

The Food Question.

This is really now the great question to be considered and acted upon. Last week we inserted a speech of Mr. Wyndham Robertson upon the subject, and on the first page of this number we copy an admirable and timely article from correspondent of the Richmond Whig. There never was a time when circumstances demanded a greater effort at an increased production of the staff of life, and we very much doubt whether such demand will occur again during the present or next generation.

A large majority of the farmers of Virginia are in the army, and within a few weeks past, the negroes have been called for to work on fortifications. In this emergency, every man, woman and child, who can contribute anything, should feel called upon to plant corn.

In a very sensible and forcible article in the Richmond Examiner, we find the following:

"The South is in no real peril while it has bread for its army. Let this be supplied, and all the rest is certain. In view of the new turn which affairs have now taken, it is plain that not only patriotism, but interest, require that all the agricultural power of the country should be devoted to the production of grain. Cotton and tobacco will have only a speculative value for years to come; but corn and oats are worth five dollars a bushel as fast as they can be brought out of the ground. Let every man and every woman in the country plant corn now. The wheat crop of this year will be a failure, but it is not too late to replace it with a superabundant harvest of Indian corn. Every part of the Southern country can produce it in perfection and profusion. It is the natural crop of the country. Every farmer in the South will become suddenly rich, if he will this year utterly renounce cotton and tobacco, and plant every acre at his command in corn and oats."

We are glad to know, that it is the purpose of nearly all the farmers left in this part of the country, to raise every bushel of grain they can possibly cultivate, although some few have said, when perplexed by impressions, that they would not raise more than would do their families. In their cooler moments, they think, and will act differently.

Some of our most extensive farmers, we are sorry to learn, have their hands employed at chopping wood for the Saltworks. Salt making has to be attended to, of course, but first let the crops be made, and then let the wood be attended to. We can make out to live a while without salt, but just about the time we begin to learn to live without eating, we die.

The following, from the Examiner of the 9th, will open the eyes of the people to the true condition of things:

"The days grow long and warm, the grass springs green, the earth is filled with life. Now, if ever, is the time to plant the corn that alone can carry the Confederacy through the trial of this year. Yet many planters seed tobacco, which (they think) will not be impressed, and which is worth much money.

We would say one word to them. If the country cannot supply the army with provisions, during this summer, the army cannot remain in Virginia. If it leaves, Virginia must be given up to the Yankees, who will appropriate not only tobacco (contraband of war), but seize everything else that we have, and reduce the country to a wilderness. If the Legislature adjourns without prohibiting the culture of tobacco, and requiring the officers of the law to destroy every leaf which they find growing for twelve months to come, the chance of this State is indeed poor."

The Tax Bill.

We insert in another column a synopsis of the Tax Bill now before Congress, and about which there is such a diversity of opinion as to how the levies should be made to render them the least oppressive and to approximate equality. The Bill, in some shape, will probably have been decided upon before this paper reaches its readers, but still we may be permitted to enlarge a little upon a suggestion of an old financier of our acquaintance.

There is much speculation as to what class of persons the burden should be made to fall the heaviest, and upon what class it should rest the lightest. It should bear the heaviest upon speculators, says one. We say so too, not only because they are speculators, but because their name is legion. But we must get up something practical. In order to come at something like equality, the suggestion referred to is, that a tax of 5 per cent. be levied upon every person worth \$500 or upwards after their debts are paid, including all property, personal and real, household and kitchen furniture, farming utensils, stock, tools, cash on hand, Confederate bonds, and such property as he may have hired, leased or rented, and has obligated himself to pay the taxes on, thereby releasing the owner. In short, all his property and funds, debts due him of every description, except such stocks as are taxed in corporate bodies, and such property as may be hired, rented or leased, and the person hiring, &c., having bound himself to pay the tax.

