Semi-Weekly Standard.

"STAND LIKE AN ANVIL."

BY BISHOP DOANE.

"Stand like an anvil!" when the strokes Of stalwart swength fall fierce and fast; Storms but mon deeply root the oaks, Whose brawny arms embrace the blast. "Stand like an anvil !" when the sparks

Fly far and wide, a flery shower; Virtue and truth must still be marks, Where malice proves its want of power. "Stand like an anvil!" when the har Lies red and glowing on its breast; Duty shall be life's leading star,

And conscious innocence its rest. "Stand like an anvil!" when the sound Of ponderous hammers pain the ear; Thine but the still and stern rebound Of the great heart that cannot fear.

"Stand like as anvil!" noise and heat Are born with earth and die with time; The soul, like God, its source and seat, Is solemn, still, serene, sublime.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America

It is with satisfaction that I welcome your presence at an earlier day than that usual for your session, and with confidence that I invoke the aid of your counses at a time of such public exigency. The campaign which was commenced almost simultaneously with your session early in May last, and which was still in progress at your adjournment in the middle of June, has not yet reached its close. It has been prosecuted on a scale, and with sa energy, heretofore un-quilled. When we revert to the condition of our country at the inception of the operations of the present year, to the magnitude of the preparations made by the enemy, the number of his forces, the accumulation of his warlike supplies, and the prodigality with which his vast resources have been lavished in the attempt to render success assured; when we contrast the numbers and means at our disposal for resistance, and when we comtemplate the results of a struggle appawhen we comtemplate the results of a struggle apparently so unegal, we cannot fail, white rendering the full meed of deserved praise to our generals and soldiers, to perceive that a lower higher than man has willed our deliverance, and gratefully to recognize the protection of a kind Providence in enabling us successfully to withstand the utmost efforts of the enemy for our subjugation.

At the beginning of the year, the State of Texas was partially in possession of the enemy, and large portions Louisiana and Arkansas lay apparently defenceless. Of the Federal soidiers who invaded Texas, none are known to remain except as prisoners of war. western Louisiana, a large and well-appointed army, aided by a powerful fleet, was repeatedly defeated, and deemed tself fortunate in finally escaping with a loss of one third of its numbers, a large part of its military trains and many transports and gunboats. The enemy's occupation of that State is reduced to the parrow district commanded by the gums of his fi-et. Arkansas has be n recovered with the exception of a few fortified posts, while our forces have penetrated into Central Mesouri, affording to our oppressed beethren in that State an opportunity, of which many have a sailed themselves, striking for liberation from the tyrauny to which they

have been subjected.
On the east of the Mississippi, in spite of some reverses, we have much cause for gratulation. The enemy toped to effect, during the present year, by concentration of forces, the conquest which he had previously failed to accomplish by more extended eparations. Compelled, therefore, to withdraw or seriously to weaken the strength of the armies of occupation at different points, he has afforded us the opportunity of recovering posses-sion of expensive districts of our textitory. Nearly the whole of Northern and Western Mississippi, of Northern Alabama, and of Western Tennessee, are again in our possession; and all attempts to penetrate from the coast ine into the interior of the Atlantic and Gulf States have been buffled. On the entire ocean and guit coast of the Confederacy the whole success of the enemy, with the enormous naval resources at his command, has been limited to the capture of the outer defences of Mobile

If we now turn to the results accomplished by the two great armies, so confidently relied on by the invaders as sufficient to secure the subversion of our Government and the subjection of our people to foreign domination, we have still greater cause for devout gratitude to Divine In Southwestern Virginia, successive which threatened the capture of Lynchburg and Saltville, have been routed and diven out of the country, and a portion of Eastern Tennessee reconquered by our troops. In Northern Virginia, extensive districts, formerly occupied by the enemy, are now free from their presence. In the lower valley, their General, rendered desperate by his inability to maintain a hostile occupation, has resorted to the infamous expedient of converting a fruitful land into a desert by burning its mills, granaries and homesteads and destroying the food, standing crops, live stock and agricultural implements of peaceful non-combatants. The main army, after a series of defeats, in which its losses have been enormous; after attempts by raiding parties to brest up our railroad communications, which have resulted in the destruction of a large part of the cavalry . ngaged in the work; after constant regular of repeated assaults on our defensive lines, is, with the aid of heavy einforcements, but with, it is hoped, want prospect of further progress in the design, still engaged in an effort, commenced more than four months ago, to capture the town of Petersburg.

The army of Gen. Sherman, although succeeding at the

ad of the summer in obtaining possession of Ctlanta, has been unable to secure any ultimate advantage from this success. The same General who, in February last, marchda large army from Vicksburg to Meridian with no ther result than being forced to march back again, was able, by the sid of greatly increased numbers, and after much delay, to force a passage from Chattanooga to Atland, only to be for the second time compelled to with draw on the line of his advance, without obtaining control of a single mile of territory beyond the narrow track of his march, and without guing augist berond the precarious possession of a few fortified points, in which he is compelled to maintain heavy garrisons, and which are

menac d with recapture.

