GENERAL ORDERS.

ADJ'T & INSP'R GEN'LS OFFICE,
RICHMOND, October 24th, 1863.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 138.

Following instructions are published for carrying into effect the 9th Section of the Act of 26th March, 1863: To regulate impressments in respect to labor on fortifications and other public works in States in which provisions have not been made on this subject.

1. The Commanding General, or the Officer of Engineers in charge of the work, shall have power to decide upon the necessity for making impressments of slaves for this purpose, after making suitable efforts to secure the necessary labor by contract. He must be satisfied of the necessity of the measure before he resorts to it.

2. He may authorize the impressment of male slaves between the ages of seventeen and fifty years, but before the first day of December next shall abstain from impressing slaves from plantations exclusively devoted to the production of grain and provisions without the consent of the owner, except in cases of urgent necessity.

3. No impressment shall be made of the slaves employed in the domestic and family services exclusively, nor upon farms or plantations where there are not more than three slaves of the age specified, and not more than five per cent. of the population of slaves shall be impressed in any county at the same time, unless the necessity is very great, and after consultation with this Department of the Governor of the State in which the impressment is to be made.

4. The ordinary period for impressment shall be sixty days, but if the owner of any slave shall fail to bring the slave impressed to the place of rendezvous within five days after the time appointed, the slaves so withheld may be detained for ninety days, and for a longer term if for ten days or every day of default, unless a reasonable excuse be given for the delays that have occurred.

5. It shall be the duty of the Commanding General in charge of any works requiring fortifications, to acquaint himself with the resources of slave labor in his department, and to consider with care the manner in which he may obtain the control of whatever is necessary for the public service, fairly and equitably upon terms among the owners of such property. He will consult with the Governor of the State and other State authorities as to the best mode of proceeding, so that his impressment may cause the least embarrassment to the industrial pursuits of the community.

6. Notices will be given of the number and character of the slaves required, the time and place of their delivery, the time for which the service is required, and of the arrangements made for the subsistence, management and custody of the slaves so required; and if the masters of slaves shall agree to furnish subsistence for their slaves, and a suitable overseer or agent to superintend them, they shall have the privilege of so doing. But such overseers shall be subject to the control of the officer in charge, and may be dismissed for any misconduct by him.

7. The sum of twenty dollars per month for each slave delivered in pursuance to requisition, and fifteen dollars per month for each slave held in consequence of failure of his master to obey requisition made as herein before provided, shall be paid by the Confederate States, and soldiers' rations, medicines and medical attendance furnished, and the value of all such slaves as may die during their time of service or thereafter from injuries received, or diseases contracted in such service, or may not be returned, shall be paid by the Confederate States. Such value shall be conclusively established by a formal appraisement by a Board of Experts mutually agreed upon at the time the slaves are received into the Confederate service. Compensation shall also be made for all injuries to slaves arising from the act of the public enemy, or from any injury arising from a want of due diligence on the part of authorities of the Confederate States. But the Confederate States will not be liable for any slave not returned by reason of fraud or collusion on the part of the owner or his agent, or the overseer selected by him to superintend them, nor if his death should be caused by the act of God, or by disease existing when the slave is received by Confederate authorities.

8. Subsistence and provisions furnished by the owner shall be commuted for at the rates allowed soldiers in service. All slaves sent voluntarily to the Confederate authorities, and accepted by them without other special contract, shall stand on the same footing as those delivered under requisition, and the owners of all slaves delivered or taken under requisition, shall be entitled to regard the Confederate States as contracting with them to comply with the obligations and conditions herein expressed.

9. In case there should be any disagreement on the subject of the value of any slave impressed, or in case the impressing officer shall not be satisfied of the accuracy of any valuation, the appraisement shall be referred to the appraisers appointed under the 5th section of the act concerning impressments, according to the provisions of the act of Congress approved 27th April, 1863, and published in Orders No. 53, current series. By order

(Signed,) S. COOPER,
Nov 10 Adj't and Insp'r Gen'l

ADJ'T & INSP'R GEN'LS OFFICE,
RICHMOND, October 29th, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 141.

I. The practice of relieving officers from commands to which they have been appointed and assigned, and ordering them to report in person to this office for further assignment, will cease unless specially required by orders from this office.

II. Soldiers returning home on furlough, or on reaching places at which they will stay during furlough, will immediately report to the nearest enrolling officer, who will keep a register of their names, descriptive list, place where stationed, by whom the furlough was granted, and the time at which it expires.

III. When at the expiration of his furlough, and being at a distance from any Hospital Examining Board, a soldier is unable to travel, the enrolling officer will order him before the Board of Examiners for conscripts, and the medical officer and one of the physicians "employed" occurring, they will forward to his commanding General, with a statement of his case, a recommendation for an extension of furlough not to exceed thirty days, duplicates being also sent to the Surgeon General. But when a soldier is accessible to a general hospital, he will be sent before the Hospital Examining Board, who will conform to the preceding instructions.

