

General News.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Our estimate of this splendid state paper spoken in another column. It will command the admiration of the civilized world. Its frank and conclusive disclosure of the firmness of our important foreign relations and our growing means for self-reliance at home, will command universal belief. As a moral power against the insurgents, it will do more than any one battle which our army could win. Our readers will not expect us to fill our columns with it. It came to hand just too late for use in our last paper; just soon enough to have been almost a week before the public when this number is issued, so that we suppose it has already been before the eyes of every reader of ours. We shall however take the room to repeat the terms in which he sums up, almost in a nutshell, and yet with perfect distinctness, the issues in strife, and his own calm and immovable position respecting them. We must have at least this much on our files: we should be ashamed, in after years, to look over them in vain for a shred of this monumental way-mark along the track of the present stage in our national history. We quote as follows: The most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections. Judging by the recent canvass and its results, the purpose of the people within the loyal states, to maintain the integrity of the Union, was never more firm nor never more nearly unanimous than now. The extraordinary calmness and good order with which the millions of voters mingled at the polls, gave strong assurance of this. Not only all those who supported the Union ticket, so called, but a great majority of the opposing party also, may be fairly claimed to entertain and to maintain the same purpose. It is an unusual and important argument to this effect, that no candidate for any office, however high or low, has ventured to seek votes on the avowal that he was for giving up the Union. There has been much impugning of motives, and much heated controversy as to the proper means and best mode of promoting the Union cause but on the distinct issue of Union or not Union, the politicians have shown their instinctive knowledge that there is no diversity among the people. In forcing to the people the fair opportunity of showing one to another, and to the world, this firmness and unanimity of purpose, an election has been of vast value to the national cause. The election has exhibited another fact not less valuable to be known—the fact that we do not approach exhaustion in the most important branch of national resources—that of living men. While it is melancholy to reflect that the war has filled so many graves and carried mourning to so many hearths, it is some relief to know that compared with the surviving, the fallen have been few. While corps and divisions and brigades and regiments have formed and fought and dwindled and gone out of existence, a great majority of the men who composed them are still living. The same is true of the naval service. The election returns prove this. So many voters could not else be found. [A minute statistical comparison of the number of votes given now and four years ago respectively follows. The Message then proceeds:] So much is shown affirmatively and negatively by the election. It is not material to inquire how the increase has been produced, or to show that it would have been greater but for the war, which is probably true. The important fact remains demonstrated that we have more men now than we had when the war began, that we are not exhausted nor in the process of exhaustion, that we are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely. This as to men. Material resources are now more complete and abundant than ever. The natural resources there are unexhausted, and, as we believe inexhaustible. The public purpose to establish and maintain the national authority is unchanged, and, as we believe, unchangeable. The manner of continuing the effort remains to be chosen. On careful consideration of all the evidence accessible, it seems to me that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader could result in any good. He would accept nothing short of severance of the Union; precisely what we will not and cannot give. His declarations to this effect are explicit and oft-repeated. He does not attempt to deceive us. He affords us no excuse to deceive ourselves. He cannot voluntarily recede to the Union. We cannot voluntarily yield it. Between him and us the issue is distinct, single and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war and decided by victory. If we yield, we are beaten. If the Southern people fail him, he is beaten. Either way it could be the victory and defeat following war. What is true, however, of him who heads the insurgent cause is not necessarily true of those who follow. Although he cannot recede to the Union they can. Some of them, we know, already desire peace and reunion. The number of such may increase. They can at any moment have peace, simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution. After as much, the Government could not if it would, maintain a war against them. The loyal people should resist and sustain or allow it. If questions should arise we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conferences, courts and votes operating only in constitutional and lawful channels. Some certain and other possible questions are and would be beyond the Executive power to adjust, as, for instance, the admission of members into Congress, and whatever might require the appropriation of money. The Executive power itself would be greatly diminished by the cessation of actual war. Pardons and remissions of forfeiture, however, would still be within the Executive control. In what spirit and temper this control would be exercised can be fairly judged of by the past. A year ago a general pardon and amnesty, upon specified terms, were offered to all except certain designated classes, and it was the same terms that were known that the excepted classes were still within contemplation of special clemency. During the year many availed themselves of the general provision, and many more would, only that the signs of bad faith in some led to such precautionary measures as rendered the practical process less easy and certain. During the same time, also, special pardons have been granted to individuals of the excepted classes, and no voluntary application has been denied. Thus, practically, the door has been for a full year open to all except such as were not in condition to make free choice—that is, such as were in custody or under constraint. It is still so open to all. But the time may come when

public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that in lieu of more vigorous measures than heretofore shall be adopted. In presenting the abandonment of armed resistance to the National authority on the part of the insurgents as the only indispensable condition to ending the war on the part of the Government, I retract nothing heretofore said as to slavery. I repeat the declaration made a year ago, that while I remain in my present position, I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an executive duty to re-enslave such persons, another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it. In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it. (Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN. December 6, 1864.