The lessons afforded by the history of this war are fraught with instruction and encouragement. Repeated-ly during the war have formidable expeditions been giyected by the enemy against points ignorantly supposed to be of vital importance to the Confederacy. Some of bese expeditions have, at immense cost, been successful; but in no instance have the promised fruits been reaped. Again, in the present campaign, was the delusion fondly cherished that the capture of Atlanta and Richmond would, if effected, end the war by the overthrow of our Government and the subm saion of our people. We can now judge by experience how unimportant is the influence of the former event upon our expacity for defence, upon the courage and spirit of the people, and the stability of the Government. We may, in like manner, judge that if the campaign against Richmond had resulted in success enstead of failure; if the valor of the army, under the leadership of its accomplished commander had resisted in vain the overwhelming masses witch were, on the contrary, decisively repulsed; if we had been cumpelled to evacuate Richmond as well as Atlanta, the Confederacy would have remained as erect and deliant as ever. Noth ing could have been changed in the purpose of its Government, in the indomitable valor of its troops, or in the bable spirit of its people. The baffled and disappointed foe would in vain have scanned the reports of your proceedings, at some new legislative seat, for any indication that progress had been made in his gigantic task of conquering a tree people. The truth, so patent to us, must, ere long, be forced upon the reluctant Northern mind. There are no vital points on the preservation of which the continued existence of the Confederacy pends. There is no military success of the enemy which can accomplish its destruction. Not the fall of Richmond, or Wilmington, nor Charleston, nor Savannah, nor Mo bile, nor all combined, can save the enemy from the con-stant and exhaustive drain of blood and treasure which roust continue until he shall discover that no peace is attainable unless based on the recognition of our indefeasi-

Before leaving this subject, it is gratifying to assure you that the military supplies essentially requisite for inblic defence will be found, as herefofore, adequate to our needs; and that abundant crops have rewarded the attempt of the enemy to produce, by devastation, famine

among the people. POREIGN RELATIONS.

It is not in my power to announce any change in the conduct of foreign powers. No such action has been taken by the Christian nations of Europe as might justly have been expected from their history, from the duties imposed by international law, and from the claims of humanity. It is charitable to attribute their conduct to no worse hich shakes only the republican portion of the American continent; and not to ascribe to design a course calculat d to ensure the prolongation of hostilities.

No instance in history is remembered by me in which a nation pretending to exercise dominion over another, asserting its independence, has been the first to concede the existence of such independence. No case can be recalled o my mind in which neutral powers have failed to set the example of recognizing the independence of a natio en satisfied of the inability of its enemy to subvert its g vernment; and this, too, in cases where the previous between the contending parties had been confes-. Hy that of mother country and dependent colone; not, as in our case, that of co-equal States united by Federal mpact. It has ever been considered the proper funcon and duty of neutral powers to perform the office of judging whether, in point of fact, the nation asserting doin inion is able to make good its pretensions by force of a.ms, and if not, by recignition of the resisting party, to discountenance the further continuance of the contest.—
And the reason why this duty is incumbent on neutral powers is plainly apparent, when we reflect that the pride and passion which him? the judgment of the parties to the conflict cause the continuance of active warfare, and consequent useless slaughter, long after the inevitable result has become apparent to all not engaged in the struggle. So long, therefore, as neutral nations fail, by recognition of our independence, to announce that, in their judgment, the United States are unable to reduce the

Confederacy to submission, their conduct will be accepted by our enemies as a tacit encouragement to continue their efforts, and as an implied assurance that belief is entertained by neutral nations in the success of their de signs. A direct stimulus, whether intentional or not, is thus applied to securing a continuance of the carnage and devastation which desolate this continent, and which they profess deeply to deplore.

The disregard of this just, humane, and Christian pub

lic duty by the nations of Europe is the more remarkable

from the fact that authentic expression has long since

by professing to consider, in opposition to notorious truth and to the known belief of both belligerents, that the re-

ognition of our ind-pendence would be valueless without

their further intervention in the struggle; an interven-

tion of which we disclaim the desire and mistrust the ad-

vantage. We seek no favor; we wish no intercention;

we know ourselves fully competent to maintain our own rights and independence against the invaders of our coun-

ry; and we feel justified in asserting that, without the

aid derived from recruiting their armies from foreign

countries, the invaders would, ere this, have been driven

from our soil. When the recognition of the Confederacy

was refused by Great Britain in the fall of 4862, the refu

sal was excused on the ground that any action by Her Majisty's government would have the effect of inflaming

turn of peace. It is assumed that this opinion was sin-

erely entertained; but the experience of two years of

unequalled carnage shows that it was erroneous, and that the result was the reverse of what the British Ministry humanely desired. A contrary policy, a policy just to us,

a policy diverging from an unvarying course of conces-sion to all the demands of our enemies, is still within the

ower of Her Majesty's government, and would, it is fair

o presume, be productive of consequences the opposite of hose which have unfortunately followed its whole course

of conduct from the commencement of the war to th

resent time. In a word, peace is impossible without in

ependence, and it is not to be expected that the enemy

vill anticipate neutrals in the recognition of that inde-

endence. When the history of this war shall be fully

lisclosed, the calm judgment of the impartial publicist

will, for these reasons be unable to absolve the neutral

nations of Europe from a share in the moral responsibility

ile sacrificed during its progress.

or the myrials of human lives that have been unnecessa-

The ren wed instances in which foreign powers have

iven us just cause of complaint used not here be detailed.

he extracts from the correspondence of the State De-

partment, which accompany this message, will afford

uch further information a can be given without detri-

ment to the public interest, and we must reserve for the

future such action as may then be deemed advisable to

FINANCES.

Your special attention is carnestly invited to the re-

ort of the Scoretary of the Treasury, submitted in con-

formity with law. The facts therein disclosed are far from discouraging, and demonstrate that, with judicious

oristation, we shall be enabled to meet all the exigencic

the same time, such an accumulation of deet as would render at all doubtful our capacity to redeem it.

The total receipts into the treasury for the two quar-ers ending on the 50th of September, 1864, were \$415.