IV. In cases of sickness or wounds, which, from any cause, are neglected, or do not receive proper treatment, the disability in consequence being prolonged, the soldier will be sent, by the enrolling officer, to the nearest camp of instruction for treatment in hospital.

V. Recommendation for extension of leave to officers and furloughs to soldiers, and medical certificates to officers, and certificates of disability to soldiers, will only be given by authorized Boards of Examiners; or, in cases embraced in the first section of Paragraph III., of this order by the Board of Examiners for conscripts. Recommendations or certificates from private physicians or from a medical officer singly, will not be received. Paragraph 171 and 173, General Regulations, and Paragraph 1, General Order No. 51, Current Series from this office, are amended to accord with this paragraph.

VI. Furloughed soldiers will not be permitted to go within the lines of the enemy.

VII. In the medical examination of substitutes, the instructions and requirements of Paragraph 1, 192, General Regulations, (Paragraph 48, Medical Regulations,) will be fully adhered to; and if a substitute fails to meet the conditions of that paragraph, he will be rejected. By order,

(Signed,) S. COOPER
Nov 10. Adj't and Insp'r Gen'l.

ADJ'T AND INSP'R GEN'LS OFFICE,
RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 19, 1863.

General Orders, No. 149.

I. The pay and allowances of men detailed for work [except for Government work,] will cease during such detail, and in lieu thereof full wages will be paid them by the persons or parties to whom they are ordered to report.

II The attention of all commanding officers, whose duty it may be to examine the abstracts of issues of Commissaries, or Assistant Commissaries of subsistence, as particularly directed to General Order, No. 12, March 10, 1862. These commanding officers will also see that only the number of enlisted men actually present on duty, are included in provision returns, and that if any change takes place in that numoer during the period drawn for, that a corresponding allowance is duly made on the next subsequent return, and also that the provisions drawn are well taken care of and economically used. By order.

[Signed] S. COOPER,
Dec 1 Adj't & Insp. General.

ADJ'T AND INSP'R GEN'LS OFFICE,
RICHMOND, Nov. 23, 1863

General Orders No. 151.

I. Forage in kind will be issued officers entitled to it, stationed, by orders from the War Department, at posts and not in the field, for but one horse each. In lieu of forage, eight dollars a month may be allowed for each horse to which the officer may be entitled.—A certificate in each case will be given, that the "horses are actually kept in service and mustered."

II. Officers of the Adjutant General, Quartermaster, Commissary, [except purchasing Commissaries,] Medical and Ordnance Departments, Signal and Regimental officers [except commanders of regiments] and Subalterns of artillery, who are serving in the field, will be embraced in the provisions of paragraph I, of this order, unless otherwise ordered in special cases by the commanding General.

By order.

[Signed] S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

ADJ'T AND INSP'R GEN'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 21, 1863

General Orders, No, 150.

I. Enlisted men who have been [or may become] permanently disabled, and who hold a certificate of a Medical Examining Board to that effect, and who have not been discharged from the service, may have their rations commuted at ($1.25) one dollar and twenty-five cents per diem, whether they are in a hospital, private quarters, or on furlough.

II. Men liable to conscription who have joined companies for local defence will be discharged from such companies and conscribed. This order is not intended to effect companies for which special exception has been made by the War Department. By order.

(Signed) S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

Staunton Spectator.
STAUNTON, VA.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1864.

ARMY NEWS.

On Sunday, the 3rd inst., our cavalry under the command of Gen. Fitz. Lee captured a train of Yankee wagons some 9 or 10 miles from Moorefield, in Hardy County, including the teams of mules, drivers and guard. A portion of the wagons were destroyed. On the night of the same day, they captured 50 Yankees who had taken refuge in a Church. This was a complete surprise and the capture was effected without loss of life. About 80 of the prisoners arrived here on Thursday evening last on their way to Richmond. The following is Gen. Robt. E. Lee's official despatch in reference to these captures:

"ORANGE COURT HOUSE, Jan. 6, 1864.

"*To His Excellency, Jefferson Davis:*

"One hundred and twenty-five cattle, twenty-five wagons-load of hides, one hundred and twenty-five mules, two hundred prisoners, captured in Hardy, will reach Harrisonburg to-day.

"R. E. Lee, General."

"Major Mosby, with a portion of his battalion, came up with a scouting party of the enemy, consisting of some seventy-five men, from the first Maryland battalion, under Capt. Hunter, near Rectortown, Fauquier county, on New Year's day. A sharp fight ensued, in which the enemy lost five killed and nine wounded, whilst Mosby's loss was two killed and three wounded. Mosby captured 3 non-commissioned officers and thirty-seven privates, with their arms, equipments and horses. The rest of the party escaped.

