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A. G. BOYD, PUBLISHER "COMMON CONSENT IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT." TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

THE LIGHT OF THE HEARTH.

She comes with fairy footsteps;
Softly the echoes fall;
And her shadow plays like a summer shade,
Across the garden wall.
The golden light is dancing bright,
Mid the 'mazes of her hair,
And her fair young locks are waving free,
To the wooing of the air.

Like a sportive fawn she boundeth,
So gleefully along,
As the wild young bird she carolleth,
The burden of her song.
The summer flowers are clustering thick,
Around her dancing feet,
And on her cheek the summer breeze,
Is breathing soft and sweet.

The very sunbeams seem to linger,
Above her holy head,
And the wild flowers at her coming,
Their richest fragrance shed.
And O, how lovely light and fragrance,
Mingle in the light within!
O, how fondly do they nestle,
Round the soul that knows no sin.

She comes, the spirit of our childhood—
A thing of mortal birth,
Yet breathing still a breath of Heaven,
To redeem her from the earth.
She comes in bright-robed innocence,
Unsoiled by blot or blight,
And passeth by our wayward path,
A gleam of angel light.

O, blessed things are children!
The gift of heavenly love!
They stand betwixt our worldly hearts,
And better things above,
They link us with the spirit world,
By purity and truth,
And keep our hearts still fresh and young,
With the presence of their youth.

THE VOICE THAT WINS ITS WAY.

If words could satisfy the heart,
The heart might find less care;
But words, like summer birds, depart,
And leave but empty air.

A little said, and truly said,
Can deeper joy impart,
Than hosts of words which reach the head,
But never touch the heart.

A voice that wins its sunny way.
A lonely home to cheer,
Hath oft the fewest words to say,
But, O, those few, how dear!

From Richmond by way of England.

Letter from a Special Correspondent of the London Times at the Rebel Capital.

RICHMOND, WEDNESDAY, Oct. 8.

"The spirit of liberty in the Southern States is more high and haughty than in the Northern.—In the Carolinas and Virginia they have a vast multitude of slaves. Where this is the case in any part of the world, those who are free are by far the most proud and jealous of their freedom. Freedom is to them not only an enjoyment, but a kind of rank and privilege.

These people of the Southern colonies are much more strongly and with a higher and more stubborn spirit attached to liberty than those to the northward. Such were all ancient commonwealths; such were our Gothic ancestors; such in our days the Poles; such will be all masters of slaves.

THE DRAFT.

As for the draft in Maryland, it will be much worse than a farce. There are few able-bodied men left, and of those who remain how many will fight for the Union? If any such there be, and they are ever led into action by Federal officers, how many of those officers will survive the first melee which they share with their disaffected troops? Along the Potomac there was, eighteen months ago, a very large proportion of the population averse to secession, reluctant to embark upon it, and loyal to the old flag. But with the war came the Federal troops, squatting first upon Maryland soil and preying upon its entrails, without offering one farthing in compensation for cattle and sheep, hogs and poultry, maize and wheat, oats and hay, indiscriminately seized and devoured, to say nothing of horses stolen, houses and fences torn down and burnt, havoc and rapine scattered broadcast over the land. Next came Virginia's turn. Starting from Fortress Monroe, and running westward to Winchester, scarcely a house within fifty miles of the Potomac but bears evidence of Yankee greed and spoliation. In nearly every county the court-house, in which the assizes for each county used to be held, is rudely demolished, doors and windows torn down while within, upon the white walls, in every shape of handwriting, are recorded the autographs of the Vandals whose handiwork surrounds the beholder. Stories upon stories have reached me detailing how the wives of Federal officers, represented by my exasperated informants as having usually "hailed from" detested New England, forced their way behind the Federal troops into the fine family mansions of the Old Dominion, and personally superintended the abstraction and transmission northward of old family china, silver, glass, pictures, books, furniture and piano-fortes. A Virginian lady, who remonstrated with one of these Yankee hen-harriers, engaged in packing up valued family china, was met with the rejoinder. "You are a rebel, and have no rights that I am bound to respect; your property, therefore, is mine!"