722 that remained in the treasury on the lat of April last torms a total of \$722,474,272. Of this total, not far from half, that is to say, \$342,550,027, have been applied to the extinction of the public de t, while the total expenditures have been \$272,378,565, beaving a balance in the

191,550, which sum, added to the balance of \$308

treasury on the 1st of October, 1864, of \$108,435,440

The total amount of the public debt, as exhibited on the books of the Register of the Treasury on the 1st Oc-

tober, 1864, was \$1,147,970,208, of which \$539,349,600 were funded dobt, bearing interest, \$283,880,150 were

trea mry notes of the new issue, and the remainder con-sisted of the former issue of treasury notes which will be converted into other forms of debt and will cease to exist

The report, however, explains that, in consequence of

the absence of certain returns from distant officers, the

a half millions of dollars, than appears on the books of the degister, and that the total public debt on let of last

month may be fairly considered to have been \$1,126 381,-

The increase of the public debt during the six months from the 1st April to the 1st October was \$97,650,780, being rather more than \$16,600,000 per month, and it will be apparent, on the perusal of the report, that this

reduction of the amount would have been effected but

for certain defects in the legiclation on the subject of the

finances, which are pointed out in the report, and which

In the stat ments just made, the foreign debt is omit-

known as the cotton loan. This balance is but £2,200,000

and is adequately provided for by about two hundred and

fifty thousand bales of cotton, owned by the Government,

even if the cutton be rated as worth but six pence per

There is one item of the poblic debt not included in

the tables presented, to which your attention is required. The bounty bonds promised to our so diers by the third

section of the aut of 17th February, 1864, were delivera-

bie on the let of October. The Secretary has been una-

ble to leve them by reason of an omission in the law, no

time being therein fixed for the payment of the bonds,

The aggregate appropriations called for by the differ-ot departments of the Government, according to the

stimales submitted with the report, for the six months

nding on the 30th June, 1865, amount to \$438 102 679

while the Secretary estimates that there will remain un-

expended, out of former appropriations, on the 1st of January, 1865, a balance of \$467,416,504. It would

in excess of actual expenditures, and that no additional

appropriations are required for meeting the needs of the public service up to the lat of July of next year. In-

deed, if the estimates now presented should prove to be

as much in excess of actual expenditures as has hereto

fore been the case, a considerable balance will still re-

main usexpended at the close of the first balf of the en-

with our finances results from the depreciation of the treasury notes, which seems justly to be attributed by

the Secretary to two causes: redundancy in amount aud

want of confidence in ultimate redemption; for both or

which, remedies are suggested that will commend them-

selves to your consideration as being practicable as well

slly these: 1st. That the faith of the Government be pledged that the notes shall ever remain exempt from taxation. 2d. That no issue shall be made beyond that

which is strendy authorized by law. 3d. That a certain

fixed portion of the annual receipts from taxation during

extinction of the outstanding amount until its

4th. The pledge and appropriation of such proper

after the return of peace, as shall be sufficient for the fi-

nal redemption of the entire circulation. The details

of the plan, the calculations on which it is based, the

efficiency of its operation, and the vast advantages which

would result from it, success, are fully detailed in the

report, and cannot be fairly presented in a form suffici-

ently condensed for this message. I doubt not it will re-

seive from you that earnest and candid consideration

The recommendations of the report for the repeal of certain provisions of the tax laws which produce inc-

quality in the burthen of taxation; for exempting all

Government loans from taxation on capital, and from

any adverse discrimination in taxation on income de

rived from them; for placing the taxation on banks on

the same footing as the taxation of other corporate bad-

ies; for securing the payment into the treasury of that portion of the bank circulation which is liable to confis-

cation because held by alien enumies; for the conver-sion of the interest-bearing treasury notes now outstand-

ing into coupon bonds, and for the quarterly collection

of taxation; all present practical questions for legisla-

tion, which, if wisely devised, will improve the public

redit, and alleviate the burthens now imposed by the

extreme and unnecessary depreciation in the value of

ted with the report, and the information is conveyed that

the Treasury Agency in the Trans-Mississippi Department has been fully organized, and is now in operation

The provisions heretofore made to some extent for in

creasing the compensation of public officers, civil and

military, is found to be in some places inadequate to their

support; perhaps not more so anywhere than in Rich-

mond; and inquiry, with a view to appropriate remedy, is suggested to your consideration. Your notice is al-

so called to the condition of certain officers of the treasury, who were omitted in the laws heretofore passed for

the relief of other public officers, as mentioned in the re-

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

The condition of the various branches of the military

service is stated in the accompanying report of the Secre-tary of War. Among the suggestions made for legislative action with a view to add to the numbers and efficiency of

the army, all of which will receive your consideration, there

The exemption from military outy now accorded by law

o all persons engaged in certain specified pursuits or pro-

fessions is shown by experience to be unwise; nor is it be-lieved to be defensible in theory. The defence of home, family and country is universally recognized as the para-mount political duty of every member of society; and in a

form of government like ours, where each citizen enjoys

an equality of rights and privileges, nothing can be more invidious than an unequal distribution of duties and obli-

gations. No pursuit nor position should relieve any one

who is able to do active duty from enrollment in the ar-

my, ouless his functions or services are more useful to the defence of his country in another sphere. But it is mani-

fest that this cannot be the case with entire classes. All telegraph operators, workmen in mines, professors, teachers, engineers, editors and employees of newspapers, journeymen printers, shoemakers, tanners, blacksmiths, millers, physicians, and the numerous other classes mentioned in the laws cannot in the nature of things.

in the laws, cannot, in the nature of things, be either equal-

ly necessary in their several professions, nor distributed

are some prominent topics which merit special notice.

with promise of efficiency and success.

port of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The returns of the Produce Loan Bureau are submit-

e currency.

which is merited by the importance of the subject.

tion of the tax in kind, and for such number of

the war shall be set apart specially for the gradual

The main features of the plan presented are substanti-

The chief difficulty to be apprehended in connection

herefore s em that former estimates have been

It consists only of the unpaid balance of the loan

as currency on the 31st of next month.

eem to admit of easy remely.