FINANCES OF THE NATIONAL.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury is of necessity the longest and most laborious sent in to Congress from the Department. We give some of the statistical figures as follows: The actual receipts of the Treasury for the year ending July 1, 1864, were as follows: From Customs..... \$102,210,152 95 From Land sales..... 438,320 32 From Miscellaneous..... 47,111,448 10 From Great Salt Lake..... 475,648 25 From Internal Revenue..... 109,741,184 20 Total..... \$360,033,717 46 Add to balance July 1, 1863..... 5,329,044 21 Aggregate..... \$365,362,761 67 Receipts from loans..... 618,114,864 92 Total..... \$983,477,646 57 For civil service..... \$27,000,000 00 Pensions and Indians..... 7,517,830 97 War Department..... 600,791,842 97 Navy Department..... 87,133,282 71 Interest on debt..... 58,885,421 69 Total..... \$985,234,087 56 The statement is presented in another form as follows: Actual expenditures for fiscal year..... \$985,234,087 56 Deduct receipts from ordinary sources, and balance from preceding year..... 295,961,761 65 Balance provided from loans applied to service of the year..... 689,272,325 91 The amount derived from loans specifically stated is as follows: From National currency exceeding amount redeemed..... \$2,702,421 25 Fifty-two bonds, act of February 25th, 1862..... 821,567,283 41 Six per cent. bonds, act of July 17th, 1861..... 30,855,875 45 Twenty-five bonds, act of March 3d, 1864..... 73,897,900 00 Also FIVE COUTLEBY, PEN and POCKET KNIVES, RAZOR STROPS and LADIES' SCISSORS of the finest quality, at P. MADEIRA'S, 609-31 116 South TENTH street, Philadelphia. Just Imported for the Holidays, A few very fine ALBUMS in Russia leather, entirely new styles, very choice, unlike anything in the market. We have also a large assortment of STEREOSCOPES and STEREOSCOPIC PICTURES, which we are positively selling at old prices. JAMES CREMER & CO., 909-41 18 South EIGHTH street, Philadelphia. THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL, Considered in the Light of the Holy Scriptures, the Testimony of Reason and Nature, and the various Phenomena of Life and Death. By Rev. HENRY MARTIN, A. M. 12mo., 32 pp., \$1.50. Just published by PERKINPINE & HIGGINS, 66 North Fourth St., Philad., Pa. Sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of retail price. For sale by Booksellers generally. [909-31]

amount reserved for 'working' purposes being \$30,000. The stock is divided into three hundred thousand shares; the subscription price, \$2.50 per share. The prospectus, which we have examined with care, embraces leases on Oil Creek and Cherry Run, which, although but partially developed, are now yielding sufficient oil to pay dividends of 1 per cent. per month on the capital stock. Besides these valuable interests, the Company own, in fee simple, a tract of 157 acres on Cherry Run; a one-twelfth of eleven acres on the Miller Farm; an undivided half part of the Barber Farm, containing 40 acres; a lease of 34 acres on the Bennyhoof Farm, on which is erected a refinery, and one on the Buchanan Farm. The showing of this Company is certainly very flattering. We are not advised as to whether there is any of the stock to be had at subscription price, but presume that if there is there will be little difficulty in having it taken. The office of the Company is located at 432 Walnut street, second story.

THE DRAKE PETROLEUM COMPANY.—We call especial attention to the advertisement of this company published in this day's issue. It has two tracts of 512 acres, in fee, on the Caldwell Branch of Oil Creek, territory said to be equal to the celebrated farms on Oil Creek. The Caldwell branch is a tributary of this famous oil producing creek, and from the gentlemen selected, as officers, to manage the Drake Company, assurance is at once given of the reliability of the concern. The President is T. HASKINS DU PUY, Esq., President of the Catawissa Railroad Company, and Samuel Work, Esq., of the eminent Banking House of Work, McCouch & Co., of this city. The Directors are all gentlemen well known in this community, who assert in their prospectus that their lands are to be developed at once. Three engines have already been engaged and a careful superintendent appointed. Fifty thousand dollars has been set apart for a working capital—a sum sufficient for nine wells.

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