

THE SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS,
 Published every
 Thursday and Saturday mornings.
Terms.
 Confederate notes three months : : \$25
 six : : 50
 Specie rates—three months : : 1.50
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THE WEEKLY NEWS,
 Published every Tuesday morning.
Terms.
 Confederate notes, three months, : : \$15
 six : : 30
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In making remittances be particular to mention which paper is wanted the *Semi-Weekly* or *Weekly*.
 Money must not be sent at our risk.
Advertising—Five dollars per square for each insertion.
 Obituary notices, marriages, calls for public meetings, etc., charged for as other advertisements.
 JOHN DICKINSON,
 Editor and Proprietor.

Eight lines or less in this paper is considered a square. No deduction or increase made to correspond with the charges of other papers, publishing similar advertisements, as appear in this paper. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Physical Resources of the Confederacy.

From the Richmond Whig.

The idea has been expressed abroad and studiously enforced at the North, that the resources of the Confederate States, as to arms bearing men are on the point of exhaustion. Many well-meaning people among ourselves have yielded to the delusion, not less from a certain natural timorousness, than because of the pertinacity with which the Yankees have insisted on an assertion so replete with encouragement and consolation. There can be no doubt that a belief of this kind has had a powerful influence in reconciling the Yankees to a continuance of the war; and just as little doubt that a year of the same kind, not perhaps strengthened into a belief has produced whatever of despondency and distrust exists among our own people. And yet no proposition is more erroneous than that the Confederacy is exhausted, or even nearly exhausted, of its arms-bearing population. On the contrary, we have around us in profuse abundance the materials of which armies are composed; in an abundance indeed quite sufficient to enable us not only to maintain our armies at their present standard of effectiveness, but to put into the field a force surpassing any that has yet been put under arms on either side.

To prove this fact, we have only to refer to the statistics of the United States census, and compare its data with an estimate of actual losses, and diminution of resources evidently sufficient to cover all decrease in our supply of arms-bearing men. The task is one of some labor; but its results are so satisfactory as to compensate amply for all the trouble bestowed on it. Without farther preface we proceed to our demonstrations.

The following table shows the whole population of the Confederate States, excluding Missouri and Kentucky, as determined by the United States Census of 1860:

	Total White	White Males
Alabama	526 431	265 190
Arkansas	324 191	171 477
Florida	77 748	41 128
Georgia	591 588	307 066
Louisiana	357 629	189 648
Mississippi	353 901	186 273
North Carolina	631 100	313 670
South Carolina	291 388	146 160
Tennessee	826 722	422 779
Texas	421 294	228 665
Virginia	1 047 411	428 842
	5 419,373	2 799,815

Of this number of males, those between the ages of 17 and 50 are represented by the following table, the calculations of which are based on the "expectation of life," in the State of Maryland, the only test we have at hand. Whatever may be the variation from this standard, the practical deductions are quite near enough to the truth for our purpose. The right hand column shows the number that have arrived at the age of 17 since 1860:

	Between 17 and 50.	
Alabama	225 400	32,420
Arkansas	79 100	2,582
Florida	19 000	4,932
Georgia	129 300	36,120
Louisiana	87 500	22,692
Mississippi	86 100	22,344
North Carolina	145 000	37,632
South Carolina	67 500	17,532
Tennessee	195 100	50,672
Texas	107 600	27,420
Virginia	248 100	59,390
	1,299,760	331,656
	331,656	
	1,631,856	

Deducting from these numbers the natural average mortality of four years—that is to say, 200,000 men—and we have a figure equivalent to the number of fighting men now remaining in the Confederacy, leaving out of account the mortality attributable to the war.

The accounts thus far stand thus:
 Number between 17 and 50 in 1860 1,299,760
 Arrived at 17 since 1860 331,656
 1,631,356
 Deduct natural mortality 200,000
 Aggregate remainder 1,431,356
 To find out the number remaining

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within the actual limits of the Confederacy, and under the control of our laws, we must make considerable deduction from these figures. Our estimates stand as follows:

	Between 17 and 50	arr'd 17 since
Arkansas	39 500	10 266
Louisiana	42 750	11 346
Tennessee	65 033	16 890
Virginia	124 050	29 680
	272 333	68 182
	68,182	
	340 515	

Such additions as may be made to the above by under estimates for the States named, and by omissions for others, will be more than counterbalanced by recruits from Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri, and refugees from other portions of our territory now in the hands of the enemy.