PROSPECTS OF RESTORING THE UNION.

The upshot of this system of restoring the Union will readily suggest itself to the reader.—I have traveled far and wide through Virginia; I have conversed with mens women, striplings, and children, in that State and in Maryland; I have seen men, formerly substantial and thriving, whose everything has been devoured by the Federals; but never in one single instance have I heard a word of regret by reason of the war, a timid note sounded in regard to its issue, a sigh breathed over the departed Union, a ghost of a desire expressed in favor of compromise or reconstruction. On the contrary, one universal chorus echoes through the length and breadth of the land. "The net is broken, and we are delivered!" Mr. EVERETT and his votaries, who still believe in imprisoned loyalty as existing in the South, might as well search in the British isles for a man who desired them to be annexed to France. So united, so homogeneous a community as the States of the Southern Confederacy finds no parallel in our own annals. No war that England has waged for a hundred years has met with such cordial, unanimous, undivided support. The war against the French Republic had its CHARLES FOX; the war against Russia its RICHARD COBDEN.—There is no such character in the Southern States. The victory of the Federals in this exasperated struggle means, not the defeat of the Southern armies—not the possession of Richmond, Charleston, Savanna, Mobile and New-Orleans, which would no more lead to a conclusion of the war than the seizure of the Isle of Man. A Federal victory means nothing on earth but the extermination and annihilation of every man, woman and child in the Southern Confederacy. There is no passion, no frenzy, in the universal language.—The intensity of the hate flushes the cheek and clinches the teeth, but finds little expression in feeble words. If anything, the exhuberance of animosity is more perceptible in the flashing eyes and eager earnestness of the women; but the settled and unconquerable firmness of the men requires nothing to be added to it. The possibility of Richmond's falling is calmly discussed, and preparations have long been made for such a contingency. Surprise is expressed that the Federals have not long ago possessed themselves of several other Southern cities as well as New-Orleans. The possession of a capital city in these days of railroads in a very different thing from what it used to be in the days of Wagram and Jena.—Great suffering might be inflicted on women and children if Mobile and Charleston fell—suffering which there is only too much reason to fear would be most acceptible to the Federals, judging from the record of their deeds during this last year and a half. But every considerable city in the South might be reduced to ashes without changing the mood or undermining the resolution of the feeble heart there be in the Southern Confederacy.

THE WAR SINCE SEPT. 1.

It remains for me to recapitulate from Southern sources the narrative of the month's proceedings which followed the restoration of Gen. MCCLELLAN to supreme command on the occasion of the headlong discomfiture of the forces commanded by Gen. POPE. In connection with these battles the traveler's attention is called to a crowd eagerly surrounding the store of the principal bookseller in this town. Upon examination he will discover hanging in the window a coat, to which is attached the following inscription:

"This coat was taken from the wardrobe of Maj. Gen. JOHN POPE, captured at Catlett's Station by Maj. Gen. J. E. B. STUART, and directed to be placed at WEST & JOHNSTON'S with this inscription:

"Taken from the man who said he never expected to see anything but the backs of the rebels."

It will be remembered that Gen. MCCLELLAN resumed the chief command of the Federal armies on the 2d of September, on the 14th of that month he fought his first battle in Maryland, called the South Mountain, against the rear guard of the Confederates. No one is so willing to give McCLELLAN credit for bringing his raw and demoralized troops into action upon so early a day as the Confederates themselves. Gen LEE had witnessed their panic route after the battle at the end of August; had seen POPE'S shattered colums driven like huddled sheep into Washington; and it was not unreasonable to suppose that a considerable time would elapsed before they would again leave its shartering fortresses. The only step by which it was possible to inspire confidence was taken, and Gen. MCCLELLAN was reappointed. To him, and to him alone, is due the credit for reorganization and reinspiritin his broken hosts, and it is freely accorded to him in this section of the country.