Gen. Wm. E. Jones captured, on Sunday week, near Jonesville, Lee county, Va., over 400 of the Yankee force that has been infesting that country. He captured three pieces of artillery and all their wagons, horses and mules. His loss was five killed and twelve wounded.

Week before last, in Tennessee, Col. Crow, of Morgan's division, attacked the enemy near Dandridge, and captured a battery with the exception of one gun, which was afterwards recaptured, but the enemy were driven back to their entrenchments at Mossy creek. Major Ball, of the 6th Georgia, was killed in an engagement on the 26th. Gen. Martin's entire cavalry attacked a superior force of the enemy at Tilbot's Station, and after a stubborn resistance, drove them back four miles.

They were reinforced by a division of infantry, which drove Martin back, with considerable loss. The enemy remain at Mossy Creek, strongly intrenched.

EXEMPTIONS AND DETAILS.

The Richmond "Enquirer" says that instead of depleting the industry of the country to strengthen the army, the wiser and only true policy as the adoption of measures which, by preventing *desertions*, shall maintain the strength of the army at its highest point, according to its muster rolls. Why put more men in the army when its organization and discipline is so defective that those already in the army are permitted to desert in such numbers as to dangerously diminish its strength? Already, in many parts of the country, the lawless violence of deserters had made property insecure, and put life in jeopardy.—The House Committee on Military Affairs may succeed in increasing the names upon the muster rolls, and the expenses of the war, and that without materially improving the strength of the army; but it will be at the expense of the Quartermaster, Commissary and Ordnance Departments, injuriously affecting the present productions of the country, and prohibiting the creation of those articles which are consumed, but not produced, in the Confederacy.

Exemptions should depend not upon the favor of officials and the process of details; but upon the necessities of the country, and should be extended by law, not as favors to individuals, but as wise concessions to the industry of the country A good and sound principle is worth a thousand favors of detail; it is liable to no corruptions, and cannot be bought or bribed. The exempt is then a citizen, but when detailed, he is the subservient creature of a bureau. Industry cannot be supported by details; it is wrong in principle and will be found impracticable. The present exemption law recognizes the necessity of supporting and sustaining industry; it exempts, because certain trades are absolutely necessary. It is upon the only proper and wise principle.

COERSION OF STATES.

Upon the subject of coersion of States, John Hamilton, in the Convention of New York in 1788, said: "The coersion of States is one of the maddest projects that was ever devised. A failure of compliance will never be confined to a single State. This being the case, can we suppose it wise to hazard a civil war? It would be a nation at war with itself. Can a reasonable man be well disposed towards a government that makes war and carnage the only means of supporting itself—a Government that can exist only by the sword? Every such war must involve the innocent with the guilty. This single consideration should not be inefficient to dispose every peaceable citizen against such a Government."

☞ SEND socks, flannels and such other comforts as you can get to the soldiers. Winter, cold and bleak, is upon us, and those of us who remain at home can do much better without these things than our veterans who are exposed to all the hardships of the camp in the field.

The County Court of Rockbridge, have doubled the allowance of money heretofore granted to the families of soldiers for a period of five months, beginning with December, and ending with April.

OUR TRUE POLICY.

As we stated last week, we believe that our true policy is to prepare for a long war and not to expend all of our resources of men and means in one campaign. The way to make the war short is to prepare to make it long. The Petersburg "Express" says that the great consideration with us now is, how we can best provide for the maintenance of our army and people through the years of the war that are yet to come. We had as well make up our minds to the certainty that the war will be a long one, and brace up our hearts accordingly. If we will do this and calmly and energetically adopt the proper measures for securing success to our military operations, we will act wisely. We believe that if the Yankees could be thoroughly satisfied that the war would be a very long one—that we have it in our power to extend it, if necessary, through a decade or score of years, they would be willing to make peace upon our own terms. From the very first their cry has been for "a short and sharp" one, and they have endeavored to make it so. Let the prospect, then, be opened before them of an interminable war, except by their own retirement from it; let them see that we can keep our present forces in the field and clothe them out of our own resources, and they will soon begin to turn their thoughts to peace. One way of thus impressing them is for Congress to shape its legislation earnestly towards encouragement of production amongst us, in all its varieties—food of every kind, clothing, leather, iron, and whatever articles our mechanics can by skill and industry turn out in their shops for agricultural and all other uses, domestic as well as public. Hence we see the importance of keeping every man at work who can contribute by his labor to the better cultivation of the soil, to the wants of the army and to the material welfare of the country. In short, PRODUCTION, in all its numerous departments should be the main business, and to promote it, Congress and the Government should exert all their efforts.

AS WAS EXPECTED.