the war from our abundant resources, and avoit, as

passions of the belligerents and of preventing the re-

been given by the governments of both France and England to the conviction that the United States are unable tions to the efficient operations of the conscript laws A general militia law is needful in the interest of the to conquer the Confederacy. It is now more than two public defence. The Constitution, by resting the power in Congress, imposes on it the duty of providing " for oryears since the government of France announced officially to the cabinets of London and St. Petersburg its own conganizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for gov clusion that the United States were unable to achieve any erning such part of them as may be employed in the ser-vice of the Confederate States." The great diversity in the decisive military success. In the answers sent by those powers, no intimation of a contrary opinion was conveyed; legislation of the several States on this subject, and the and it is notorious that, in speeches, both in and out o absence of any provision estab ishing an exact method for Parliament, the members of Her Britanic Majesty's govealling the militia into Confederate service, are sources of ernment have not hesitated to express this conviction in embarrassment which ought no longer to be suffered to unqualified terms. The denial of our right under these circumstances is so obviously nojust, and discriminates so unfairly in favor of the United States, that neutrals have impede defensive measures. sought to palliate the wrong, of which they are conscious.

The legislation in relation to the cavalry demands change. The policy requiring men to furnish their own horses has proven pernicious in many respects. It interieres with discipline, impairs efficiency, and is the cause of frequent and prolonged absence from appropriate duty. The subject is fully treated in the Secretary's report with suggestions as to the proper measure for reforming that branch

throughout the country in such proportions that only the exact numbers required are found in each locality; nor can

it be everwhere impossible to replace those within the con-script age by men older and less capable of active field

service, A discretion should be vested in the military au-thorities, so that a sufficient number of those essential to

the public service might be detailed to continue the exer-

cise of their pursuits or professions; but the exemption

from service of the entire classes should be wholly abou-

Jempiation, as well as the ready meins, of escaping service

by fraudulent devices, and is one of the principal eastruc-

of the service
The recommendation, hitherto often made, is again re newed, that some measure be adopted for the re-organiza-tion and consolidation of companies and regiments when so far reduced in numbers as seriously to impair their efficiency. It is the more necessary that this should be done, as the absence of legislation on the subject has force ed generals to the field to resort to various excedients for approximating the desired end. It is surely an evil that a commanding officer should be placed in a position which forces upon him the choice of allowing the efficiency of his command to be seriously impaired, or of attempting to supply by the exercise of doubtful authority the want of proper legal provision. The regard for the sensibility of officers who have heretofore served with credit, and which is believed to be the controlling motive that has hitherto obstructed legislation on this subject, however honorable and proper may be carried to a point which seriously injures the public good; and if this be the case, it can scarcely be questioned which of the two considerations should be

feemed paramount.
The Secretary's recommendations on the subject of fa cilitating the acquisition of the iron required for maintaining the efficiency of railroad communication on the important military lines are commended to your favor. The necessity for the operation, in full vigor, of such lines is

too apparent to need comment. The question in dispute between the two governments relative to the exchange of prisoners of war has been frequently presented in former messages and reports, and is fully treated by the Secretary. The solicitude of the gover ment for the relief of our captive follow catizens has known no abatement; but has on the contrary, been still more deeply evoked by the additional sufferings to which they have been wantonly subjected, by deprivation of adequate load, ciothing and fuel, which they were not even permitted to purchase from the prison sutlers. Finding that the enemy attempted to excuse their barbarous treatment by the unfounded allegation that it was retaliatory for like conduct on our part, an offer was made by us with a view of ending all pretext for such recriminations or pretended

The offer has been accepted, and each government is hereafter to be allowed to provide necessary comforts to its own citizens held captive by the other. Active efforts are in progress for the immediate execution of this agreement, and it is hoped that but few days will clapse before we shall be relieved from the distressing thought that painful physical suffering is endured by so many of our low-citizens whose fortitude in captivity illustrates the national character as fully as did their valor in the actual

EMPLOYMENT OF SLAVES.

The employment of slaves for service with the army as teamsters or cooks, or in the way of work upon fortifict tions, or in the government workshops, or in hospitals, and other similar duties, was authorized by the act of 17th February last, and provision was made for their imressment to a number not exceeding twenty thousand, if it should be found impracticable to obtain them by cor ract with the owners. The law contemplated the hiring only of the labor of these slaves, and imposed on the gov-eroment the liability to pay for the value of such as might be just to the owners from casualties resulting from their empl yment in the service.

This act has produced less result than was anticipated.

and further provision is required to render it efficacion But my present purpose is to invite your consideration to the propriety of a radical modelization in the theory of the

law.

Viewed merely as property, and therefore, as the subject been bequently claimed for short periods in the construction of defensive works. The slave, however, bears another relation to the State, that of a person. The law of last February contemplates only the relation of the slave to the master, and limits the impressment to a certain term of service. But for the purpose enumerated in the act, instruction in the manner of encamping, march ing and parking trains is needful, so that, even in this limited employment, length of service adds greatly to the value of the negro's labor. Hazard is also encountered in all the positions to which the negroes can be assigned for service with the army, and the duties required of them demand loyalty and zeal. In this aspect, the relation of person predominates so far as to render it doubtfu the private right of property can consistently and beneficially be continued, and it would seem proper to acquire for the public service, the entire properly in the labor o the slave, and to pay therefor due compensation, rather than to impress his labor for short terms; and this the more especially as the effect of the present law would vest the entire property in all cases where the stare might be recaptured after compensation for his loss had been paid to the private owner. Whenever the entire property in the service of a slave is thus acquired by the government, the question is presented, by what tenure he should be hold Should be be retained in servitude, or should his emancipation be held out to him as a reward for faithful service, or should it be granted at once on the promise of such service? and if emancipated, what action should be taken to scare for the freeman the permission of the State from which he was drawn to reside within its limits after the close of his public service? The permission would doubtiess be more readily accorded as a reward or past faithful service; and a double motive for realons discharge of duty would thus be offered to those employed by the government, their freedom, and the gratification of the total attachment which is so marked a character istic of the negro, and forms so powerful an incentive to his action. The policy of engaging to liberate the negro on his discharge after service tautifully rendered, seems to me preferable to that of granting in mediate manumission, or that of retaining him in servitude. If this policy should recommend itself to the judgment of Congress, it is suggested that, in addition to the daties heretof re-performed by the slave, he might be advantageously employed as pioneer and engineer laborer; and in that event, that the number should be augmented to forty thousand. Beyond this limit and these employments, it does not seem to me desitable, under existing circumstances, to go