It appears to have been Gen. LEE'S pincipal design, when he crossed into Maryland, to seize Harper's Ferry, and to test the spirit of the Marylaaders by his temperate proclamation. In order to be unmoleated in his attack on Harper's Ferry, he threatened Pennsylvania from Hagerstown, throwing Gov. CURTIN into hysterics. He had little serious expectation of being able to reach Pennsylvania, but if Gen. POPE had been continued in command, and Maryland had been more free to act, there can be no doubt that Baltimore and Washington would have fallen. But when MCCLELLAN took the field, and the army's confidence again sprang aloft, Gen. LEE had no other purpose on the soil of Maryland than to capture Harper's Ferry. Gen. JACKSON, after reaching Hagerstown, fell suddenly and silently back upon Harper's Ferry, and enveloped it closely upon every side.

THE REBELS OUTNUMBERED AT ANTIETAM.

At this moment the fame of McCLELLAN'S early approach, with the design of reinforcing Harper's Ferry, overtook Gen. LEE. He immediately threw Gen. G. HILL'S Division of from 12,000 to 15,000 men back to a strong position upon South Mountain, where, on Sept. 14, Gen. McCLELLAN attacked them with not less than 70,000 men.—The Southerners fell slowly back before this imposing force, but not without inflicting upon it such a loss that it was not till Sept. 17 that McCLELLAN forced on the momentous battle of Antietam Creek. The morning of the 14th found Gen. LEE strongly postad, but with not more than 40,000 men when the battle commenced; For once the Federal papers, which are in the habit of representing that their armies are but a handful of men fighthing against overwhelming hordes of rebels, do not claim that their alleged victory was won against superior numbers of their opponents. How great the disparity was at the commencement of the battle is probably known to Gen. McCLELLAN. It is believed by President DAVIS, whose calm and dispassionate opinion will command more respect in England than the rhapsodies of the Federals, that the Southerners were at first outnumbered more than three to one.

At noon the ubiquitous Jackson threw himself and his division (possibly 12,000 men) upon the right wing of the Federals. He had previously forced the garrison of Harper's Ferry to surrender to a man, taking all their arms, munitions of war, and cannon; and, though delayed longer than was expected, he arrived soon enough to attack McClellan. The ground won in the morning by the Federals, who were in tremendous force, upon their right wing, was swiftly recovered, and held until the end of the day. At four in the afternoon, Gen. A. P. Hill's Division came up and joined the Confederate right. It was well that Gen. Burnside's advance on the Federal left was so long delayed, and was eventually made with overwhelming numbers. The day closed with Gen. Burnside clinging closely to the bridge, beyond which he could not advance, with Gen. Jackson on the same ground as the Confederates held in the morning, upon as level and drawn a battle as history exhibits. But it was fought for half the day with 45,000 men on the Confederate side, and for the remaining half with not more than an aggregate of 70,000 men against a host which is admitted to have consisted of 130,000 men, and may have been much more. No battle of the war has done more to convince the Confederates that it matters little what is the disparity of numbers between themselves and their foes.—The old and insolent contempt of their enemy originally held by the Southerners in this war is confirmed and ratified by the experience of the last nineteen months.

This, then, is one of the battles with respect to which Gen McClellan, admitting a loss on his own side of 15,000 men, estimates his enemy's loss at about 25,000 dead wounded and missing. The reader who remembers the position occupied by Gen. Lee's forces, will smile at Gen. McClellan's credulity. True it is that many Confederates, who have more regard for Gen. McClellan than is felt by his own Government, affirm that the dispatches put forth in his name are rarely his own fabrication. I am told by the highest authority that the official statement, comprising the most minute details of the Confederate loss at the battle of Antietam Creek, estimates the whole loss in dead, wounded and missing at 6,000 men. Another circumstance is noticeable. A Federal loss of infinite magnitude would evoke no sigh of sympathy, no moment of sadness, except so far as it was supposed to defer the restoration of the Union. But the whole Confederacy bewails the 6,000 victims at Antietam Creek with brotherly affection and sympathy. Nor is that appalling indifference which amazes and paralyzes the spectator in Washington and New York affected here.