As we stated last week, the policy advocated by some of the members of our Congress tends to encourage the enemy. It has already had this effect and the enemy are made to believe that we are near the point of exhaustion. The N. Y. "*Times*" of the 1st inst., contains a long editorial on the recent speech of Senator Brown of Miss., in the Confederate States Senate. It also publishes his remarks. In its editorial, it says, in speaking of the speech, "it is one of the most remarkable attempts on record to embody despair in legislation." Of the proposition to convert the Confederacy into one grand military camp, it remarks, "If this be the only way in which the Confederacy can be saved, then there is nothing more certain than that its doom is sealed and its destruction certain. There is no maxim of government better settled than that the force and capacity for endurance of a country in war depends not so much on the number of men it can put into the army as on the extent to which it can leave civilians free and undisturbed in the pursuit of their ordinary avocations."

A FIGHT IN COMMITTEE.—Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, and Judge Hanley, of Arkansas, members of the committee to investigate charges against the commissaries and quartermasters, came to blows in the committee room the other day. Mr. Foote, it seems, laughed at some of the evidence elicited. Judge Hanley replied that he (Mr. Foote) need not laugh. Mr. Foote said his laugh was an honest laugh, at least. Judge Hanley said he doubted that. Some other belligerent words passed, and Mr. Foote arose and struck him. Both clenched, and blows were given and received by both parties. Mr. Foote laid violent claim to Judge Hanley's shirt bosom, tearing it out from his bosom. Mr. Commissary Northrop was knocked into one corner of the committee room like a man of rags, which he is not; committee tables were overturned and the recorded evidence sent hither and thither More ink than blood was shed. The witnesses present in the room observed their neutrality, but strove to allay hostilities by seizing both of the combatants by their coat-tails and attempting their separation. Judge Hanley's coat-tail gave way in the struggle, involving severe loss on the wearer. Finally, both desisted, and the business of the committee proceeded.—*Rich. Examiner.*

BUTLER'S RULE IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.—One of Butler's orders, commands "all persons, between the ages of 18 and 45, both white and black," to report to the General commanding without delay, is placarded on trees. All persons in Eastern North Carolina who do not come forward by the 19th of January and take the oath of allegiance and give their parole are to be seized and held as prisoners of war and their property confiscated. Persons can leave the lines within that time, but they will be allowed to carry nothing with them except fifteen pounds of meat to each member of their families.

We have received the first number of the *Weekly Register*, published at Lynchburg, Va., by Messrs. Johnson & Schaffter. It is a neatly printed periodical of eight pages octavo, and is intended to be conducted on a plan similar to *Niles' Register*, one of the most reliable publications of the kind ever published. We hope the *Register* may earn and deserve as wide a renown as *Niles' Register* attained.

EXPENSIVE JOB.—The New York *Daily News*, in an editorial, says that the powder, ball and shell alone which have been used in the attempt to take Charleston cost the United States Government seven millions of dollars, and the whole cost of the various expeditions fitted out against the city has amounted to upwards of thirty millions of dollars.

HONORS TO GEN. JOHN H. MORGAN.

Brigadier General John H. Morgan arrived in Richmond, from Danville, about 11 o'clock Thursday night, and was received at the depot by the Committee of the City Council, consisting of Messrs. Hill, (Chairman,) Saunders, Crutchfield, Epps, Clopton, Scott and Glazebrook. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, a large number of persons remained in the vicinity of the depot until the arrival of the train, which had been detained several hours by the snow upon the track. Their presence and cheering afforded to Gen. Morgan a foretaste of the cordial welcome which awaited him from the community. The Committee were accompanied by Judge Moore and Hons. H. W. and E. M. Bruce of Kentucky.

Upon the arrival of the train, Gen. Morgan and Staff were taken in charge by the Committee and conducted to carriages provided for the occasion, whilst similar attentions were paid to Mrs Morgan and Miss Alice Ready by Councilman Scott. The train of carriages then whirled through the Streets to the Ballard House where suitable apartments had been secured for the distinguished guests.

Gen. Morgan was conducted to the reception room, and there renewed or made the acquaintance, by introduction, of a number of distinguished gentlemen, military and civil, who had assembled for the purpose of greeting him, and congratulating him upon his safe return to "Dixie." Several hours were spent in these friendly interchanges, the hilarity of which was promoted by dispensations from a large bowl of apple toddy. Gen. Morgan was at length permitted to retire, and soon after the assemblage dispersed. The following is a list of his staff, as registered at the Ballard House:

Lt. Col. R. A. Alston, A. G.; E. P. Byrne, Chief Art.; Aleck Morgan, A. D. C.; Lieut. Tyler, A. D. C.; R. R. Good, Surgeon.

In the forenoon of the next day, Friday, in accordance with the programme agreed upon, the "City Battalion," Major Bossieux commanding, marched to the street in front of the Ballard House to escort Gen. Morgan to the City Hall. The distinguished guest, accompanied by Mayor Mayo, was greeted with loud cheering as he emerged from the Hotel—the Battalion Band playing "La Marseillaise." He was conducted to an open carriage in waiting, and when seated, with the Mayor by his side, and Messrs. Hill and Saunders of the Council, occupying the opposite seats the vehicle moved off towards main street amid the renewed cheers of the crowd. The military escort followed, and after the soldiers came a long train of carriages conveying the members of the Council, accompanied by various distinguished officers of the army.