We come now to another necessary computation, for which facilities ought to exist, but for which, unfortunately we do not possess the reliable data. We mean the number of men killed in battle, or who have died of disease, or who have been permanently disabled by the casualties of war. It is useless to attempt even an approximation to absolute precision in an estimate of this kind. We can only assume a number, which, in all reasonable probability, must include the true number. If we assume, for instance, that the casualties in Gen. Lee's army for this campaign have amounted to 35,000, we shall exceed what we know to be the truth. If we suppose, of this number, 5000 to have been killed, and 5000 permanently disabled by wounds we have, for the army, a reduction of 10,000. If we assume an equal number for the army of Tennessee, and still another equal number for the other armies of the Confederacy, we shall have 30,000 as the figure within which must be included the number of killed and permanently disabled.

Admitting extraordinary diseases—that is to say, diseases attributable entirely to the military service, and therefore not to be estimated in the ordinary mortality, to exceed the above number by 50 per cent., and we have 45,000 as expressive of the reduction, during the year of 75,000 men. But this year has been fertile in casualties than either of the former years of the war. In the first year the losses in battle were almost nothing. In the second and third year they were perhaps, nearly as large as in this one. Let us, therefore, adopt the following estimate of losses incurred since the beginning of the war:

1861.	30,000
1862.	60,000
1863.	60,000
1864.	75,000
Total actual loss.	225,000
From these premises we construct the following table:	
No. bet'n 17 & 60 in 1860	1,209,600
Arrived at 17 since 1860	331,656
	1,631,356
Deduct for ordinary mortality	200,000
For population within the enemy's lines,	340,645
For losses in battle and by unusual diseases	225,000
Remainder,	865 841
Deduct 10 per cent. for exemptions for disability and other causes,	86,584
Prisoners in the enemy's hands,	50,000
Subject to military duty	729,257

Thus it will be seen that making all allowances for death from ordinary and extraordinary causes, and for the diminution of the area of our population, there must be at this moment within the Confederacy and subject to the control of our laws more than 700,000 arms bearing men. We have, in our estimate, made no allowance for those who annually pass beyond the age of 50, because their number is small, and, moreover, they are still capable of service in the reserves. But we will make a still further deduction of 5 per cent. to cover the number of those who have left the country. This number, amounting to 36,452, is much too large, but it will serve to compensate for deficiencies that may exist in other estimates of probable deductions. We find, then, at last, that we have now a force of 692,765 fighting men. If of these one out of every three be detailed for such purposes as the President may deem necessary, admitting that the power of detail remain in his hands, our army in the field should consist of 461,844 men at least, or a larger force, we candidly believe, than the enemy had ever brought against us at one time. At all events, it is much larger than any force we have ever had under arms, and is amply competent not only to defend the country, but to turn back the tide of

devastation across the border, and redeem those States which have already been overrun. Our statement, however, would not be complete without showing the resources at our command for replenishing our armies. This consists in the number of youths passing annually from 16 to 17 years of age, and will be found expressed in the following table:

Alabama,	8,105
Arkansas,	2,422
Florida,	1,333
Georgia,	9,336
Louisiana,	2,836
Mississippi,	5,586
North Carolina,	9,408
South Carolina,	4,383
Texas,	6,855
Tennessee,	4,180
Virginia,	7,420
Total,	62,467

From which it will be seen that our net loss is about 12,000 men, at the high rate assumed for this year.

Address of Gen. N. B. Forrest to his Troops.

SOLDIERS! The old campaign is ended, and your Commanding General deems this an appropriate occasion to speak of the steadiness, self-denial and patriotism with which you have borne the hardships of the past year. The marches and labors you have performed during that period will find no parallel in the history of this war.

On the 24th day of December there were three thousand of you, unorganized and undisciplined, at Jackson, Tennessee, only four hundred of whom were armed. You were surrounded by fifteen thousand of the enemy, who were congratulating themselves on your certain capture. You started out with your artillery, wagon trains, and a large number of cattle, which you succeeded in bringing through, since which time you have fought and won the following battles—battles which will engrave your names in the hearts of your countrymen, and live in history, an imperishable monument to your prowess: Jack's Creek, Estaulna, Sumnerville, Okalona, Union City, Paducah, Fort Pillow, Bolivar, Tishomingo Creek, Harrisburg, Hurricane Creek, Memphis, Athens, Sulphur Creek, Pulaski, Carter's Creek, Columbia and Jacksonville are the fields upon which you have won fearless immortality. For twenty-six days, from the time you left Florence, on 21st of November, to the 26th of December, you were constantly engaged with the enemy, and endured the hunger, cold and labor incident to that arduous campaign without a murmur. To sum up, in brief, your triumphs during the past year, you have fought fifty battles; killed and captured sixteen thousand of the enemy, captured two thousand horses and mules, sixty-seven pieces of artillery, four gunboats, fourteen transports, twenty barges, three hundred wagons, fifty ambulances, ten thousand and stand of small arms, forty block-houses, destroyed thirty-sixty railroad bridges, two hundred miles of railroad, six engines, one hundred cars, and fifteen millions dollars worth of property.