Also, a tax upon Doctors, Lawyers, Clerks

of Courts, Sheriffs, Constables, Assessors, &c., and upon shoe-makers, tanners, saddlers, carpenters, cabinet-makers, wheel-rights, printers, &c., &c., and all free persons in their employ, of — per cent. on their receipts or salaries. All persons employed as clerks, assistants or agents for merchants or others, and others than farm laborers, being free, should pay a like per centum on their salaries. Also Provost Marshals and their assistants, clerks and guards, or others employed by them, should pay a like tax upon their salaries or pay. Upon all Quartermasters, Commissaries, their clerks, assistants, and all others in their employ, such as teamsters, mechanics, &c., being free, 5 per cent., except such as are actually in the army and in camp.

Bank, Insurance, Telegraph, Manufacturing Companies, Gas, Fire, Marine and other corporate companies, Savings Institutions, &c., should pay 10 per cent. on their profits, and 5 per cent. on their real estate.

These taxes should be paid in Confederate Bonds, or such other money as will be received; and the payer to receive a Confederate Bond, say 9-10ths of the amount paid, payable in — years, at 3 per cent. interest from date, payable annually. No bond to be given for less than \$50, but two or more tax-payers may unite and get a bond, or any tax-payer may pay one-half the amount of his taxes, and be released.

This, with licenses to merchants, bankers, brokers, pedlars, hotel-keepers, distillers, &c., would soon pay the debt that clogs the wheels of Government, and would not be oppressive.

We see it stated in many papers, in some of them extracts from Northern journals, in which it is stated that great confusion prevails at Washington, and great dissatisfaction among the Northern people. Were we to believe all the rumors with which the papers teem, we would hourly expect to hear of a grand row whenever a dozen Yankees get together, or a general wooling in the Yankee Congress. But it is all talk. The Yankees may disagree upon every other subject, but upon the great and vital one of the war, they are united. They doubtless want peace, but they purpose to conquer it. "The vigorous prosecution of the war" is the motto of the Northern people. A few may be found entertaining other views, but they are the exceptions to the general sentiment.

The late Northern Conscription Bill should open our eyes to the true facts of the case. — By this Lincoln expects to add 800,000 men to the 800,000 already under arms. This immense body of men—the largest army the world has ever seen—will be raised and equipped. Of this there is no earthly doubt. Instead of trusting to the delusive rumors of an early peace or general dissatisfaction, we should be preparing for the worst. Never has greater activity prevailed among the Federals, and never have such efforts been put forth for our subjugation as will be put forth within the next few weeks. Our armies, we believe, are fully prepared for them, and will meet them with a gallantry and zeal that numbers cannot overcome.

The Governorship.

We had hoped that the election for Governor would go off without a scramble, and to this end, that some plan would be adopted by which one or two proper nominations would be made. There are now three candidates in the field—viz: Ex Gov. Wm. Smith of Fauquier, Col. G. W. Munford of Richmond, and Col. E. W. Hubbard, of Bowlingham.

As far as we are concerned, we would be satisfied with any gentleman of the proper qualifications, without regard to his party affinities heretofore. But surely this is a very inappropriate time for a scramble for office. The Legislature should have postponed the election till fall, by all means. We are calm and united now, and an active canvass for the gubernatorial chair can produce nothing but excitement and division.

There will probably be other candidates, as several gentlemen have been spoken of, among them Mr. Flournoy, Gen. Floyd, Mr. Goggin, Mr. Russell, Mr. Rivas, Mr. Tucker, &c., any of whom would make a good Governor; but we hope, for the sake of quiet and harmony, that some plan may be adopted by which we may not have more than two candidates, and we believe it would be better still if there were but one—one upon whom we could all unite, and elect him by acclamation.

A Lament on the Naval Glory of the North.

The Tribune has the following lament for the departing naval excellence of the United States:

"The American navy in other days achieved a proud and world-wide fame, which it seems relieved to lose in the present contest. To the long list of its recent disgraces, we have now to add the capture of the gunboat Indiana, whereby the rebels again become undisputed masters of the Mississippi and its tributaries from Vicksburg to Port Hudson. Of our war vessels run by Vicksburg to sweep that important stretch of inland navigation, the Queen of the West was captured by a shore battery or fort, and now the Queen of the West has captured the Indiana. The measure of our disgrace is complete."