About twenty minutes past 12 o'clock the General and his escort arrived at the City Hall. He was welcomed by deafening shouts from the populace, to which he responded by bowing and waving his chapeau. As promptly as practicable, the occupants of the various carriages alighted, and made their way to the southern portico of the City Hall. The military were drawn up in line in the street, facing the portico, and at a given signal the band performed a popular air. At the close of the performance Mayor Mayo addressed the assemblage as follows:

Fellow-Citizens: When I gaze upon the spectacle here presented this forenoon, my mind is carried back to the days of '76. Then we were engaged in a war with a civilized nation, and it pleased Providence to give us a Southern Marion, whose valor and prowess carried death and confusion into the ranks of the enemy.—Now we are engaged in a far deadlier strife—if a savage crusade against our lives, our law, and institutions can be called such—with a nation whose acts are a disgrace to the age in which we live; and again it has pleased God to raise up to us another Marion from the South West, in the person of Gen. John H. Morgan—the hero who now stands before you, and whose name and fame, already bright in history, have been rendered doubly dear to us by the savage cruelty and indignity with which he has been treated by our savage foe. Fellow Citizens, I present to you Gen. John H. Morgan, of Kentucky.

Gen. Morgan then came forward, and was greeted with enthusiastic and prolonged cheering. He said:

FELLOW CITIZENS: I thank you for this reception, and hope that my future career will prove that I am not unworthy of the honor you have done me. Not being accustomed to public speaking, I will give way to others who are. Again I thank you for this manifestation of your regard. (Renewed cheering.)

In response to numerous calls, Lieut. Gen. A. P. Hill, who was among the group of prominent officers upon the platform, came forward and made a few appropriate remarks. In compliance with similar calls, Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, Maj. Gen. Branch, of N. C., Judge Moore, of Ky., Ex Gov. Letcher, of Va., Gov. Hawes, of Ky., Maj. Heros Von Borck, of Gen. Stuart's staff, Col. Ro. A. Alston, of Gen. Morgan's staff, and Maj. Gen. E. Johnston, severally appeared before the assemblage in the order mentioned, and made brief speeches.

A BUSINESS VIEW.

Suppose a case. A young man secedes from partnership and sets up for himself. He has great resources, but there is great opposition. The old concern is determined to take away all his customers and break him up. He goes on for two or three years, holding on bravely, but losing heavily. He is known to be in great trouble. His credit is seriously impaired and his resources much diminished. Still there is enough left, if husbanded well and prudently handled, to enable him to weather the storm.

Heretofore he has been calm, discreet, confident. His courage, discretion and tenacity have more than once made the old partners doubt whether it would not cost more than it would come to, to put him down. On a sudden he begins to look wild, and it is whispered that he is about to resort to desperate expedients. His friends ask him what he intends to do. "I intend to risk everything I have in the world in one grand speculation. If I fail, I shall fail gloriously; but I know I shall succeed." This is his reply. His friends expostulate in vain. He will not heed them. They withdraw from him. Any aid they may now render him, will but impoverish themselves. The members of the old concern smile in triumph, for now they have their young rival just where they want him. Bent on desperate measures, and without outside assistance, all that is necessary to ensure his ruin is a little caution and a little time.

Had he pursued the opposite course, retrenched and husbanded his resources, displayed only the more coolness and caution as his perills increased; had he made it appear that his purpose was to make every edge cut, to waste nothing and to prolong the contest indefinitely and never to venture so much as to leave nothing to fall back upon and to recuperate from, his friends would have clung to him, would have eked out his means whenever and wherever they could, and his opponents, seeing no end to the struggle, would have withdrawn in despair. Business men, practical men are always terrified by desperate expedients. Desperation is a sign of weakness—a conscious want of strength—a knowledge that power is failing and a confession of inability to hold out.

Our readers may draw the parallel.—*Rich. Whig.*

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

AN APPEAL FROM THE ARMY FOR BOOKS.

CAMP PEGRAM'S BRIGADE,
52d Va. Regiment, Jan. 6, 1864.

MR. EDITOR:—By the goodness of God, the army of Northern Virginia is permitted another winter to enjoy rest and quiet, though it be in the camp away from their homes. The 52nd Regiment is now snugly fixed in winter quarters and has a fair prospect of so remaining for several months. It is not necessary to say that camp life, in winter quarters, with no adequate means of entertainment, is to the last degree dull and tedious, and that the old proverb, "an idle brain is the devil's workshop," has no slight bearing upon our condition. Therefore we call upon our friends, who are enjoying the comforts and privileges of home, exempt from the exposures and privations of the soldier's life, to assist us to spend the winter.

