The Daily Freeman.

EVENING EDITION

MONTPELIER, VT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1863.

The 17th Regiment.

It seems to us very clear that, if the 17th regiment is expected to go into the service at all, some means other than those now being employed must be used to fill up its ranks. It is now nearly if not quite four months since recruiting for this regiment commenced, and it does not yet number five hundred men. This slow progress has resulted from various causes.—A very general, and quite fatal fever prevailed among the nine months men soon after they returned to the State, which unfavorably influenced enlistment. —The bounty of four hundred and two dollars was only offered to veterans, while raw recruits who chose to enlist received but one hundred and two, the War Department at the same time offering three hundred dollars to raw recruits who enlisted in the old regiments; and this, of course, prevented the recruiting officers from obtaining anything but veterans for the 17th.—When the call for 300,000 volunteers was made, a Government bounty of three hundred dollars was offered to all; and the towns at once began to offer additional bounties, in most cases as high as three hundred dollars, and in many as high as five hundred dollars, while in only exceptional instances,—like Montpelier and Woodstock and some other towns—were these local bounties offered to those who might enlist in the 17th regiment. These bounties still made it an object for raw recruits everywhere to enlist for the old regiments, and in most towns made the bounties for veterans, who should enlist for old regiments, from two to four hundred dollars better than if they enlisted in the 17th regiment. And in addition to this, the great majority of towns in the State, being apparently only desirous of making up their quotas under the last call, discriminated in their influence as well as their bounties against the 17th regiment, and in favor of volunteers who would be credited to them under the last call for volunteers. These facts are of themselves an adequate cause, without impeaching the patriotism of the nine months men, for the ill success attending recruiting for this regiment.

But while we are not disposed to charge blame anywhere but upon unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances for this failure to fill the 17th regiment, the fact still remains that the regiment is not full, and, as matters now stand, is not likely to be. We have been officially informed that after the 5th day of January no bounties but the one hundred dollars will be paid to any volunteers, and it is safe to say that volunteering after that date for the 17th will practically cease; and between now and then, for the reasons already given, the enlistments will be for the old regiments, even among veterans, rather than in the veteran regiment. The result will be that the State will find itself, after January 5th, with about half a regiment of men who have enlisted in good faith for the 17th regiment, whom it would not be treating fairly, either to discharge, or to disband and distribute among other regiments, and yet whose ranks it will be difficult, not to say impossible, to fill by further enlistments. It is clear that it is the duty of those having the charge of this matter to find some emedy for this difficulty.

And to us there seems to be a simple, easy, and perfectly feasible way of avoiding any trouble, and yet filling the regiment. It is simply this: Put enough of the volunteers just enlisted under the call for 300,000 volunteers into the 17th regiment to fill its ranks, after January 5th. This must be practicable, and we cannot see how it would in any way lessen the value to the Federal Government of the volunteers just raised, while it would make the 17th regiment immediately serviceable, thus adding 500 men at once to the army, who are drawing pay yet now, and for some time to come, will otherwise add nothing to the strength of our troops in the field.

We suppose it would be necessary to get the consent of the War Department before this could be arranged, but cannot comprehend why that need be a difficult matter. The ranks of the 2d, 3d and 5th regiments were filled with the men raised by the draft in this State, leaving the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th regiments to be filled by volunteers. None of these regiments, not even the 9th, requires 500 men to fill its ranks. Twenty-five hundred recruits must fill them to the maximum, leaving a surplus of some 700 or 800 volunteers—if the quota of the State is filled, as there is no doubt it will be—a portion of whom can be put into no more serviceable place than in the 17th regiment. This will give the State an additional effective regiment in the field, and we very much fear that no other method will accomplish that result.

Of course this is a subject for the consideration and determination of the proper authorities, State and National. We hope, however, that no red tape will prove an obstacle to a speedy organization of the veteran regiment. At least we hope our State authorities will make an effort to secure the assent of the War Department to such an arrangement, and then if it is not accomplished the fault will not be in this State.

Northern Faith and Southern Distrust.

The Richmond correspondent of the London *Times*, in his last letter, dated Nov. 14th, gives utterance to some very remarkable sentiments, considering the source from which they come and the organ which gives them to the world. We make the following extract:

"The Confederate States are evidently approaching a stage in this war which will test more than ever the stubbornness and tenacity of their temper and patience, and can only be successfully encountered by a national spirit as systematic as it is resolute. Their enemy, with as much pertinacity, and far more sagacity than heretofore, hems in the edges of the 'rebellion' on every side, avoids the frequent recurrence of pitched battles and general engagements, pounces with hawk-like swoop upon isolated and inadequately supported bodies of men, evinces possession of admirable secret information, keeps the Confederate Generals constantly on the rack, and, harassed by irruptions of cavalry, makes his superiority of numbers, and still more his abundance of supplies for horse and man, more and more felt, and finally is investing the ports of Secessia with a *cordon* of vessels so numerous as for the first time in thirty months to make access to the Confederate coast really dangerous and difficult. On the other hand, in rebeldom itself the Federals have a wonderful ally in circumstances which, to my thinking, have from the beginning quadrupled the magnitude of the Confederate task.

No one who has been conversant with the northern States during the last two and one half years can have failed to notice with astonishment the faith, stronger than death, which the northerners have exhibited in their 'star,' their 'manifest destiny' their 'religion,' their Alpha and Omega, their dream of dominion from sea to sea, and (to quote Mr. Everett's words) 'from the icy Pole to the flaming belt of the Equator.' No parallel faith has ever been exhibited by the confederate States in their future. Six great southern victories in the field and three drawn battles, exhausting the nine principal collisions of the war, the entire absence of any such panic routs as Bull Run or Chickamauga, the tried efficiency of the Federal blockade, the unmolested flight of Alabamas and Floridas at sea, have altogether failed to inspire the masses of the South with a tithe of that confidence in themselves which neither defeat, nor disaster, nor hope deferred, nor illusions dispelled, have ever shaken out of the Northerners.

Deny it who may, there is something sublime in this shadowy earnestness and misty magnificence of Northern faith and self-reliance. Would that I could see promise of the future and final Southern triumph in any corresponding quality of the Southern mind.

In many fashions Southern unfaith crops up and recoils upon the Confederate Government, making, for instance, Mr. Memminger's task, though he takes his stand upon raw material worth sixty or seventy millions of *pounds sterling*, Herculean as compared with Mr. Chase's, who issues vastly larger promises to pay on a security of breadstuff exports worth only sixty or seventy millions of *dollars*. There are, of course, other reasons to account for the fact that three dollars in 'greenbacks' will buy two dollars in gold, while it requires thirty paper dollars of the Confederacy to buy a like sum; but the fundamental explanation of the discrepancy in value of the irredeemable paper issues of the two sections lies in the vastly superior faith in themselves of the Northern people. For many months we have heard throughout the Confederacy the cuckoo cry, 'Do something to arrest the depreciation of the currency, or we perish;' but hitherto nothing has been done, and, as is now seen by everybody, we are on the brink of a precipice.

It is universally admitted that the country is richer in everything that constitutes wealth than it was twelve months ago; that there is a sufficiency of meat and far greater abundance of cereals than last year; that fruit and vegetables have been granted us in unusual abundance; that Richmond has supplies of coal and wood vastly in excess of those laid in against last winter—in proof of which I may mention that the streets are now as well lighted as those of London, whereas last year their Cimmerian darkness was a favorite theme of the New York *Herald*; but in spite of all these facts unfaith in Confederate currency grows apace, the farmers refuse to part with their crops on any terms, flour fetches $100 per barrel and is rising, bacon is close upon $3 a pound, everything is proportionately dear, and nothing is plentiful, save Confederate currency, until at last a woman going to market has been heard to exclaim: 'I carry a basket to market to hold money, and I carry a pocket-book to fetch home the slice of beef which it buys.'"

THE STORY OF A FEMALE SPY. An allusion in a speech made at a Sanitary Fair meeting in Cincinnati on Monday night to the work performed by our women in the national cause, called up Gen. Roscrans, who narrated a very interesting incident of a female spy, who came to his headquarters more than a year ago and stated that she felt it her duty to offer her services to penetrate the lines of the enemy and examine its condition, &c, adding that she hoped the general would allow her permission to go upon that errand. After considerable importunity she was allowed to go, and by virtue of being an actress, she succeeded, although generally speaking, she was not an actress. After having been absent a long time, there began to be considerable anxiety for her return, but although waiting patiently to see her and learn her discoveries, she came not. When the federal army took possession of Shelbyville, Tennessee, they found this woman in prison, condemned to death as a spy, and waiting her fate like a patriot and hero. She had been rescued just in time to save her from the doom that awaited her. She was immediately sent to Nashville, where she was lying sick for a number of months. This (Monday) morning, said General Rosecrans, "I recieved a card bearing her name, and I had an interview with her." She has been washing in Cincinnati for two weeks, in order thereby to raise means to send her to her friends, now residents of New York. He asked the meeting to assist him in contributing to this poor woman's necessities that she might pay her board, &c, and reach the home of her friends. A handsome collection was at once raised and will be given her by the General.

A sea captain of forty years' experience asserts that the Gulf Stream is several hundred miles nearer our coast than usual, and predicts a warm winter in New England, but not at the South, in consequence.

RECONSTRUCTION IN TENNESSEE. The Memphis *Evening Bulletin* of the 17th inst. says that movements for reconstruction in accordance with the President's late proclamation will be commenced at once. The proclamation says that whenever, in any State in a condition of insurrection, a number of persons numbering not less than one-tenth of the number of votes cast at the presidential election of 1860, having taken the prescribed oath, and being qualified voters at the time of secession, shall re-establish a State government, such government shall be recognized as the true government of the State. In 1860 the population of Tennessee was 1,108,800, and the total vote for President that year in the State 145,383. Hence 14,538 of these voters have it in their power to "reconstruct" the State of Tennessee. The *Bulletin* pertinently asks, "Can any one doubt that it will be done? East Tennessee can do the business itself."

THE FREEDMEN. It is said that the War Department has ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Greve, Chief Quartermaster of the Department of Washington, to break up all the freedmen's camps in and around Washington, north of the Potomac, and transfer all the inmates to the contraband farms in the neighborhood of Arlington, where they will be put to work at farming on the abandoned estates of absconding secessionists. All negroes not employed in the Quartermaster's Department, who have heretofore been depending partially or wholly on government for support, are also to be sent to the farms and put to work.

DESTITUTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.—A letter from Morris Island, 23d instant, to the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, says:

"A large number of intercepted rebel letters have fallen into possession of our Post Commander on ——— Island. A perusal of them exhibits the great destitution and extreme suffering of the people in South Carolina and southeastern Georgia; corroborates also the prevailing opinion here and at the North, that the Confederacy is nearly used up. One of these letters, written at Barnwell, expresses "a hope that this terrible and devastating war will soon terminate; but if it does not we must perish from famine or the want of clothing." Another, written by a merchant at Jacksonboro' Georgia, quotes common heavy boots at $60 to $75 per pair; coarse muslins at 95 cents to $1 25 per yard; meats generally at $1 50 per pound, and whiskey at $45 per gallon.'"

POCKET-BOOK LOST.

THE subscriber lost, between Montpelier and Chelsea, last Wednesday, an old calf skin

POCKET-BOOK,

containing valuable papers—among others notes payable—some to C. C. Arms and some to myself. The finder will be suitably rewarded by returning said pocket-book to the subscriber.

JOSIAH DOUGLAS.

Montpelier, Dec. 28, 1863.

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August 3, 1863. wely

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Boston, Dec. 19, 1863. y1

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OF THE

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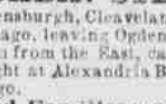
1863  1863

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