Another Steamer In.

Another fine steamer ran into a Confederate port a few nights ago. She brings a very valuable cargo. She was chased by a Yankee cruiser three days, and the port at which she entered was guarded by five Yankees men-of-war. She escaped them all.

The Army of the Potomac—Its Demoralized Condition.

The Washington correspondent of the Missouri Democrat is of the opinion that the great Yankee Army of the Potomac, about which we have heard so much, is now hopelessly demoralized. The reasons for this opinion are given at considerable length, but we have only room for the following:

"Less than three months ago, when General Burnside took command of that army, he found it the most thoroughly organized, compact and valiant body of men the world has ever seen. No man knowing its then condition now presumes or desires to question the fact that no such magnificent and perfectly machine-like army of volunteer men ever marched forth to battle, as was that; its officers thoroughly imbued with the spirit, and heartily acquiescing in the plans of their leader—the soldiers almost worshipping their commander, and enthusiastic for action beyond a parallel in history. Less than ninety days have passed and Gen. Burnside, a gallant soldier, whom everybody loves and honors, attempts to move that splendid army of but yesterday, and it absolutely falls to pieces in his hands, and only the storms of heaven save it from destruction. It is not that the soldiers are wanting either in courage, endurance or patience. These two latter attributes of the true soldier they have exemplified amid disaster, and defeat, as no army of volunteers ever exemplified them before. Their abiding courage was attested in their last encounter with the enemy, when almost every man of those who crossed the fated river believed he was marching into the very jaws of death. Then what is it? Why is this grand army of noble men and gallant soldiers so utterly demoralized in less than ninety days, that it is absolutely powerless to march against the enemy? The facts I have stated, no man in all this broad land attempts to question; and the reasons and causes will force themselves upon us, whether we like them or not. Turn where we will, seek to avoid as we may—refuse to look at them, the facts stare us in the face, and the cause cannot be put aside, however much we may attempt it. The soldiers clamor for the leadership of McClellan. That short sentence tells the whole story. I am perfectly aware of the tender point I touch here; I know full well the opinions of the people of the west, and also of many here upon this subject, and to a very great extent I share them myself; but I am giving you simply the feelings—the animus of the army of the Potomac—what every man who has seen and conversed with the men, who mingled with the soldiers in their camps, visited the maimed in their hospitals, knows beyond peradventure to be the indisputable fact. I think myself that much of their confidence is misplaced; that the campaigns of General McClellan have not been such as to inspire his soldiers with such unquestioning faith in his generalship; but they view it in a different light; it is no debatable question with them. They claim every fight upon the peninsula a brilliant victory for them; every argument to the contrary is offensive and insulting to them, and they assert that Antietam confirms their position; and since that memorable and well-fought and won battle, they idolized him more than ever.

I know it is our duty to stand by every commander placed over our army, hope for the best and speak assuringly for success. — But the present change will be unproductive of good results. Nobody underrates the gallant J. Hooker as a fighting general, and I believe that if the army could place implicit confidence in him, he would give them victory and our cause success. But they have not that confidence; they believe him less competent to handle that vast army than was Burnside; and the additional changes following the resignation of the latter have only increased their distrust and dissatisfaction. Franklin's grand division had the highest possible estimation of their commander, and his removal has had a very disastrous effect upon them. Sumner's resignation points unmistakably to his distrust of Hooker and his unwillingness to serve under him; and the troops of his old division, who followed him with the pride and devotion with which a noble mastiff follows his master, have their distrust fortified; and their dissatisfaction is intense. It is well that the setting in of the winter in its worst form precludes all attempts at military movements for some time to come; for in the present temper of the Army of the Potomac, I should fear the worst consequences to our arms. It has rained for a week past, and just closed up with six or eight inches of snow. Mud, almost bottomless mud, reigns supreme, and the roads are utterly impassable for troops and artillery.