A broad moral distinction exists between the use of slaves is soldiers in the defence of their homes, and the excite sent of the same persons to insurrection against their nasters. The one is justifiable, if necessary; the other s impoitous and unworthy of civilized people; and such s the judgment of all writers on public law, as well as hat expressed and insisted on by our enemies in all wars rior to that now waged against us. By none have the ractices, of which they are now guilty, been denounced 7th greater severity than by themselves in the two wars with Great Brittain in the last and in the prescut centu y; and in the Declaration of Independence of 1776, when numeration was made of the wrongs which justified the evolt from Great Britain, the comes of atrocity was deemed to be reached only when the English monarch was enounced as having "excited domestic insurrections mongst us."

se subject is to be viewed by us, thereof, solely in he light of policy and our solcial economy. When so agarded, I must dissent from those who advise a general ry and arming of the slaves for the duty of soldiers .-Until our white population shall prove insufficient for the armies we require and can afford to keep in the field, to employ, as a soldier, the negro, who has merely been rained to labor, and as a laborer, the white man, accusomed from his youth to the use of fire arms, would scarce y be deemed wise or advantageous by any; and this is he question now before us. But should the alternative be presented of subjugation or the employment of the slave as a soldier, thre seems no reason to doubt what should then be our decision. Whether our vice embraces what would, in so extreme a case, be the sum of misery entailed by the dominion of the enemy, or be restricted solely to the effect upon the welfare and happiness of the negro population themselves, the result would be the same. The appelling demoralization, suffering, disease and death which have been caused by partially substituting the invader's system of police for the kind relation previously subsisting between the master and slave, have sea a sufficient demonstration that external interference with our institution of domestic slavery is productive of evil mly. If the subject involved no other consideration than the mere right of property, the sacrifices heretofore made by our people have been such as to permit no doubt of their readiness to surrender every possession in order to secure their independence. But the social and political question, which is exclusively under the control everal States, has a far wider and more enduring importance than that of pecuniary interest. In its manifold phases, it embraces the stability of our republican institutions, resting on the actual political equality of all its citizens, and locades the fulfillment of the task which has been so happily begun—that of christianizing and im-proving the condition of the Africans who have, by the will of Providence, been placed in our charge. ing the results of our own experience with those of the xperiments of others who have borne similar relation to the African race, the people of the several States of the Confederacy have abundant reason to be satisfied with the past, and to use the greatest circumspection in determining their course. These considerations, however, are rather applicable to the improbable contingency of our need of resorting to this element of resistance than to our present condition. If the recommendation, above made, for the training of forty thousand negroes for the service indicated shall meet your approval, it is certain that even this limited number, by their preparatory training in in-termediate duties, would form a more valuable reserve proe, in case of preency than three-fold their uddenly called from field of labor; while u fresh levy ould, to a certain extent, supply their places in the special service for which they are now employed.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS. The regular annual reports of the Attorney-General, the Recretary of the Navy, and the Postmaster-General, are spended, and give ample information relative to the con

gestions for legislative provisions required to remedy such defects in the existing laws as have been disclosed by experience, but none of so general or important a character as to require that I should do more than to recommend them to your favorable consideration

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

The disposition of this government for a peaceful solution of the issues which the enemy has referred to the arbitrament of arms has been too often manifested, and is too well known, to need new assurances But while it is true that individuals and parties in the United States have indicated a desire to substitute reason for force, and by negotiation to stop the further sacrifice of human life and to arrest the calamities which now afflict both countries, the authorities who control the government of our enemies have too often and too clearly expressed their resolution to make no peace except on terms of our uncondi-tional submission and degradation, to leave us any hope of the cessation of hostilities until the delusion of their ability to conquer us is dispelled. Among those who are already disposed for peace, many are actuated by principle and by disapproval and abhorrence of the iniquitous warfare that their government is waging, while others are moved by the conviction that it is no longer to the interest of the United States to continue a struggle in which success is unattainable. Whenever this fast-growing conviction shall have taken firm root in the minds of the Northern people, there will be produced that willing-ness to negotiate for peace which is now confined to our side. Peace is manifestly impossible unless desired by both parties to this war, and the disposition for it among our enemies will be best and most certainly evoked by the demonstration on our part of ability and unshaken determination to defend our rights, and to hold no earthly orice too dear for their purchase. Whenever there shall be on the part of our enemies a de-ire for peace, there will be no difficulty in finding means by which negotiation can be opened; but it is obvious that no agency can be called into action until this desire shall be mutual. When that contingency shall happen, the government, to which s confided the treaty making power, can be at no loss for means adapted to accomplish so desirable an end.

In the hope that the day will soon be reached when, under Dyring favor these States may be allowed to enter on their former peaceful pursuits, and to develop the abundant natural resources with which they are blessed, let us hen resolutely continue to devote our united and unimpair ed energies to the defence of our homes, our lives and our iberties. This is the true path to peace. Let us tread it with confidence in the assured result

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

MUZZLING THE PRESS.

We cannot, however, send the message to our readers without observing the fact, that the suppression of all independent newspapers, for three years attempted by suggestion, and by general propsitions which included it is now directly and boldly demanded. Newspapers should exist, but ediors, their printers and their employees should not be exempts, but details. "A discretion," says the message, "should be vested in the military authorties, so that a sufficient number of those essential to the public service might be detailed to continue the exercise of their pursuits or professions, but the exemption from service of the entire classes should be wholly abandoned."