We would respectfully request that the ministers of the various churches in Staunton (Rev. Messrs. Baker, Latane, Taylor, Dice and Miller] and the ministers of the different churches throughout the county, would, from their pulpits notify their several congregations that any donations of Books which they would present to the soldiers of the 52d Regiment, will be received by them, and duly forwarded to the regiment. We believe that this donation will be made, and can be, with no trouble and at trifling expense.

Almost every family has in its library some good book which has been read, and re-read and with them has lost its power to entertain, the loss of such a book would scarcely be felt, but if sent to the soldiers, would serve to while away many a weary hour, and even though the books which would serve to interest us are highly prized by them, would not the fact that they could be procured at the conclusion of the war, be an argument in favor of presenting them to the defenders of the country. The character of the library, we thus hope to become possessed of, should be composed of books of a miscellaneous character inasmuch as there are so many various tastes in a regiment to gratify. Let not however the number of religious books be small, for RELIGION after all should be the soldier's chief concern. Hoping to meet with a prompt and speedy response to our request, and asking you to give this a place in your paper,

I am yours truly,
JOHN McGILL, Chaplain.

N. B. Mr. Albert Garber will receive the donations from the various ministers, at his store.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE ARMY.

The Charleston Mercury states that it is informed, on good authority, that two hundred thousand soldiers are absent from the field, either as stragglers, catchers of deserters, or as detailed men. It says there is no need of apprehension in the army or alarm in Congress with respect to want of troops: Provided, the officials of the Government perform their duties with urgent efficiency towards the unquestionable subject of conscription: Provided, deserting is suppressed by discipline in the army and rigid execution of military law: and Provided, the public opinion of the people at home be exerted to frown down straggling and dodging and to cooperate heartily with the effort made to detect and bring in the truants.

THE WAR TAX IN VIRGINIA.

The report of the Confederate Commissioner of Taxes shows that ninety-seven counties and nine cities of Virginia have been assessed and returned, leaving fifty-two counties and two cities (Alexandria and Wheeling) which have not been assessed or returned. In the northwestern counties, for apparent reasons, no attempt has been made to appoint officers or to procure assessments. In other counties in the eastern part of the State, where the people are loyal and patriotic, collectors were appointed and had given their bonds, but before the assessors had entered upon their duties the invasion of the enemy had arrested further progress. The aggregate amounts of assessment returns, as shown by the chief collector's final report, is $548,164,215,91. The tax on this, at one-half per cent., is $2,740,821,07, and the net tax, after deducting ten per cent., is $1,466,738,97. The amount paid by the State, as shown by the Treasurer's books, is $2,125,000, leaving a balance of $341,738,97.

THE ATLANTIC COAST.—Speaking of the probability or a speedy movement against some point on our Atlantic coast, the Wilmington *Journal* says: "Information from the enemy's lines in N. Carolina represents the arrival of heavy reinforcements. They have an armed as well as a transport fleet easily disposable. Information from the North goes to show that an expedition is in course of preparation. If any new attack is to be made at any point on the Atlantic coast, it would appear that Wilmington or Savannah would be that point. This is all we know about the matter. The enemy evidently contemplates some movements on the coast. His plans have not yet been developed, and of course until they are, what movements he will make must remain a matter of conjecture. The times are certainly threatening, and we know not what a day or an hour may bring fourth. We trust that when the hour of trial comes, we may be prepared for the emergency."

GEN. BLOUT NOT KILLED.—Col. Dobbins, one of the most successful guerilla commanders in Arkansas, recently arrived at Canton, Mississippi. He says the report of Quantrell having killed Gen. Blout is not regarded as correct. He killed a great many of Blount's men, and also captured his ambulances, swords, pistols, papers, etc., but the General gave leg bail, and saved his carcass by concealing himself in prairie grass.

COTTON PLANTING IN FLORIDA—The Legislature of Florida passed an act to punish all persons planting and cultivating in the State of Florida over a certain quantity of land in cotton and tobacco during the continuance of the present war. This act limits the amount of cotton that may be planted to one acre to the hand, and one quarter of an acre of tobacco.

MAXIMILIAN.—A Paris correspondent of the New York World, says "Maximilian will go to Mexico in February; the new empire and the Southern Confederacy will mutually recognize each other. France must back up Mexico in the recognition of the South, and Spain, Italy and other powers will promptly follow France."

MORGAN'S COMMAND.—The citizens of Augusta, Ga., have contributed ten thousand dollars towards equipping Gen Morgan's command. Surgeon Kesiser says, if the people will assist Gen. Morgan in mounting and equipping two hundred of his men, they will mount the remainder of the command themselves in the rear of the enemy's lines.

WEEKLY LEVEES.—His Excellency, Governor Smith, has resumed the fashion, formerly in vogue, of giving weekly levees at the Gubernatorial mansion. These social re-unions are appointed to take place on every Friday night.