Abolition Philanthropy—Sambo North and Sambo South.

The New York Caucasian has received from "The National Freeman's Relief Society" the following polite invitation: "HE THAT GIVETH SO THE POOR LENDETH TO THE LORD."

NEW YORK, January, 1863.

Dear Sir:—You have it in your power to render the cause of humanity and religion important service. Will you allow this appeal to reach those under your influence, and make such use of the facts here embodied, as to call forth from the benevolent around you substantial aid for this increasingly important work.

Truly yours, &c. CHARLES C. LEIGH.

To this the Caucasian replies, showing up the philanthropy of the Abolitionists and the condition of the negro North and South.

"We quite agree with Mr. Leigh that we 'have it in our power to render the cause of humanity and religion an important service,' and we do not know how we can better do it than by exposing the absurdity and folly of his whole scheme. Mr. Leigh and his associates seem to be very well-meaning, but a very silly set of people, who suppose they are doing God's service by freeing the negroes, and then, after they have removed these poor creatures from the care and protection of their masters, at once setting up a terrible cry as to the pitiful condition in which their own acts placed them. The practical question is, if these negroes are suffering for want of clothing, food, &c., &c., why did Leigh & Co. get them in this condition? Aye, why do they want to get some millions more in the same situation? The North were not called upon to support these negroes as paupers, until Leigh & Co. first made them paupers. He informs us in his circular, that 'the Government' do the most towards supporting

them; but still they need many things to render them comfortable, especially the women and children. That may be; if so, then let those who made them paupers support them. What must be a most extraordinary philanthropy which, not content with the usual misery incident to society, insists upon manufacturing paupers upon which to bestow its benevolence. The Abolitionists get the negroes free, and then turn right about and substantially declare that they are in a worse condition than they were when they found them. If not, why beseech the Northern people to relieve their destitution? The people of the South formerly took care of their negroes without calling upon Northern benevolence, but the Abolitionists acknowledge they cannot. A lot of poor silly women have gone down to Port Royal, Newburn and other places, to teach these negroes. They are sustained, it seems by what Mr. Leigh calls 'the Government'—that is, the Administration of Mr. A. Lincoln—and the sum for the support of these teaching ministers is taken out of the sweat and toil of white workmen. It may be 'humanity.' Mr. Leigh, it may be your sort of 'religion' to do this, but it is not ours.—The negroes were better off morally, physically, and intellectually, before you commenced the absurd effort to turn them into white men. You say nothing about the horrible diseases which your 'philanthropy' has introduced among these poor creatures, nor of the beastly immorality well known to exist at Port Royal, and other 'contraband' depots. That you keep in the back ground of course. You have got the negroes free, and you must do something; but be assured that every step you take in your direction, only tends to kill the negro, and if that is your 'humanity' and 'religion' we wish no part nor lot in it. We advise everybody to give you—not one cent. He that giveth money to the fanatic lendeth to the devil.

Resignation of Gen. Toombs.

RICHMOND, Va., March 6th, 1863.

To the Officers and Men

Of Toombs' Brigade: SOLDIERS!—To-day I cease to command you. I have resigned my commission as Brigadier General in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. The separation from you is deeply painful to me. I do not deem it proper on this occasion to enter into a detail of the causes which impose this duty upon me. It is only necessary now for me to say, that, under existing circumstances, in my judgment, I could no longer hold my commission under President Davis with advantage to my country, or to you, or with honor to myself. I cannot separate from you without the expression of my warmest attachment to you and admiration of your noble and heroic conduct, from the beginning of this great struggle to the present time. You left your wives and children, kindred, friends, homes, property and pursuits at the very first call of your country, and entered her military service as soon as she was ready to accept you—and from that day to this, you have stood, with but a few brief intervals, within sight of the public enemy, or within hearing of his guns. Upon your arrival in Virginia, in the summer of 1861, you were incorporated into the army of the Potomac; you have shared with that army in all of its toils, its sufferings, its hardships and perils, and contributed at least your full share to its glorious career. You have been in the front, the post of danger and of honor, on all the great battle fields in Northern Virginia and Maryland, from Yorktown to Sharpsburg; neither disheartened by the death of comrades and friends, or disease, or toil, or privations, or sufferings, or neglect, nor intimidated by the greatly superior numbers of the enemy whom you have often been called upon to meet and vanquish; you have on all occasions displayed that heroic courage which has shed undying lustre upon yourselves, your State, your country, and her just and holy cause.