"Congress," says the Constitution, "shall pass no law limiting the freedom of the press;" but it shall make a law by means of which Mr. Davis can send a man to shut up any newspaper that offends him or any member of his government, by taking away its editor's detail. We hope it is needless to explain how such a law is inconsistent with any species of liberty in the animadversion of the press upon public men or measures. An independent press is a literal impracticability where such a law exists; every newspaper, from the moment when that law is made law, becomes, in exact terms, dependant for its existence on the free will-and "discretion" of government. Indeed, no honest man engaged in the publication of a newspaper that pre-tends to be independent, will continue his "pursuit" for one moment under such conditions. Never will any but cheats and slaves come before the public with the pretence of free speech in their mouths when they know that they can be silenced in a minute by a Davis, a Seddon or a Benjamin .-Declarations of these truths, we know, are the strongest possible exhortations to corrupt men, that they leave no stone upturned to get the President's Press Law passed. Whether their influence with Congress is sufficient, remains to be seen; but if Congress determines to interfere with the actual law on this subject, we hope it will do so by a regulation forbidding the further publications of any newspaper in the Southern Confederacy during the war. That law will be no more unconstitutional than the other, and if the handful of men now engaged in this business are needed in the army, no candid or honest person among them will urge the faintest objection against the simultaneous discontinuance of all the public journals now printed, provided the effect of the law is equal on all. But it will be a deplorable day for this country when every check on official corruption being removed, and every means of information being taken from the people, a press shall still live, which is not only no check on public wrong and no light to the people, but a professed tool, a paid pimp, a sword in the hands of corruption, a guide and steel of villians and tyrants; whose obliged duty shall be to blind the eyes of the country, to blacken virtue and to gild knavery .- Rich. Examiner.

"DETAILED" EDITORS. The proposition of President Davis, in his late message, to place editors and printers of newspapers under the thumb of the Executive-so that department may have the absolute and entire control of the whole press of the country-meets with no favor out of doors, whatever may be the dispesition of Congress. It is no novelty, having been tried once or twice before by his Excellency, and been rejected, almost without consideration, by the Congress of the Confederate States. It is the boldest attempt to muzzle the press, or to make it speak only such language as the Supreme Head may like to hear, that has been made on this continent. Even in the Yankee Congress, no such thing has ever been attempted. In the Yankee nation, whenever an editor says anything which the Dictator or his satraps consider objectionable, he is taken, at once, into custody, his types are distributed or dispersed, his presses broken or handed over to some loyalist, and he himself left to meditate, in a bastile, upon the grandeur of the great Republic, and the tender mercies of the best government under the sun. But he is not insulted with the reproach of having acted against the law, and being, therefore, justly clapped into prison in pursuance to law. He is tolo, and he knows it without being told, that he is there for having taken the name of Abraham Lincoln in vain -for having criticised his measures, or ridiculed his person; for having attempted to bring the ruling power into contempt, or having said what might expose it to execration. He knows there is no cause for his arrest, and he is not told that there is any. In fact, his persecutors do not hesitate to point to their epaulettes as their warrant, and to their swords as their justification. Press and law, they are given to understand, are alike silent in war times.

The case is very different here. We have a President who is remarkable for the conscientious scruples with which he executes the law, especially when our enemies are to be affected by it. Not for all the world would he do anything for which he had not law to show. When he wishes to do anything arbitrary, he considers it better to get a law for it. It was in contemplation at one time, we heard, to suppress the Examiner newspaper, and this journal, for certain differences of opinion with the Executive, expressed in terms not sufficiently courtly for the ear of majesty. But it was not done; there was no law for the deed. Lincoln would have acted differently. He would have clapped the editors in prison, and knocked the type into pi without waiting for any law. Our more considerate Ruler thinks it best to have a law, by means of which he can effect the same thing. Give him a hook in every editor's mouth, and a ring in his nose, and he will have no occasion to send him to Jail. Give him the power whenever an editor may express views not congenial with his own, or sentiments with regard to him personally or officially which do not accord with his own high appreciation of his merits, to break up his paper, by trundling him and his printers off to the trenches, and you enable him to accomplish, under color of daw, all that Lincoln has been able to effect by its most flagrant violation. And such a power the

President now asks Congress to bestow upon him. Will the Congress of the Confederate States consent to prostitute the entire press of the Confederacy to the pleasure of the Executive? Will they pass a law limiting the exercise of the most imporportant function of editor, to his tools and dependents? Will they render it impossible for the people-their own people-their constituents-their benefactors-to hear the truth if it be unpalatable to President Davis, or his friends, or his tools, or his minions? Shall it, through their agency, become impossible hereafter to hear one word against official corruption, no matter how gigantic-against Presidential mismanagement, however notorioustition of the respective departments. They contain sug- | against oppression, peculation, robbery, and all that

class of crimes of which a free press is the only possible corrective, because it is the only instrument by which they can be exposed. If so, then adopt the scheme of the message-detail editors and printers-make them dependent for their daily bread upon President Davis. The object will have been completely accomplished. You will have no editor who dare whisper a complaint of those high in office-no printer will venture to set up a line or sentence which does not celebrate the virtues and

the glory of the Executive. To put printers and editors in the same class with farmers, shoemakers, tanners, and other necessary trades and occupations, is simply ridiculous. There is no analogy between these cases. There is no temptation for the Executive to oppress any of these classes. He can gain nothing by restricting the exercise of their trades and professions to his own tools and parasites. It is, dangerous to give him command of the press, because it enables him to corrupt the fountain of intelligence. Because it enables him to blind the people as to his own acts.-Because it places him in a cloud, which the people cannot penetrate.