Opportunity, it is said, makes the thief. In nine cases out of ten it is the thief makes the opportunity.

THE SWAMP DRAGONS.—We learn, from a very respectable and worthy gentleman of Hardy county, who has just come through the enemy's lines, that the Swamp Dragons in Hardy and Pendleton counties are treating those who are true and loyal to the Southern Confederacy very badly. They are robbing them upon all occasions, of whatever suits their fancy, whether the plunder consists of bed clothing, dishes, &c., out of the houses, or of horses, cattle, &c., out of the fields. The "Swamps," under the noterious Isaac Ault, and the scarcely less notorious John Bond, seem disposed to reorganize and recruit their forces. Bond, who had been arrested some time since and carried to Staunton, but who escaped from the guard-house and returned to his old haunts, and who was subsequently re-arrested and admitted to bail, is said to be re-organizing a new company of "Dragons" These mean, skulking, cowardly "Swamps" have done, and are still doing, the good people of the mountains much harm. We hope soon to hear that they have been driven from their haunts and captured.—Rockingham Register.

The Virginia Central railroad transports to the Army of Northern Virginia, during every twenty four hours an amount of freight which it would require a thousand wagons and drivers, and four thousand mules or horses, ten days to transport the same distance.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston has issued an order transferring the command of the Army of the Mississippi to Lt. Gen. Polk.

MARRIED.

On the 15th of December, 1863, by the Rev. J. C. Wheat, of Staunton, Mr. JAMES E. SALE, of Rockbridge county, Va., to Miss LIZZIE G., eldest daughter of Mr. Alexander Atkinson, of Augusta Co., Va., formerly of Maryland.

Lexington and Lynchburg papers please copy.

On the 6th inst, by Rev. F. H. BOWMAN, at River Side, Capt. CHARLES GRATTAN, of Rockingham, and Miss LIZZIE CRAWFORD, daughter of Samuel B. Finley, Esq., of Augusta.

On Tuesday, the 5th of January, by Rev. Thos. L. Preston, Mr. GEORGE W. KNISELY, of Lewis co, and Miss SUSAN S., daughter of Mr. James Wilson, of Augusta county.

DIED.

On the 6th inst., of Dyptheria, SARAH CATHERINE daughter of Gabriel and Susan Hildebrand, aged 14 years, 8 months and 8 days. She was conscious of her death and her last moments were spent in prayer for herself and her little brother which was the only child left. H. R. J.

Register copy.

On December 18th, 1863, on Christian's Creek, Mrs. ELIZABETH L. GUTHRIE, aged 60 years. The deceased had been long afflicted, confined entirely to her bed and chair, unable to walk for several years past. She has long been a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, a kind neighbor, an affectionate mother, leaving six daughters, and two sons to mourn their loss.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

A VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE.—The undersigned having determined to sell his farm in the County of Augusta, lying on the South-East side of the Port Republic road, about 3½ miles from Staunton, will, on Friday, the 22d day of January, 1864, on the premises, proceed to sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, a tract of land containing 156 acres and 2 roods, adjoining the lands of Wm. J. D. Bell and others This farm is well watered and has on it a dwelling and other out houses, about 75 acres of excellent timber, the balance is cleared and in fine state of cultivation, adapted to the growth of wheat, corn, rye, oats, grass, &c. It is rarely a farm, of such superior quality and possessing so many advantages is offered to the public, and therefore cannot fail to command attention. Those wishing to purchase can call and examine for themselves. Any further description is unnecessary. Possession given on day of sale. Terms Cash. JAMES FAGAN.

N. B. The sale will be made privately, by application to A. M. Simpson or myself, and due notice given. My address is Staunton, Va. J. F.

Jan12—2ts

EXHIBITION AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.—An exhibition will be given at the

Catholic Church,

ON THURSDAY NIGHT THE 14th INST., by the children of St. Francis Catholic School for the purpose of collecting funds to contribute to the erection of a new

SCHOOL HOUSE.

Price of admission, $2.00; children half price, to be paid at the Church Door.

Tickets can be had either at Mrs. Kelly's or Mr. Meade's store or at the Church Door.

Doors open at 6½ o'clock, P. M.

Jan 12

J. W. S. TAYLOR,
GROCER AND
Commission Merchant,
FIFTH STREET BETWEEN BROAD AND MARSHALL,
Richmond, Va.

Solicits, on liberal terms, consignments of all kinds of Country Produce. To those who favor him with their patronage, he promises the highest market prices for their produce. Also, all orders in his trade promptly filled. Jan 12—6mo*

STOLEN From the stable of Mr. Maurice Parker, in Staunton, on Sunday night, the 10th instant, a large bay horse, about 10 or 11 years old.—He moves stiff in his limbs, and has been lame in one of his forefeet. He has had the pole-evil which has nearly healed, but leaving its mark, which may be seen, and has made the neck a little stiff. He has one white foot behind. A reasonable reward will be given for the return of the horse and for the thief.