Nearly one thousand of the brave men originally composing your four regiments, have fallen, killed or wounded, in battle; your dead you have buried on the battle field, shed a manly tear over them, left 'glory to keep eternal watch' over their graves, and passed on to new fields of duty and danger.

Though it may seem to be the language of extravagant eulogy, it is the truth, and fit, on this occasion, to be spoken. You have fairly won the right to inscribe upon your tattered war flags, the proud boast of Napoleon's old guard, 'This brigade knows how to die, but not to yield to the foe.' Courage in the field is not your only claim to proud distinction.—Since I took command over you, I have not preferred a charge against, or arraigned one of you before a court martial. Your conduct never demanded of me such a duty. You can well appreciate the feelings with which I part from such a command. Nothing less potent than the requirements of a soldier's honor could, with my consent, wrench us asunder, while a single banner of the enemy floated over one foot of our country. Soldiers! comrades! friends! Farewell!

R. TOOMBS.

A Bold Voice Against Lincoln.

Just before the adjournment of the Northern Congress, and while the bill indemnifying the President for suspending the writ of habeas corpus was pending, Mr. WALL, of New Jersey, made a stirring protest against investing Lincoln with the powers of Dictator. Speaking of the effect of this bill, he said: "He considered the bill as the most dangerous to the liberties of the people. With the consent of the President, it would give the President more than dictatorial powers, and would open the iron doors of the batteries of the country to immerse innocent men. It was the embodiment of a pestilent heresy that the power of suspending the habeas corpus writ was vested in the President. The last hope of liberty would be gone if this bill was passed, and all the old landmarks of the Constitution would disappear. During the last two years every right of the citizen had been violated. Men were imprisoned without a cause, and refused bail, and incarcerated for months. Every constitutional outpost was driven in, and every personal guarantee of the citizen crushed away; and all this by a government professing to fight for the Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws. He himself had been within the grasp of this arbitrary power, imprisoned without cause, and released; and to this day he had never been able to learn any cause. He remembered what a shudder went over the civilized world when King Bomba imprisoned a few young men in the dungeons of Naples; and though the dun-

geons were filled, the vengeance of an outraged people rose to vindicate their right, and to-day Naples was redeemed, and the Bourbon family driven into exile. Vengeance was certain, sooner or later, to overtake the oppressor.

This bill proposed to shelter the President and his subordinates from the consequences of their unlawful acts and to legalize illegality. The right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus was exclusively legislative, and was never granted, or intended to be granted, to the Executive. It was a libel on the wisdom and patriotism of our fathers to suppose that the Executive had any such power as to suspend this writ.

The Tax Bill.

The committee on Ways and Means has reported a tax bill to the House of Representatives. The Richmond Whig gives the following synopsis of it:

The first section declares that a tax of one per centum shall be levied and collected on the value of all real and personal property, money and credit held on the 1st of January, 1863, except such as may be employed in a licensed business or the profits of which are especially taxed.

Every profession or trade is specially taxed: Bankers \$300 license and 10 per cent. on the gross amount of profits.

Auctioneers \$25 license and one per cent. on gross amount of sales.

Wholesale dealers in liquors \$100 license, and one per cent. on gross amount of sales.

