposing lines. They are little besides fancy sketches—wild romances, invented to please a people who will not bear the truth.

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Among the prisoners captured in the recent Virginia battles were thirty-one Northern free negroes. They are in prison at Richmond.