In the accomplishment of this great work, you were occasionally sustained by other troops, who joined you in the fight, but your regular number never exceeded five thousand, two thousand of whom have been killed or wounded, while in prisoners you have lost about two hundred.

If your course has been marked by the graves of the patriotic heroes, who have fallen by your side, it has, at the same time, been more plainly marked by the blood of the invader. While you sympathize with the friends of the fallen, your sorrows should be appeased by the knowledge that they fell as brave men, battling for all that makes life worth living for.

Soldiers! you now rest for a short time from your labors. During the respite prepare for future action.—Your commanding General is ready to lead you again to the defence of the common cause, and he appeals to you by a remembrance of the glories of your past career; your desolate homes; your insulted women and suffering children; and above all, by the memory of your dead comrades—to yield a ready obedience to discipline, and to buckle on your armor anew for the fight. Bring with you the soldier's safest armor—a determination to fight while the enemy pollutes your soil—to fight until independence shall have been achieved—to fight for home, children, liberty and all you hold dear.

sons, outraged your helpless families, and with demonic malice, wantonly destroyed your property, and to subjugate or annihilate the freemen of the South, would stamp with infamy the names of your gallant dead, and the living heroes of this war. Be patient, obedient and earnest, and the day is not far distant when you can return to your homes, and live in the full fruition of freemen around the old family altar.

N. B. FORREST, Major General. Comd'g Dist. Miss. & E. La.

[From Flake's Bulletin.]
 We have received a New Orleans paper of the 5th, containing the following additional news:

Dr. Wm. M. Guin.—We see it stated on the authority of the Times, of Mazatlan, Mexico, which must be an English paper, that the department of Sonora and Sinaloa are both to be opened to European and American emigrants, under the charge of Dr. Wm. M. Guin, former U. S. Senator from California. The colonies are to be protected by French troops. This statement makes the original story of cession of territory to France, at least for the purpose of sale to reimburse advances, quite plausible.

Fifty emigrants, supposed to be the vanguard of 20,000 more from the Western part of the United States, had arrived at Orizaba, in Mexico. These come with their agricultural implements, blooded animals, and capital sufficient to go to work. The municipality of Vera Cruz has assigned to these useful emigrants the municipality lands near Cordova. Besides these, thirty California emigrants had arrived at Tepic. These reported 400 more on their way, and that the greatest enthusiasm prevailed in California respecting emigration to Mexico.

Maj. West's Letter.

In a week or two from this date the people will begin to put a proper estimate upon the value of the letter of Major West. It seems that the higher officers of General E. Kirby Smith's staff (Major West and Colonel Guy M. Bryan) are sounding the public sentiment of the Trans-Mississippi Department, on the assumption that the rebel cause is lost. Can they dare to do so without the sanction of Gen. Smith?—N. O. Independent.

As Maj. West's letter seems to have attracted more than unusual attention, we republish an editorial from the Houston Telegraph in relation to the Major and his letter.

"We publish a communication from Major C. S. West, relative to his recent letter to Austin, which has been the subject of much curiosity, interest, gossip and animadversion for several weeks past. Major West's present communication is not only unexceptionable, but commendable. Opinions may differ from it on particular points, but its entire tone and spirit are patriotic, evincing the right devotion to our cause, and containing good practical suggestions. Of his fidelity to our struggle for independence, we have never entertained the slightest doubt, though we are glad to know that in our defence there are those of more steadiness of ideas and helpfulness of character.

His letter to Austin we read and condemned. It was evidently penned in a despondent, gloomy moment, when a seat in the Texas Legislature seemed to be more useful than continuance in the military service. It was a politic letter to secure that object—at a time when the feelings and tempers of men were such that a polite letter to one with whom he did not agree in public sentiment on many matters," was extremely liable to misinterpretation by all who should see it, and consequently to do mischief rather than good. This, accordingly has been the case; and instead of being understood, and valued as an electioneering document, it has been regarded as a State paper of the most ominous import. The most undue importance has been attached to it. Those unfriendly to our cause have magnified it into an evidence of the speedy collapse of the 'rebellion,' those devoted to our cause, especially those who have not read the letter, but have seen some person, who saw another man, who had heard all about it, have magnified it into some deeply laid, dreadful and diabolical scheme.

Of one thing we needed no assurance from Major West, because we knew it as if it had been confirmed to us by Holy Writ, and that was, that Gen. Smith had no privy with Major West's flank movement towards the Legislature, or with any of the opinions, feelings, or intimations on which it was based. We are just as capable of distrust of Robert E. Lee as of Kirby Smith. The one not more than the other, is the soul of honor, conscientiousness and fidelity

to the sternest, strictest duty. Gen. Jo. Johnston fitly designated him the Chevalier Bayard of the Southern army—whose spotless escutcheon was *stans puer et stans reproche*.

We are the personal friend of Maj. West. Our State has few gentlemen of a higher order of talent, of more capacity for usefulness, or of such agreeable traits of character. Our remarks on his letter to Raymond are such as we feel to be due from the magnitude it has been made to assume. We have extenuated, whilst we have not set down aught in malice. He committed a blunder. Information acquired by his official position, or deriving weight from his official position, ought not to have been communicated, or commented on in such an oracular manner to those from whom he disagreed in "public sentiment." But there are few men more likely to realize quickly, and repair as fully as possible any unlucky blunder into which he may have tripped.

Religious Toleration in Mexico.

MATAMOROS, MEXICO, }
 March 6th, 1865. }

Editor Houston Telegraph:

At the request of a number of friends, and for the information and gratification of the Protestant religious readers of your paper, I forward you the correspondence between the Rev. Dr. Wm. S. Langdon and the Political Prefect of this District, touching the question of "Religious Toleration" in the Empire, and the concession of the privilege to Protestant ministers, and congregations of all denominations, to celebrate their religious views in the most ample and unrestricted manner throughout Mexico, under the guarantee and protection of the government. The correspondence speaks for itself, and the liberal and enlightened policy inaugurated by the Emperor, not only in reference to religion, but to internal improvements, and the civil and political economy of the country, fore shadows an auspicious reign, in the establishment of a strong but liberal government, with a prosperous and happy people.

Dr. Langdon is a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; was formerly editor of the "Banner of Peace," published at Nashville, Tennessee, but for the last two years has resided in Texas. His many friends throughout the South will be glad to hear that he has been accorded the privilege of preaching the Protestant faith in this hitherto exclusively Roman Catholic, but now more liberal country.

Very respectfully,
 J. F. DRAKE.

MATAMOROS, MEXICO, Feb. 25, '65.
 To the Political Prefect,

District of Matamoros:
 I am a minister of the Gospel, from the Confederate States of America, and Chaplain of the Senate of Texas. I am here temporarily under the protection of the flag of the Empire of Mexico, and find quite a number of Americans and others here who hold religious views similar to my own. They have invited me to preach to them as I may have opportunity during my stay here.

I have been informed that while the Catholic is recognized by your Government as the established Church of the Empire, yet that other denominations of Christians will be protected in their own peculiar modes in the worship of God. If this be so, I wish a permit to hold religious services to-morrow in the building adjoining the Confederate Hotel, on Commercial street and elsewhere in the city, as I may be able during my stay here. But I will not do so, if it is in any way contrary to the laws of this Imperial Government, as I wish in all things here, as elsewhere, to be subject to the "powers that be."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

WM. S. LANGDON,
 EMPIRE OF MEXICO, OFFICE OF THE Political Prefect, Dist. of Matamoros.

H. Matamoros, March 7, 1865.
 To the document presented to this office, March 4th:

The following agreement has been accorded, this 7th day of March, 1865.

H. MATAMOROS, March 7, 1865.
 Let it be known to the petitioner, who signed the preceding petition, that although the government of His Majesty the Emperor, professes the most ample and unrestricted religious toleration, throughout the Empire, the Emperor will be consulted in regard to your petition; but that in the meantime you are at liberty to celebrate your religious belief, in the private establishment indicated in your petition. Such has been accorded to you by the Political Prefect of this District, and is signed by him as a guarantee to you.

"THE POLITICAL PREFECT,"
 Pedro Jose de la Gazza.
 Sr. Don Wm. S. Langdon Present.
 R. Winsgrove, Translator and Interpreter.

Escaped from Shreveport.

We clip the following from the Natchez (Miss.) Courier:

We have heard a very industrious escapee of a Lieutenant of the Union army, from the rebel prison at Shreveport, La. The gentleman, to whom we allude, arrived in Natchez day before yesterday. We did not learn his name. It appears from the statement made us, that he had nothing but a candle, and a pin-knot in his cell wherewith to work his way out. These he used to the best advantage. He had a two-inch plank lining the inside of his prison next heavy logs, and finally a brick wall of two feet thick. At first he burnt a hole in the plank lining of his room, by blowing the fire from the pine-knot against the plank. This hole was large enough to work one of the logs into his cell. He next dug with his hands, and pine-knot through the brick wall, out of which he made his escape. Setting his feet upon the soil outside of the prison, he made his way to a rebel gunboat on Red River, where he appropriated one of her cutters, and floated down to the Union gunboats where he was free again.

The Lieutenant looks well and has the appearance of good treatment whilst among the Confederates. During his imprisonment he was well supplied with food by the Union ladies of Shreveport, who at various times sent him money, and one time as high as fifty dollars. He represents the Union sentiment as quite strong in Upper Louisiana, especially among the ladies. The people, he said, were tired of the war, as they have no market for their products, and would gladly return to the Union were it not for Buckner and his troops.

The subject of the above, as many of our citizens remember, made his appearance in this city some time in November last, and represented himself as a deserter from the Yankee army. He engaged himself as a clerk in one of the establishments of this city, but had not served a month before he was arrested on a charge of larceny and committed to prison.

He made two attempts to escape but in the first he was recaptured and lodged in the parish jail. But he at last succeeded, in company with five other prisoners, in making his escape.

Secretary Trenholm is at work in the money market. For some weeks past it has been noticed that kegs of specie were coming rapidly into this city, but it was not until this morning that it was known that there were Treasury agents in the market buying government bonds for gold at 45 for 1. This fact coming to light, unfavorable comments have been made. It is to Trenholm's interest, say the people, to keep gold up; forgetting that to Trenholm we owe the fall of gold from 70 for 1 to its present price, 45 for 1. At all events, no more Treasury notes are to be issued, and \$700,000,000 a year are to be raised by taxation.—As to the story that the army is to be paid off, that is not credited."—Richmond Letter.

For State Treasurer.

We are authorized to announce Colonel ROSS E. BURKE of the Parish of Natchitoches, as a candidate for State Treasurer, for the ensuing election.

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 We are authorized to announce S. D. Oliver as a candidate for State Treasurer. Louisiana papers copy. [April 6 to

CATES'S MILL, TIBBS CO, TEXAS, }
 March 1st, 1865.

Mr. Editor—
 Dear sir: I had the pleasure, at Mount Pleasant, Texas, a few days ago, of looking through the government shops of that place, embracing blacking, harness and wagon-making, all under the care and management of Capt. Bishart. The Capt. is well suited for his position, possessing high executive capacity; he and his faithful and energetic men deserve much credit for the amount and quality of transportation furnished the government weekly from these shops. Every Southern man should feel proud of such shops.
 Respectfully, &c.,
 Itaw [tw.] D. P. WHITE.

Important to Parents.

By a recent order from Gen. Smith, the boys from 17 to 18 years of age are permitted to organize and remain at school. A company is now forming at Waco University, under Captain Jas. T. Daniel, late of U. S. A.

Boys wishing to avail themselves of a year's instruction by an experienced faculty, will report at once.
 FACULTY.
 Rev. R. C. Burleson, President.
 Rev. R. B. Burleson, Professor, Natural Science.
 J. T. Strother, Professor Mathematics.
 William H. Long, Professor Ancient Languages.
 Capt. J. T. Daniel, Assistant and Instructor Tactics.
 Address Rev. R. C. Burleson, President Waco, March 24, 1865.
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FOR SALE.

A FRESH supply of Cream Laid Letter Paper, Pens and Envelopes, per. at the Post office. March 18, wew.

For Sale.

A good SADDLE HORSE, bridle and saddle for sale. Inquire at this office. (april 4)

Wanted.
 At the State Foundry, old castings and charcoal, for which Plows, Plow Points, LANDSIES, SCOTTERS, SKILLERS and OVENS will be exchanged on liberal terms.
 A. W. MOFFETT,
 Superintendent State Foundry, april 11