Distillers \$100 license and ten per cent. on gross amount of sales.

Hotel-keepers \$20 license and ten per cent. on gross amount of profits.

Keepers of eating houses the same.

Brokers \$100 license and 10 per cent. on gross amount of profits.

Livery stables \$25 license and one per cent. on gross profits.

Cattle brokers \$25 license and one per cent. on sales.

Butchers and Bakers the same.

Peddlers \$50 license and one per cent. on sales.

Apothecaries \$25 license and one per cent. on gross amount of sales.

Lawyers and Doctors \$25 license, each, and one per cent. on gross amount of receipts.

Confectioners \$25 license and one per cent. on gross amount of sales. On salaries under \$1,500 one per cent., and for all excess 2 per cent.

Banks, Savings Institutions, Insurance Companies, Gas, Fire, Marine, Telegraph and Manufacturing Companies, 14 per cent. on dividends and sums added to surplus funds. Insurance Companies, in addition shall pay at the end of each quarter one per cent. on gross receipts.

Property exempted from taxation:—head of a family with less than \$1,000 value, schools, colleges, &c. Fire engines, books and family portraits and pictures, farming implements, agricultural products in hands of producer.

General Butler on Jeff Davis' Proclamation.

A Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati "Gazette" tells this story: "General Butler has told friends here the course he would have pursued with reference to the proclamation of Jeff. Davis against him had it reached New Orleans while he was still in command. He would have sent a rebel general and several other officers then in his hands to Ship Island, with orders that upon receipt of authentic information that a hair of Butler's head or any of his officers had been touched, these rebel prisoners should all be hung at once. 'And,' adds Butler, 'Jeff Davis knows me well enough to believe that what I promised I should perform.' He knows that a Massachusetts man who dared to vote sixty-four times for him at the Charleston Convention, would dare to do anything."

The Capture of the Ship Jacob Bell by the Florida.

The rebel privateers are keeping up a vigorous campaign on the sea. The Florida captured the ship Jacob Bell on the 12th ult., in latitude 24, longitude 65, bound from China to the port of New York. The Jacob Bell had a cargo of 22,000 packages of tea, 2,500 rolls of matting, 5,000 boxes of fire crackers, 400 boxes of fans, 3,000 mats of cassia and 210 boxes of camphor—the whole being valued at about a million of dollars; upon which the United States Government lost over \$175,000 or \$200,000 in revenue, as that would be about the duty on the goods aboard. The rebel privateer burned the vessel, and transferred her passengers and crew to a Danish vessel, which conveyed them to St. Thomas. The United States steamer Alabama and the ship Shepherd Knapp were at the latter port on the 20th ult., and were then about to start on a cruise in search of the privateers Alabama and Florida. Great fears were entertained by the United States merchant ships at St. Thomas of the rebel privateers.—N. Y. Herald.

The Man who won't pay the Printer.

A country editor, who works for glory and prints on trust, is responsible for the following anatomical aspirations on the man who won't pay the printer: "May he have sore eyes, and a chestnut burr for an eye stone. May every day of his life be more despotic than the Day of Algiers. May he never be permitted to kiss a handsome woman. May his boots leak, his gun hang fire, and his fishing lines break. May his coffee be sweetened with fire, and his soup seasoned with spiders. May his friend run off with his wife, and his children take the whooping cough. May his cattle die of murrain, and his pigs destroy his garden. May a regiment of cats enter upon his window each night. May his cows give sour milk and rancid butter. In short, may his daughter marry a one-eyed editor, and his business go to ruin, and he go to—the Legislature."

It is asserted that Vice President Hamlin has gone northward for the sole purpose of obtaining officers for a negro brigade which is being raised in Louisiana, the officers of which are to be commissioned by the Governor of Maine.

Ninety-six thousand five hundred and sixty-two bales of government cotton have been sold in New York since the blockade of the Southern ports, averaging \$208 per bale, and ranging from 29 cents to \$1204 cents per pound.