Staunton, Jan tf T. RENNOLDS.

LAND FOR SALE.—I offer for sale a tract of 900 acres of Land lying five miles east of Goshen Depot and within half a mile of the Railroad.—Also, a tract of 100 acres lying on Bratton's run, four miles from Goshen Depot. Both tracts are well timbered.

Messrs. Wm. Wilson or Wm. L. Ayers residing near Goshen Depot, will show the land, and state terms.—My address is Dublin Depot:

Jan 12—3ts WM. McLAUGHLIN.

SMALL FARM WANTED.—I wish to buy a farm of less than two hundred acres, healthy, improved, and convenient to Staunton, with good water and wood. The dwelling house and necessary out buildings must be in fair order and the land good. The farm not to be more than 15 miles from Staunton, and on a river, and, also, peach and apple orchard. The title must be good. Enquire at this office.

Jan 12—tf

NOTICE.—Adjt. Franer of the 1st Va. Cavalry, is hereby notified that unless he comes forward and pays for keeping a horse 16 or 12 years old, left at my farm on Mossy Creek, Augusta county, about 3 months since, I will, on the 4th Monday in this month, at the Court House, sell him for his livery bill and charges. R. TURK.

Jan 12—2ts

RECRUITS WANTED.—The subscriber is now in Augusta county, and desires to recruit soldiers for Major Mosby's command of Partisan Rangers. He can be found till the 25th of this month at the residence of his father on South River four miles from Barterbrook.

Jan 12—2ts* WM. L. HUNTER,
Lieut. and Recruiting officer.

A FINE HORSE FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers for sale, one of the finest Horses in Augusta. A good saddle horse, and said to be a 3 minute horse in harness, 5 years old, sound and a beauty. Call and see him at my stable [Mrs. Points,] New St., rear of old Valley Hotel.

Jan 12—3ts L. PENNINGTON.

NOTICE.—The subscriber has in his possession, a servant boy named "Stanford," 18 or 19 years of age who says he belongs to Dr. Frederick Davison, of London county. He will be given up to the owner when satisfactory evidence is furnished that the true owner calls or sends for him.

Jan—3ts* ROBERT VANLEAR.

NEW BOOKS.—Diary and Memoranda for 1864.
Army Regulations—Edition for 1863.
Regulations of the Confederate States Army for the Quartermaster's Department, including the Pay Branch thereof. Just received and for sale by

Jan 12—2ts* ROBT COWAN.

BLACKSMITH WANTED.—The subscriber desires to hire A Blacksmith for the present year.

For further information apply to

Jan. 12—4ts* J. W. ALBY,
Staunton, Va.

NOTICE.—The subscriber wishes to rent a farm for one or more years which will furnish work for two able-bodied men. He will pay a specified rent or a share of the crop. Address

JOHN H PLUNKETT,
Jan 12—1m Greenville, Augusta co, Va.

NEGROES FOR SALE.—I have three No. 1 NEGRO MEN for sale. For information enquire of the Jailor at Staunton.

Jan 12—1t* JOHN B. SMITH.

STRAYED—from the subscriber on the 29th of December, a red and white speckled COW. A liberal reward will be given for her return or any information concerning her.

Jan 12—1t* B. W. STEVENSON.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN the Post Office at Staunton, Va., Dec. 31, 1863.

Anderson, Mrs Nancy	Livick, Michael
Anderson, Luther 2	Loeb, L e
Anderson, John W	Langcorne, Dr Danl
Armingtrout, Jonas	McCarrol, W J
Briges, Miss M J	Myers, Isaac
Cumbram, Mrs Wm E	Maguire, Michael
Barnett, Capt J G	Myers, S D
Branaman, Mrs Elizabeth	Mehum, Capt J C
Boyd, Lieut E H	McCue, John H
Burke, Miss Eliza 2	Moran, Isaac K
Bower, Mrs Fanny	Miller, Mrs John D
Brinkley, David	Mayers, G L
Bowling, Alexander	Macon, H P
Clarke, Wm	Marrison, Miss Lissy
Clark, Saml E 2	Miller, G C
Compton, Sergt T A	Miller, Miss Emma
Christie, N B	Monroe, F M
Cox, S H	Matthew, F
Conway, John H	Moon, Edward B
Cochran, James A	Payne, Maj Wm M
Carr, Jane	Pritchard, S C
Crench, Isaac	Penco, Peter W
Christian, Ast Surg. H B	Powell, Peter
Campbell, Miss K	Pool, Capt Nathan A
Chase, Jr	Patterson, Miss Mary F
Collum, A	Peacock, Lewis
Desper, Saml	Parish, Miss Elizabeth
Dunners, Otey	Reynolds, Miss Virginia
Dugless, Peter	Ray, F F 2
Doyle, Miss Mary	Reynold, Capt Jacob W
Desper, John A