We will not say anything about the importance of a free press. Every member of Congress understands and feels it. We hope this monstrous proposition will receive such a blow as will convince its author that there is no use in prolonging its existence or experimenting with it any farther, upon the docility of Congress .- Rich. Whiy.

We are now, and have been from the first, among the firmest supporters of President Davis' administration from the belief that any administration placed in the direction of our affairs at this critical period, needed a cordial support, and from the further belief that President Davis deserved such support, as an honest, able, and patriotic administrator of the affairs of the Confederacy, although by no means a perfect one. Who could be?

It is therefore in no factious spirit that we enter our protest against a proposition the effect of which, it seems to us, must be the suppression of the Southern press or the forfeiture of its independence. If the press is to be conducted by the detailed appointees of the Confederate Executive, then, of course, it ceases to be a free press or the press of a free people; and yet such is the inference to be drawn from the President's endorsement of the recommendations of the Secretary of War, as well as from subsequent debates in Congress.

Some gentlemen in Congress, and other gentlemen in official position, though not in Congress, may think lightly of the press and take pleasure in showing that they do so. We do not say that the conductors of the press are all that they ought to be, or all that the responsibility of their positions would seem to require that they should be. We suppose they are not much better and not much worse than their neighbors. As individuals they are entitled to neither exemption nor immunity .-They appear in a representative capacity. They give utterance to public opinion, they combine and energise public effort. They are the heralds of our modern civilization, and as such their office is sacred, and the preservation of its purity and independence a matter of far more moment to a people ealous of their rights, than the smiles of executive lavor or the frowns of executive wrath. Of far more moment than the irritation of some honest but excitable matinet or the contemptible wrath of some fourth-rate politician elevated suddenly into into the title of an M. C. and the dignity of an honorable.

We shall have some further remarks to offer upon this subject when it is more properly before us. We do not doubt the President, but this power of annihilating a free press in the Confederate States is a power that ought to be conferred upon no man that ever breathed; and of course the press ceases to be free when its thinking and speaking is done by detailed men. We would not give the right of pointing and removing the editors of the South to an inspired Apostle, much less to a man like unto ourselves. It is dangerous. Well we are taught in the prayer of prayers, to pray to be led not into temptation but delivered from evil.

If papers are to be published; if editors are to be independent; if the press is to be free, let their independence and its freedom be placed under the sanction of the law .- Wil. Journal.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

At the Superior Court in Mecklenburg county, last week, John Medlin was convicted of murder. The Democrat says:

On Friday John Medlin, from Union county, was tried for killing Hosea Little. Medlin was a deserter, and Little and others were trying to arrest him, when Medlin fired and killed Little. The jury returned a verdict, guilty of murder. Counsel for the prisoner, A. B. Magruder and J. H. Wilson : for the State, Soliciter Armiield and Hon. W. Lander.

A block of marble, wrought in Italy for the South Carolina State House, now surmounts the firemen's monument in a Chicago cemetery, having been captured in trying to run the blockade.

ARTILLERY .- A thing made in Richmond, and directed to General Sheridan, care of Gen. Early.

THREE Russian officers have lately been degraded for having engaged in a duei, and one of them who gave the provocation, has been deprived of his title of nobility.

The Western and Atlantic railroad poid to the State of Georgia, "as net earnings," during the year 1863, \$2,146,087.

REMOVAL OF PRISONERS .- We learn from the Charleston Mercury that the six hundred Confederate officers lately confined in "the pen" on Morris Island, exposed to the fire of our batteries, have been removed to Fort Pulaski, below Savannah.

Says Hermes: The Virginia regiments are now very full. Pickett's division is stronger than it ever has been. I am told that Gen. Lee says "Virginia has done mobly in response to the last call, but North Carolina nas done even better."

As was Expected.—The prize steamer Advance is taking in her armament as a Yankee cruiser in New York harbor.

The Assembly of Pennsylvania, just elected,

stands as follows .

Union. Dem 18 15 House, 64 36 Union majority on joint ballot, 31.

Hon, Edward Stanly, formerly a member of Congress from North Carolina, and military Governor of that State for a time under the Lincoln administration (now of Calfornia,) has written a letter declaring for McClellan and opposing the policy of the administration.

The city Council of Columbus, Geo., has passed a resolution providing that "any members of the Council who shall attend any of its meetings while in a state of intoxication, shall be fined fifty dollars for the first offence, and for the second shall be

The Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina held its session at Greensboro' during last week and adjourned on Saturday night. The next meeting of Synod will be at Fayetteville in October, 1865.

We have seen two beautiful home-made shawls. for gentleman's wear, within a few days. It is a new article of comestic manufacture, and our country women are thus exemplifying their skill and patriotic resolution in these trying times.- Salisbury

The farmers will be gratified to learn that the Western North Carolina Railroad Company have determined to a ld to their extensive shops in this place a department for the manufacture of agricultural implements. The scheme will be put in operation immediately, and will doubtless fill a very important public want .- Salisbury Watchman.

It now requires only as many days to refine sugar as it did months thirty years ago. It once required six months to put quicksilver on a glass; now it needs only forty minutes.

Emancipation was celebrated at Baltimore on Tuesday with spirit-at sunrise, by a grand salute of five hundred guns; at daybreak, accompanied with the ringing of church and signal bells; at noon, the salute was repeated from Forts Federal, Hill and Marshall, Christ Church bells joining with a peal and performing at intervals various patriotic airs.

General Butler has issued detailed instructions to Major Mulford, Assistant Agent of Exchange, for carrying out the arrangements recently entered into between Generals Grant and Lee for feeding and clothing the prisoners of war held by the military authorities of the United States and the rebels,

All who have obtained for themselves great and permanent reputation, have won and secured it by patient and persevering labor; by treating time not as waste land fit only for stubble, but as a true estate, of which no corner is to be left uncultivated.

No choral song that shakes the sky Floats farther than the Christian's sigh.