Scarcely a lady but wears mourning, proud to display that she has lost a relative fighting in a cause dearer than life; scarcely a person but speaks sorrowfully and with affection of a loss which seems to them appalling, though not much more than one-third of that inflicted upon their *poco curante* foe. That the battle in question was no Federal victory is best evinced by the inaction on both sides on the following day. Thursday passed and no attempt to press Gen Lee was made notwithstanding the enormous numerical superiority of his foe. At length, slowly and unmolested, on the night of Thursday, having effected the reduction of Harper's Ferry, and fought on equal terms with his enemy, the Southern army was drawn to the southern bank of the Potomac without loosing a cannon or wasting a life.

A SUPPRESSED INCIDENT.

We come next to an episode in the war which is naturally ignored by Mr. Stanton and the Northern Press. It appears that, discovering that his enemy had retreated across the river, Gen. McClellan, on Saturday, the 20th of September, threw some 3,000 across in pursuit. The movement was observed by Gen. A. P. Hill, who left a few field pieces in position, from which he fired feebly upon the advancing Northerners giving orders to his men to retreat hastily as they approached. The Federals rushed on the guns, and followed eagerly after what they imagined to be a broken and panicstruck foe. But when they had got about a mile and a half, Gen. Hill opened upon them with grape and cannister, and the slaughter is described as having been the most appalling which the war has witnessed. I am assured that not one-tenth of the invading force escaped—that the river was litterally choked with the dead and dying, who had rushed into the stream and struggled frantically with each other to escape the pursuit. It is evident that the lesson taught on that day to Gen. McClellan has borne bitter fruit, and that his pursuit will hence forth be more wary. In fact, there is great reason to suppose that his next move will be, not against Gen. Lee at Winchester, but against Richmond by some new approach.

REBEL PLANS FOR THE WINTER.

We hear that a large force is gathering in Hampton Roads, add it is thought that the next approach against Richmond will be by the South bank of the River James. With his right resting on the river, and his left thrown Southwards into the interior, McClellon may attempt another advance. It would ill become me to disclose the preparations which await him at Drury's Bluff, (called by Federal papers Fort Darling,) and elsewhere; but it is safe to assert that he will find the lower bank more difficult of access than he has already found the upper. Nothing is more likely than that the withdrawal of many troops from before Gen. Lee will open Maryland again to the latter. The Federals have just as much as they can do to keep roofs over their heads in Washington during what remains of fighting weather. The mysterious movements of the Northern newspapers that some great movement is in contemplation excite little interest or apprehension here. The experience of the past gives such confidence about the future that it is felt no Northern army will ever capture Richmond without such an effusion of its own blood as would change the howl of Northern exultation into a nation's wail of woe.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH.

Well may a nation be confident of winning its independence which can exhibit such spectacles as every day produces wherever a Southern army is in the field. There, in poverty, hunger, and dirt, shoeless, with shirts ragged and rent, often without hats, their feet bleeding as they drag their weary limbs through dust and briar, are serving in the ranks the gentlemen of the *sangree azul* of the South! Many a man who, until the commencement of this war, had scarcely a thought beyond the Cafe Foy and the Boulevards of Paris and to whose morning toilet every diversity of cosmetic was as necessary as water, has for month been marching under a musket, without one single change of raiment, feeding often on green maize and raw pork, lying at night on the bare earth, with a single blanket between him and the canopy of heaven. Where all are fearless it were invidious to select one State in preference to another as bearing away the palm; but it seems generally conceded that Gen. Butler has converted the sons of Louisiana mothers, the husband and brothers of Louisiana wives and sisters, into demons of more than earthly ferocity.

It is but too probable that, with unopposed command of the sea and the great rivers during their Autumn floods, the South may lose thousands more of her sons, in addition to that great sea of blood which has already been cheerfully poured out in her defense. But let her be left without a single city or village, with nothing but her internal fastnesses and her immense area of territory, and though every man in the North under fifty were to take the field, they would be insufficient ever to make such a nation as the South to lie at the feet of her enemy.

THE WAR A WAR OF CLASSES.

The two races have come into collision; on one side an aristocracy, agricultural, sparsely settled, given to field sports, living in the saddle; on the other, a democracy, which have been traveling downward for eighty years, which is numerically four times as strong as its opponent, which breathes only an atmosphere of dollars, and has no aspirations beyond commercial gain. Which is the more fit for the conduct of war? It is not too much to say that, but for their gunboats, the Yankees would, before this time, in American phrase, have been "whipped out of their boots" by a population scarcely more than one-fourth of their number. But in the South, in spite of its lawless population, a certain rough discipline is not impossible, and an incident which occurred two days ago in this city has never been attempted in the Northern hosts—the execution by shooting of two deserters, and the administration of fifty lashes to a third. Such executions have already not been unfrequent in the South; whereas, in the North, after the defeat of Pope, hundreds of deserters crossed the Potomac everp night, of whom it is not improbable that forty per cent, have again enlisted, accepting the enormous bounties proffered by the North. If any man desires to guage the reckless and extravagant waste which has, from the first, characterized all the Federal operations in the field, let him notice the fact that on both sides the Potomac it is hard to meet a man or boy among the amphibious population who has not a Federal jacket; cap or pair of trowsers. It is safe also to assert that, in mere practice, the Federal officers, naval and military, have fired away more powder than has been expended in anger by the South.

Agricultural Department.

Agriculture is the most Healthful, the most Useful, and the most Noble Employment of Man.—*Washington.*

*** Communications upon Agricultural subjects will be thankfully received.

From the Genesee Farmer.

Cultivation of Peas, &c.

EDS. GENESEE FARMER:—Your article, headed "Premiums for Short Essays," has just attracted my attention. Among the subjects suggested by you, I observe one "on the cultivation of peas." I have had singular success in the cultivatson of that vegetable, and if others will adopt my method, they will find it a most advantageous one. It is as follows:

Dig a trench one foot deep, and then fill it again with good soil taken from the surface, to within six inches of the top. This, of course, leaves the trench still six inches deep. Plant the peas in the trench thus prepared, and cover them with six inches of good soil, also taken from the surface. By the time the peas come up, the trench will have settled about two inches, and this is to be brought nearly even by subsequent hoeings. I say nearly even because there should always be, in our dry climate, a hollow left to catch and hold the rains.

Now for the results. The peas will make their appearance notwithstanding the great depth of planting; there need be no fear about that. They will grow rapidly when started, will not be affected by drought, and will bear three times, as long, and more than three times the quantity of peas planted in the ordinary way. There will be blossoms and mature fruit on the vines at the same time, and the vines will not put on the usual yellow, sickly appearance at the roots which is so soon followed by the drying up of the whole stock. If the soil is free from clay, it is better to cover them eight inches, even, rather than six.

Let those try the experiment who have been accustomed to plant in the ordinary way, and they will rejoice that they were subscribers to the *Genesee Farmer.*

Now, Mr. Editor, will you or some of your readers, inform me of the best method of preparing and using the white shell mark so common in this State. I have a large, and I have no doubt valuable bed of it on my farm, but I have injured almost everything I have put it on, because I did not know how to prepare it. I have been told that by letting it lie two or three years exposed to the sun and frost, that it will be valuable; but if any of your readers know of a method by which I may save all that time, I should be obliged. F. M.

Improving old Apple Orchards.

It may be said that it is easier and cheaper to get new trees from the nurseries. We would not discourage any one from planting young trees of good varieties; we believe that a properly managed apple orchard, of the right sorts, is one of the most prolific sources of wealth upon a farm; but still, those who have vigorous trees of worthless sorts had far better re-graft them than to cut them down, or to let them remain as they are.—More fruit can be obtained in a given time from one of these regrafted old trees, than from a young tree: for it is a well established fact that grafting a young twig upon an old stock has the effect of making it flower earlier than it would otherwise do, in consequence of the accumulation of sap in the old stock becoming beneficial to the twig, and giving a check, at the same time, to its tendency to produce leaves. "As an example," says McIntosh, "if a seedling apple be grafted the second year of its growth on the extremities of a full grown tree, or even on a stock of five or six years from the seed, it will show blossom buds the second or third year; whereas, if it had remained ungrafted it might not have shown buds for ten or twenty years." Another advantage of this mode of grafting is, that the organizable matter deposited in the roots and the trunk of the old tree is thrown with great force into the scions, causing them to make strong and vigorous shoots. The late George Olmstead, of Hartford, Ct., states in an early volume of the *Horticulturist*, that by regrafting an old apple-tree—beginning to graft the top of the tree first, and so working down, and completing the process in three successive years—he had obtained from this single tree, in six years from the time he began to graft, twenty-eight and a half bushels of excellent fruit.

There are many old apple orchards in the country, which, though of good varieties, yield no profit to their owners, simply because they have been neglected. Such orchards may easily and speedily be restored to abundant and profitable fruitfulness. Some time before the sap begins to flow in spring, thin out the heads of the trees by lopping off all decayed, stunted, diseased, crooked, or superfluous branches, but avoid the common error of cutting off large limbs, when it is not absolutely necessary. Then in the spring, if the orchard has been in grass for some time, put on a good dressing of manure, and plow it under as deep as you can go without disturbing the roots of the trees. The best way is to throw a thin furrow slice up towards the row of trees turning towards you and finishing in the centre between two rows. The plow can be put a little deeper each furrow as you recede from the trees.

If you have not manure to spare, spread on old leached ashes, at the rate of about one hundred bushels per acre, or half the quantity of unleached ashes; and if a bushel or so of plaster, and ten to twenty bushels of lime were added, so much the better. Let there be harrowed thoroughly in, and the ground worked into as good tilth as possible. Then sow the land to peas, and when in blossom, plow them in. The ashes, lime and plaster furnish all the mineral elements required by the trees—and of which the soil has probably been impoverished by the removal of the fruit—and the peas will supply a large amount of organic matter. By growing nothing among the trees for a year or two, and keeping the ground clean, sowing a non-exhausting crop and plowing it under, the soil may be rendered very rich, and the orchard fruitful.

We have been asked whether Peruvian guano would be good for an old apple orchard, the soil of which is sandy. We have no doubt it would prove beneficial. Peruvian guano, however, tho' it contains more or less of *all the elements of plants*, is comparatively deficient in potash and soda.—Many sandy soils are naturally poor in these alkalies, and the removal of the apple crop from year, and of the other crops which are—but should not be—raised and removed from the land, also carry with them large quantities of potash and soda, so that it is probable that, relative to other plant food, these sandy soils on which apple orchards have stood for many years, are deficient of that which Peruvian guano, of all naturally manures, supplies in least quantity. If the orchard could have a dressing of fifty bushels of unleached ashes, per acre, and an equal quantity of lime plowed under early in the spring, and then a top dressing of two hundred pounds of Peruvian guano, sown broadcast and harrowed thoroughly in, and be then sown to peas, which are plowed under when in blossom, or eaten off, on the land, by hogs, the soil would be more speedily enriched than if the guano had not been used. Still, plowing under a good coat of barn yard manure, will, in most cases be a cheaper mode of renovating the site of an old orchard than any other plan we can think of.—*Genesee Farmer.*

The Saxon Sheep.

In 1765, the Elector of Saxony, believing that the sheep which were bred upon the plains of Germany would be much improved by a cross with the Spanish Merinos, imported one hundred rams and two hundred ewes from the best flocks of Spain. Other importations were subsequently made, and the prejudice of the Saxon Sheep masters against the "new sheep," was at length overcome, and the improvement of the native flock was, rapid and decided. Measurements of the Saxon wool show the diameter to be, in some cases, no more than 1 850 of an inch with 2700 serrations to the inch. The felting qualities of the wool are very superior, and its value, judging from the price in market, is superior to that of any other variety of sheep. The greatest care and attention is paid by the Saxon sheep masters to the selection of the choicest of the lambs for the purpose of breeding, and much of their success is undoubtedly due to this. The fleece of the Saxon is not as heavy as that of the French or Spanish Merino, and they do not so well endure the rigors of Norrhern winters.

Alderneys.

There is a general impression, that the males of this breed of cattle become vicious at a much earlier age than any other—to prevent this, a gentleman of this city, who has been a number of years engaged in rearing them, says:—"I have never yet had a vicious bull; when the least disposition is shown for the mastery, we make it a point on every occasion of going near him, to make him give the road and get out of the way. If he were to show decided symptoms of rebellion, I would get him into a corner and then order two men to give him a sound threshing with long hickory ox goads. You may smile at this, but I have known a bull beginning to be vicious, completely cowed by the operation. A bold front and a big stick are very important, when the first symptoms are exhibited. Some of my bulls had attained the age of six years, but were alway quiet. If positively dangerous, to prevent goring they ought to have an iron bar connecting the horne."

ANECDOTE OF LORD BROUGHAM.—Lord Campbell related of Lord Brougham what he calls a "napery" anecdote, and which has been attributed to meaner authorities. Mr. Brougham, while a youth, resolved on performing a pedestrian tour to the Trossachs. At Stirling he "put up" at the house of a lady who had dealings with his father. Everything was arranged for the comfort of the futuro Chancellor till the morning, when a loud knocking was heard at the door of the young barrister. "Get up. Maister Henry," cried the old hostess, "thore's two Southrons come to their breakfast—your sheet is the only tablecloth we've got in the house, and we wad like to be decent."—*The Castles of Edingburg.*

THE MEMBER OF CONGRESS AT LARGE FROM ILLINOIS.—There is considerable inquiry as to what is meant by the term "member of Congress at large from Illinois." It is this: The abolitionists in the Legislature gerry-mandered the State—laid it off into districts before they knew for certain how many members would be allotted to it. They thought it would be thirteen—it got fourteen.—Under these circumstances, as the Legislature had not convened, the whole State was called upon to choose the fourteenth man, there being no district allotted to him. At the next session of the Legislature the State will be redistricted for fourteen members.—*Cin. Enq.*,

Make the soil rich, pulverize it well, and it will be productive.

ROBBERIES OF WAR.

Common robberies are induced by want; but war commits them by choice, and often robs only to ravage. A man who rushes to the highway to rob, maddened by the sight of a famished family, may plead powerful temptation. But armies rob, burn and destroy in the coolest malice. See a file of men, well fed and well clothed by a great and powerful nation, proceed on a foraging party. They enter a retired vale, where a peaceful old man, by hard handed toil, supports his humble family. The officer coolly points with his sword to the few stacks of hay and grain, laid up for winter. Remonstrances are vain—tears are vain. They bear off his only supply; take his cow, his pet lamb; add insult to oppression, and leave the ruined family to an almshouse or starvation.—Aye, but the poor old man was an enemy, as the war phrase is, and the haughty soldiery claim merit for forbearance, because they did not conclude with burning down his house.

The seizure or destruction of public stores, is not less robbery. A nation has no more right to steal from a nation, than an individual has to steal from an individual. In principle, the act is the same; in magnitude, the sin is greater. All the private robberies in a thousand years are not a tithe of the robberies of one war. Next to killing, it is the very object of each party to burn and destroy by sea, and ravage and lay waste on land. It is a malign and inexcusable barbarity, and constitutes a stupendous mass of theft.

In one of the Punic wars, Carthage, with 100,000 houses, was burnt and destroyed so that not a house remained. The plunder carried away by the Romans, in precious metals and jewels alone, is reported to have been equal to *five millions of pounds of silver.* Who can compute the number of similar events, from the destruction of Jerusalem to that of Moscow? Arson, that is the setting fire to an inhabited dwelling, is in most countries, punishable by death. But more of this has been done in some single wars, than has been committed privately, since the world began.—When some villain sets fire to a house and consumes it, what public indignation! what zeal to bring to justice the perpetrator of nights buildings are fired, what general panic! Yet how small the distress, compared to that which follows the burning of an entire city. In one case, the houseless still find shelter, the laborer obtains work, the children have food. But oh, the horrors of a general ruin! Earthquake is no worse.

It should not be overlooked, that a great part of the private robberies in Christendom, may be traced to the deterioration of morals, caused by war. Thousands of pirates received their infamous education in national ships. Thousands of thieves were disbanded soldiers. War taught these men to disregard the rights of property, to trample upon justice and refuse mercy. Even if disposed to honest labor, which a military life always tends to render unpalatable, the disbanded soldier often finds himself unable to find employment. The industry of his country has been paralyzed by the war, and the demand for labor slowly recurs. The discharged veteran therefore is often compelled to steal or starve.

Thus war, by its own operations, involves continual and stupendous thefts, and by its unavoidable tendencies, multiplies offenders, who in time of peace prey upon community.—*Dr. Malcom.*

WAR AND MASONRY.

An incident connected with the last war between this country and Great Britain, shows in a strong light the influence of Masonry to soften the asperities attendant upon these unhappy relations.

On the 30th of July, 1813, the British, in two sloops of war, three gunboats, and about forty batteaux, loaded with troops, sailors and marines about fourteen hundred in all, landed at Plattsburgh.

There were no American troops at Plattsburgh at the time, with the exception of about one hundred militia. The officer in command of the British army assured the civil authorities of Plattsburgh, that private property should be respected, and that citizens not found in arms, should remain unmolested. Yet the promises were no sooner made than violated. The enemy destroyed the public buildings, wantonly burnt two storehouses of Peter Sailly, and one belonging to Z. N. Platt, and took and carried off several thousand dollars worth of goods.

The dwelling houses of several of the citizens were rifled of everything valuable, and the Masonic Hall was stripped of all its contents, and the Jewels and Records carried to Montreal. The Masons of Montreal, hearing this, made a representation of the facts to the Commander-in-Chief, who promptly ordered the property taken from the Masonic Hall in Plattsburg, to be surrendered to the masons of Montreal, and by them it was safely transmitted to the lodge in Plattsburgh.—Notwithstanding we were enemies, they could not consent to keep the property of the fraternity. This occurrence may be found recorded in "Sketches of the War," published by Fay and Davidson, in Rutland Vermont, in 1815.

Such is the influence of Masonry upon crested war. It mitigates its evils; stays the hand of ruin; softens its hard features, and casts a glimmer of light and love along its rugged and bloody path-way. Would that its benign principles were diffused everywhere, to bless and benefit the world.

JOHN E. OWENS AND HIS SUBSTITUTE.—A good story is told of Mr. John E. Owens, the commedian, who was one of the drafted men in Baltimore county. Mr. O. had safely installed a genuine Hibernian into camp as his substitute. The next morning he was surprised by the appearance of Pat at his residence. "Good morning, Mister Owens." "Good morning, Pat—how the devil did you get here?" "Is it all right with you, Mister Owens." "O, yes, Pat—I have my discharge— it is all right with me." "Then," said Pat, thrusting his hands into his breeches pockets, *a la* Barney Williams, "I have got me money—and got out—and *it's all right with me, too,* Mister Owens!"

GOOD PLACE TO LIVE IN.—Cedarburg, in Ozaukee county, Wisconsin, gives 346 Democratic votes to 3 Republican, but is beaten by Marshfield, in Fond-du lac county, which gives 307 Democratic votes, with "nary a one" for the opposition. A man could have some peace of mind in Marshfield.—*Dubuque* (Iowa) *Herald.*

The government has advertised for 2,000 head boards for graves, to be delivered within 30 days. They are to be of black walnut, clear of knots, four feet long and ten inches wide.