An egotist will always speak of himself, either in praise or in censure; a modest man ever shuns making himself the subject of his conversation, -In Bruvere.

There are three modes of bearing the ills of life by indifference, which is the most common; by phil. osophy, which is the most ostentations; and by religion, which is the most effectual; for it is religion alone that can teach us to bear them with re signation.

Trains are said to be running through from Chat. tanooga to Atlanta. So it will be seen what all the fuss was made about the tearing up of fifty miles of railroads amounts to.

"Job printing!" exclaimed Mrs. Partington the other day as she peeped over her specks at the advertising page of a country newspaper. "Poor Job! they've kept him a printing week after week ever since I first learnt to read, and if he wasn't the patunist mortal that ever was, he never could have stood it so long no how. But it's a proof o' Scrptur, where Job says in Revolutions 'there's no end to makin' books,' nor newspapers nuther."

A TENDER HEART.—A certain man in Vermont once remarked that his children were the most tender hearted beings that he ever knew, and on being asked what made him think so, said, "Because they always cry when I ask them to get a pail of

LINCOLN A MILLIONAIRE. - A Yankee Democratic paper says: "Mr. Lincoln was not worth five thousand dol

lars on the day he was inaugurated. He now confesses that he is worth five millions of dollars!"

Two cows, a calf, were sold at auction in Charlotta on Thursday, for \$3,025.

A Chinese Joss House, or temple for heather worship, was dedicated in San Francisco on the 22d of August. It cost \$80,000. A band of tapestry, embroidered with feathers and gold, and silve thread, which adorns the place, cost \$150,000 per yard, and the whole building blazes with gold lear and tinsel. The priests shout, screech, yell, group, spin around amid the racket of gongs, drums and fiddles, and smoke opium until they are quitedrunk. when others relieve them. The finger mails of the chief priest are actually longer than his fingers, and are twisted like an augur.

PAYMASTER - A man appointed to tell the soldiers he "hasn't got any money."

THE BLACK CLOUDS OF WAR .- Two hundred and fifty thousand niggers put in the army.

The war bears hard upon papers North as well as South. When the war commenced there were forty papers in New Hampshire. There are now only twenty-one.

Gen. Logan, formerly a Western member of Congress, but recently in command of the 16th corps of the Yankee army, has been appointed to the command of Atlants, and declared military Governor of Georgia by Abraham Lincoln.

As the late Professor H- was walking near Edinburgh, he met one of those beings usually called fools. "Pray," said the Professor, accosting him, "how long can a person live without brains? "I dinna ken," replied the fellow, scratching his head; "how long hae you lived yourself, Sir ?"

At Melbourne, Australia, Lucy Estcott, an American lady from Springfield, Mass., is now the prima The keeper of one of the Cincinnati station houses

fell asleep last Sunday night; some passing scamp possessed himself of the keys and liberated all the An ingenious Pennsylvanian has invented a ma-

chine for coal mining, which weighs two hundred pounds, costs three hundred dollars and will do the work of twenty men. Maine paper state that Thomas S. Long, of Vas-

salboro', has an order from the Emperor, Napoleon the Third, for four spans of matched horses. A sting of a honey bee caused the death of a

young lady of Jonesville, Wisconsin. The Augusta Register notices the sale of a doz at

auction. He brought \$210. What next?

AXES! AXES!! AXES!!!

WE WILL PAY FROM \$5 TO \$7 FOR old axes. Five and Six inch STOVE PIPE made to order. SHAY, WILLIAMSON & Co. North State Iron and Brass Works. Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 20, 1864.

BOXES FOR SOLDIERS LL BOXES FOR SOLDIERS OR PRISOners of War from North Carolina, delivered to th following named persons will be promptly forwarded free

of charge: Dr. D. F. Summey, Asheville, Dr. W. A. Collett, Morganton, Dr. J. W. Allison, Statesville, Dr. J. L. Neagle, Greensboro', Mr. A. Hagan, Charlotte, Mr. Edward Hoge, Salem, Capt. J. N. McDowell, Raleigh,

Joseph A. Worth, Fayetteville, E. Murray & Co., Wilmington, Mr J. A. J. Askew, Colerain, Mr. F. L. Roberts, Murfresboro' Sprague Brothers, Salisbury.

The boxes should be well hooped, properly marked, and delivered in time for my Special Messenger who leavest Raleigh on the first day of every month. EDWARD WARREN. Surgeon General N. C.

WANTED!

\$5,000 BANK NOTES.

3,000 OLD N. C. COUPONS. 2,000 N. C. RAILROAD COUPONS.

JNO. G. WILLIAMS & Co., Raleigh, Oct 24, 1864.

MASONIC.

THE GRAND LODGE OF F. & A. M. OF North-Carolina will meet in this City on Monday evening the 5th December next, at 7 o'clock, for the transaction of business. Officers of Subordinate Lodges are requested to attend in person, or have special delegates appointed as the constitution and general regulations of the Grand Lodge require. WILLIAM T. BAIN,

Grand Secretary Releigh, N. C., Oct. 17, 1864.

. WOOL NOTICE.

Quartermaster's Department, } AM NOW PREPARED TO EXCHANGE COTTON YARN FOR WOOL, upon the following

terms, viz: One bunch of Yarn for 8 pounds of Washed Wool. " " " " Towashed " AGENTS have been appointed to make the exchange at

Oxford, Tawboro', Catherine Lake, Rockingham, Roxbore', Hendersonville, Statesville, Fayetteville, Coleraine, Raleigh.

Persons shipping wood to this place will please mark on the packages who they are FROM, and cotton yara

will be forwarded immediately. I hope the people will patriotically respond to the above notice, as the wool is for clothing the North-Carolina troops.

H. A. DOWD,
A. Q. M., N. C.A.
38-tf.

July 18, 1864.

the following places: