upon terms and conditions therein stated, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized, at any time thereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion—in any State or part thereof—pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions, and at such terms and on such conditions as he may deem expedient to the public welfare.

And whereas, the congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with well established judicial expositions of the pardoning power; and whereas, with reference to said rebellion the President of the United States has issued several proclamations, with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves, and whereas, it is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and re-inaugurate loyal State governments within and for their respective States,

Therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare and make known to all persons who have directly, or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights, if third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate, and which oath shall be registered for permament preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

I do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will hereafter faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of States thereunder, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President, made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court, So help me God.

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions, are all who are or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so called Confederate Government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are or shall have been military or naval officers above the rank of Colonel in the army, or Lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid in the rebellion; all who resigned their commissions in the army and navy of the United States and afterwards aided the rebellion, and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may be found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare and make known, that whenever in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Caroiina and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one-tenth of the number of the votes cast in such State at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord 1860, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election laws of the State, existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall be established a State Government, which shall be Republican, and in no wise contravening said oath.—Such shall be recognized as the true government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the Constitutional provision which declares that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, and on application of the Legislature, or the Executive when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence.

And I do further proclaim, declare and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such State Goverment in relation to the freed people of such State which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom and provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent as a temporary arrangement with their present condition as a laboring, landless, and homeless class will not be objected to by the National Executive.

And it is suggested as not improper that in constructing a loyal State Government in any State, the name of the boundary, the subdivision, the Constitution, and the Federal code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any not contravening said conditions, which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State government.

To avoid misunderstanding it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to State governments, has no reference to States wherein loyal State governments have all the while been maintained. And for the same reason it may be proper to further say that whether members sent to Congress from any State shall be admitted to seats, constitutionally rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the Executive. And still further, that this proclamation is intended to present to the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended and loyal State governments have been subverted, a mode by which the national authority over every loyal State government may be established within said States or any of them. And while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest with his present impressions, it must not be understood that another possible mode would not be acceptable.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the 8th day of December, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

WM. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

Atrocious Decision of the Rebel Authorities.

BALTIMORE, December 13.

The following dispatch was received this morning:

FORT MONROE, December 12, 1863.—*To C. C. Fulton, Baltimore.*—Please give notice that the Confederate authorities decline receiving any more packages or provisions for the Union prisoners, so that parties interested may refrain from forwarding any more goods to this point.

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER,
Major General Commanding.

Rev. Mr. Florence, who went to City Point with Dr. Clement C. Barclay, returned this morning. He had an interview with Captain Hatch, who was sent from Richmond to meet him. He informed him of the above decision of the rebel Government, and gave, as a reason therefor, what they alleged to be an imputation of their honor by the press and the Government authorities, that they were not delivering goods forwarded in good faith to the prisoners, and he asserted, of his own knowledge, that the officers in Libby prison, from the immense supplies which they had received, could set a table from their stores on hand equal to any hotel in the United States. He admitted that there had been some irregularities in supplies at one time, but the officers who had been guilty of neglecting the prisoners had been promptly removed and punished. As to the bad condition of the prisoners returned to Annapolis, he said that they were extreme cases of consumption, and that it was a grave error on the part of the authorities to have relieved such persons to return. For the present nothing would be received but letters and enclosures of money, and that Southern money had better be sent.

ANOTHER DISPATCH.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 13.—Clement C. Barclay and Rev. Mr. Torrence, who went on flag of truce boat, designing to go to Richmond to alleviate the condition of the Union prisoners, were refused permission to do so by the rebel authorities, and returned, Mr. Barclay to Old Point (where he will carry some days) and Mr. Torrence to Baltimore.

The rebels refused to receive any more provisions or clothing, alleging that the Northern people and presses misrepresent the facts appertaining thereto.

Wreck of the Weehawken.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Dec. 7, 1863.—For some time past nothing of interest has occurred at this point. We have had a few days of cold and nights of freezing weather. Yesterday, there occurred to the fleet the worst disaster of the siege. The famous iron-clad Weehawken, so gallantly rought by Captain John Rogers, and recently by Commander Calhoun, has sunk off Morris Island.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., we had a calm summer's day. About midnight the breeze sprang up from the northeast and blew a gale. The vessels that rode at their anchors so quietly on Saturday, now plunged fearfully. The Ironsides lay about two miles from Sumter; the Montauk was on picket; the Nahant was to the northeast about two hundred yards and the Weehawken to the southwest, about a hundred yards. Commander Calhoun had been sent home, unfit for duty, a short time previously. Commander Duncan, of the Paul Jones, took charge of the Weehawken on Saturday, the 5th inst.

During the forenoon of Sunday, Commander Duncan, visited the flag-ship, and while there the Weehawken shipped a heavy sea, which entered the forward hatch and filled the anchor room.—This anchor room is a water-tight compartment with a valve under the cabin door to let the water aft to the pumps, but at this time it must have been out of order, as the water could not get aft. The cabin door was closed, yet the bars that were to hold it in its place (so as to keep the water in the anchor room) could not be found. The officers and men, inured to dangers of this kind, seemed to care but little for what was going on.

They went below and quietly partook of their dinner, but soon after they were astonished at the rapidity with which the water was gaining upon them. The executive officer commenced to pay out chain, but the hawse-pipe was soon under water, and a six inch stream came pouring in.—The paying out of the chain did not relieve the ill-fated vessel. John Rogers was not there.—Presently the cry "she sinks" resounded through the vessel, and signals of distress were made to the flag-ship; boats were lowered from all vessels knowing the signals, but before they could reach her she sunk bow first in five fathoms of water, carrying with her twenty-six men and four engineers, including men in irons and men sick; also men at work in the engine-room, supposed the whole watch on duty at the time.

It is presumed that when the water reached the forward part of the boilers it made steam so suddenly as to suffocate all hands in the engine-room, as not one who was there escaped. The yeoman was picked up, but died soon afterwards. Much credit is due Captains Ammen and Bradford, of the navy, for their great exertions, made to save the perishing sailors. A charge of want of proper care would seem to rest upon the officers of the Weehawken. Some, however, have advanced the idea that the forward overhang of the lost vessel has broken off; but Mr. Hughes, Inspector of Iron-clads, thinks that cannot be the case.

If the Weehawken is ever raised, if will then be known where the blame, if any rests. The Weehawken had but recently returned from Port Royal, and had an unusual quantity of shot and shell on board, which probably settled her too far in the water. It is calculated that when these vessels are under water but fifteen inches, that two hundred tons would sink them bodily, consequently a much less weight would carry them down bow first.

New orders are now enforced in this department; one compels any one coming here for business or pleasure, to pay twenty-seven dollars.

Since the arrival of conscripts gambling has been carried on extensively. One of these, of the New Hampshire Third, deserted. All the vessels were searched, but he was not to be found. One cold evening there came a man in Georgian costume (had necktie and a pair of stockings) into the camp of the Ninth Maine Regiment, at Block Island, claiming to be a deserter from the Rebels at Secessionville. He was clothed and taken before Gen. Terry, to whom he told an excellent story of Bragg's defeat, with items of Charleston and Richmond news. No one doubted his story, and he was sent to the Provost Marshal at Morris Island to await orders from Gen. Gillmore. While at the Provost Marshal's he was recognized as the deserter from the Third New Hampshire by one of his own company. He was placed under arrest and has been tried by court-martial, and in all probability his performance will cost him dear.

While on shore a day or two since, I learned that the health of all the soldiers on Morris and Folly Islands was good; there is very little sickness of any kind.

The prospect is that a move will soon be made here and new victories achieved. All things are working well. The Commanding General is as busy keeping his own counsel as many are in anticipating his movements. As to the navy, it is to be hoped that the Admiral will not let the vessels make their bed with the Keokuk and Weehawken, but will keep them and all under him at work.—*Boston Traveller.*

ARMY NEWS IN CHURCH.—A Piqua (Ohio) correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, writing on Thanksgiving day, tells the following story of a fighting parson: "The glorions news from Chattanooga this morning cheated Rev. Col. Moody out of the opportunity of delivering his Thanksgiving sermon. We had met at the Green Street Methodist Church, in accordance with the President's proclamation, had sung the "President's hymn," taken up a collection of about sixty dollars for the Sanitary Commission, and our fighting preacher had scarcely got through his introduction, when the *Gazette* arrived, was brought into the church and handed to him by our patriotic sexton. The preacher stopped paused a moment and then shouted "glorious news." He then read the handings of the telegraphic news and said: "The congregation will all rise. Now, three cheers for the good old Stars and Stripes." They were given with a will and the walls of Green Street rang with the shouts of sturdy old stewards and leaders. "Now sing, all sing—'Praise God from whom all blessing flow.'" The congregation all joined in the singing. "Now," said the preacher, "I have too much good sense to think you would rather hear me preach than hear the news." So he read all the dispatches with the editorial, which was frequently cheered by the congregation. Then followed some excellent remarks by Dr. Wheelock, of the First Baptist Church, and the exercises were closed by a benediction—the congregation, by a rising vote, agreeing to meet in the evening to hear the Thanksgiving sermon, and take another collection for the Sanitary Commission."

WHAT LONGSTREET HAS ACCOMPLISHED.—The Richmond *Examiner*, of December 8, says: We have to-day only one piece of news of interest, and that relates to the present position of Gen. Longstreet. We are at last able to inform our readers where he is. An official dispatch was received from him yesterday, dated "Rutledge, December 6." Rutledge is thirty miles northeast of Knoxville, on the Road to Bristol, and one hundred miles from the latter place. At the date of his dispatch he had halted at Rutledge, but he will inevitably fall back to Bristol on the approach of the enemy. In his present position he is liable to an attack in front from Burnside, in flank from Cumberland Gap, and in the rear from the pursuing forces of Grant, who, the telegraph informs us, are making their way towards his rear by the same route by which he himself proceeded against Burnside. Nothwithstanding his apparently critical position, we think we may regard him as safe.—He has the shortest route before him to Southwestern Virginia, and a clear start of his pursuers. What Longstreet has accomplished in East Tennessee may be summed up in the word nothing.

THE COMMUTATION CLAUSE.—It is said that Senator Wilson, Chairman of the Senate Military Committee, is averse to any alteration of the conscription act, but Provost Marshal General Fry will recommend the repeal of the three hundred dollars commutation clause, which makes each drafted man go or find a subsitute. There will be strenuous opposition to this, as the Secretary of War and others believe that high bounties will bring men, and volunteers are worth more than conscripts.

Altoona Tribune.

ALTOONA, PA.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 1863.

☞ A telegram from Cincinnati announces that Gen. Foster has taken charge of the army previously commanded by Gen. Burnside, and that the latter is on his way to Cincinnati.

☞ The Government, which had not half a million of muskets in all the armories at the commencement of the rebellion, now has, in addition to the million and a half placed in the hands of the men of our armies, enough remaining to equip eight hundred thousand men. There are accoutrements enough for eighteen hundred thousand men. It is not likely that, as a nation, we shall ever hereafter be caught unprepared for war, for our present necessities have developed all the resources which are required to supply the materials of war.

☞ Godey's Lady's Book for January is on our table among the first, as usual. Punctuality is peculiar to Godey, and he never forsakes those who do not neglect him. This No. is brim full of fashions, fun and fine engraving. We know the ladies are all in love with Godey. No one can please them half so well. He knows their wants better than they know them themselves. Notwithstanding the advance in all articles connected with Magazine publishing, Godey has not increased his prices as the following terms show: One copy, one year, $3. Two copies, one year, $5. Three copies, one year, $6 Four copies, one year, $7. Five copies, one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, $10. Eight copies, one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, $15. Eleven copies, one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, $20.

THE COMMUTATION CLAUSE.—It is proposed that Congress shall abolish the clause in the enrollment law which allows a drafted man to commute for service by paying $300. This clause, says the *Ledger*, has been the subject of considerable misrepresentation, and it has been used to array the poor man against the law. But the law as it stands is really a protection to the poor, for without it the price of substitutes will raise so high that only the rich could afford to escape service in the army. It matters not much to a rich man if he has to pay $1,000 or $2,000 for a substitute. But how many persons working for wages or salaries that yield only a living, could afford to pay such a price? An industrious mechanic making $10 a week at his trade, could afford to give $300 to release him from a service of three years, equivalent to only $100 a year out of his wages, and still be pecuniarily a large gainer, comparing his wages with the amount the Government gives in pay, bounties, &c. Repeal the exemption and compel him to give $1,000 for a substitute, and not one out of a thousand would be able to pay it. If the purpose is to drive these men into the army, a repeal of the $300 exemption would do it. The commutation fund, according to a dispatch from Washington, has yielded, up to the present day, $12,000,000, which, divided into bounties of $300, ought to have produced 40,000 men for the army as Government substitutes. This is as many as was obtained directly by drafting, according to the report of the Secretary of War. It is doubtful if as many men for the army could be got out of the same draft, if the price of substitutes was considerably increased over $300. Unwillingness to serve in the army, and the heavy cost of being relieved ot the service, would add largely to the number of desertions or attempts at escape or secretion.

LETTERS WITH FICTITIOUS ADDRESSES.—Postmasters throughout the principal cities of the country are very much annoyed with the receipt of letters addressed to fictitious parties, mainly in consequence of newspaper advertisement, soliciting "correspondence" with young ladies. The evils of such advertisements are manifold, and the public papers have already recorded instances in which silly girls have been enticed from their homes and ruined in reputation by designing scoundrels.—The postmasters have an effectual legal remedy in their hands, which is now generally applied under the following clause in the post office law:

"Letters and packages addressed to fictitious persons or firms, or to no particular person or firm, not being deliverable according to the regulations, are to be returned at the end of each month to the Dead Letter office.

CORRECT, COL.—The Chambersburg *Repository* gives vent to the following which is, alas! too true in regard to country papers, and we doubt not the initiatory step taken by the *Repository* will be followed by its cotemporaries:—"It has been the custom of all associations and individuals to impose upon country editors the publication of resolutions, obituary notices, advertisements of benevolent enterprises, and various other articles of limited or individual interest, without charge.—We have done quite our share of that sort of work. If associations consider it due to deceased members to pass resolutions testifying to their virtues and condoling with their relatives, they must henceforth consider it due to publishers to pay for them; and if literary, school and other associations cannot exist without gratuitous printing, they must be too slightly prized to promise substantial benefit to their members. Until we find teachers who teach gratis, butchers who furnish steaks and roasts without charge; lawyers who counsel without fees; farmers who donate their wood and produce, &c., we must decline being in the list of printers who print without compensation."

BEWARE OF REDUCED GAS LIGHTS.—In the Fire Marshal's report for New York he says:—"Many persons have a habit of lowering the gas light in their bed rooms to a faint jet at night.—This, to say nothing of its pernicious influence upon the health, may be productive of serious accidents. When the gas is reduced so low, a very slight cause—the buzzing of a fly even—will serve to put it out, and the sleeper is left to inhale a poisoned atmosphere, or to incur the risk of an explosion should any one chance to enter the room with a light. Where gas lights are thus lowered, a glass should always be used as a protection to them.—Many fires have occurred in consequence of the dim light, not noticed after sun rise, on the window being opened by the occupant or servant; the curtain is blown against the burner and a fire ensues.

Denunciation of Jeff. Davis.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 13—The steamer New York arrived last evening from City Point, in charge of Flag-of-truce Officer Major Mulford.

General McDowell arrived at Fortress Monroe this morning, via Baltimore, and had a lengthy interview with Major-General Butler to-day.

In the Rebel Congress, December 8th, Mr. Foote expressed great indignation at the course pursued by Jeff. Davis. When Pemberton dishonorably surrendered Vicksburg to the enemy the President made him his companion and carried him to Bragg's army, where, as he rode along, soldiers were heard to say "There goes the traitor who delivered us over at Vicksburg."

The President never yet visited the army without doing it injury, never yet that it was not followed by disaster. He was instrumental in the Gettysburg affair; he instructed Bragg at Murfreesboro'; he has opened Georgia to one hundred thousand of the enemy's troops, and laid South Carolina liable to destruction.

I charge him with having almost crushed the country, and will meet his champion anywhere, to discuss it. Would to God he would never visit the army again, &c. A certain Commissary-General, who was a curse to our country, is invested with authority to control the matter of subsistence. This monster, Northrop, has stealthily placed our Government in the attitude charged by the enemy, and has attempted to starve the prisoners in our hands.

From the 1st to 26th, meats were furnished the prisoners very irregularly and in a meager manner. For twelve days the supply was inadequate, and for eight days they had none at all.—This Commissary-General, says Mr. Foote, was a pepper doctor down in Charleston, and looked like a vergetarian, and actually made an elaborate report to the Secretary of War, showing that for the subsistence of a human Yankee carcass vegetable diet was the most proper. For the honor of the country this Northrop should be rejected at once.

Address of Mr. Colfax.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—To-day will be marked in American history as the opening of a Congress destined to face and settle the most important questions of the century, and during whose existence the rebellion which has passed its culmination will, beyond all question—thanks to our army and navy and Administration—die a deserved death! Not only will your constituents watch with strictest scrutiny your deliberations here, but the friends of liberty in the most distant lands will be interested spectators of your acts in this greater than Roman forums. I invoke you to approach these grave questions with the calm thoughtfulness of statesmen, freeing your discussions from that acerbity which mars instead of advancing legislation, and with unshaken reliance on that divine power which gave victory to those who formed this Union and can give even greater victory to those who are seeking to save it from destruction from the hands of the parricide and traitor. I invoke you, also, to remember that sacred truth which all history verifies, that "they who rule not in righteousness shall perish from the earth." Thanking you with a grateful heart for this distinguished mark of your confidence and regard, and appealing to all for that support and forbearance, by the aid of which alone I can hope to succeed, I am now ready to take the oath of office, and enter upon the duties you have assigned me.

EASTERN AND WESTERN SOLDIERS.—The Chicago *Tribune* considers the late battle in front of Chattanooga the most complete and decisive of the war, and speaks of its results as follows: Thus, from beginning to end, it was a brilliant affair—Hooker's magnificent scaling of Lookout; Sherman's hard work near the mouth of the Chickamauga, and Granger and Palmer's carrying of Mission Ridge. The battle yields fruits. It gives us ground not only, but ground which is wanted—ground that is strategic, commanding East Tennessee and Northern Georgia and Alabama. It gives us guns and prisoners, and restores the *prestige* and at a small expense. The Confederacy has scarcely received a harder blow.

It is worth the while in another point of view. Eastern and Western troops fought side by side and with equal good conduct and almost equal success. It can hardly fail to check that small jealousy which has now and then cropped out since Hooker came upon the ground. The Western men can afford to let the Eastern take a little more care of their clothes than themselves, to think soft bread and a cup of tea, with a piece of butter, not to be despised, even in the field, if they can be had; and the Eastern can afford the Western some latitude in their freer ways—if both fight well when the pinch comes. Gallant action must beget natural respect. The Nashville *Union* says of the Eastern troops: They fought with as much spirit, endurance, and success as any troops on the field. Cheers for the gallant boys from the Eastern States!

WHAT MAXIMILIAN IS DOING.—The Trieste *Gazette* of November 19, contains the following: "Contrary to the frequently repeated assertions of foreign papers, that his Imperial Highness the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian intends to leave for Mexico in February, and will shortly resign his post as commandant of the Austrian fleet, we are in a position to declard that the situation created by his Imperal Highness's address to the Mexican deputation is in no way changed. No alteration will take place in the position of the Archduke until the conditions then laid down are fulfilled.—Now, as formerly, his Imperial Highness is devoting all his cares to the navy. He will not relinquish, save unwillingly and at the last moment, the task he has undertaken of powerfully developing the forces of the Austrian marine."

The Terrible Treatment of Union Prisoners at Richmond

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF RELEASED SURGEONS.

The following statement, by Surgeons just returned from the Libby Prison, of the treatment received by our prisoners at Richmond, has been presented to the War Department:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27th 1863.

We, the undersigned Surgeons of the U. S. A. and recently prisoners in Richmond, Va., consider it our duty to publish a few facts that came to our knowledge while we were inmates of the hospital attached to Libby Prison.

We enjoyed for several months daily access to the hospitals where the sick and wounded among our Union soldiers received treatment. As a result of our observation, we hereby declare our belief that since the battle of Chickamauga the number of deaths per diem has averaged fully 50.—The prevailing diseases are diarrhœa, dysentery and typhoid pneumonia. Of late the per centage of deaths has greatly increased—the result of causes that have been long at work, such as insufficient food, clothing and shelter, combined with that depression of spirits brought on so often by long confinement. It may seem almost incredible, when we affirm of our personal knowledge that in the three hospitals for Union soldiers the average mortality is near forty per day, and upon the most reliable testimony we are forced to believe that the deaths in the tobacco factories and upon the Island will raise the total mortality among all the Union prisoners to fifty per day, or 1,500 monthly

The extremely reduced condition of those brought from the Island argues that hundreds quite sick are left behind, who, with us, would be considered fit subjects for hospital treatment. Such, too, is the fact, as invariably stated by scores we have conversed with from the camp.

The same, to a degree, holds true of the prisoners in the city. It would be a reasonable estimate to put the number who are fit subjects for hospitals, but who are refused admittance, at five hundred. A thousand are already under treatment in the three hospitals, and the Confederate Surgeons themselves say the number of patients is only limited by the small accommodations provided. Thus we have over ten per cent of the whole number of prisoners held classed as sick men, who need the most assiduous and skillful attention. Yet in the essential matter of rations they are receiving nothing but corn bread and sweet potatoes. Meat is no longer furnished to any class of our prisoners, except to the few officers in the Libby Hospital, and all sick or well officers or privates are now furnished with a very poor article of corn bread in place of wheat bread. This is very unsuitable diet for hospital patients prostrated with diarrhœa, dysentery and fever, to say nothing of the balance.

Startling instances of individual suffering and horrid pictures of death, from protracted sickness and semi-starvation, we have had thrust upon our attention.

The first demand of the poor creatures from the Island was alwas something to eat. Self-respect gone, hope and ambition gone, half-clad, and covered with vermin and filth, many of them too often beyond all reach of medical skill. In one instance the ambulance brought sixteen to the hospital, and during the night seven of them died.—Again, eighteen were brought and eleven of them died in 24 hours. At another time fourteen were admitted, and in a single day ten of them died.—Judging from what we have ourselves seen and do know, we do not hesitate to say that, under a treatment of systematic abuse, neglect and semi-starvation, the number who are becoming permanently broken down in their constitution must be reckoned by thousands. We leave it for others to say what is demanded by this state of things.

The confederate daily papers in general terms acknowledge the truth of all we have affirmed, but usually close their abusive editorials by declaring that even such treatment is better than the invading Yankees deserve. The examiner, in a recent article, begrudged even the little food the prisoners did receive, and the boxes sent to us from home, and closed by eulogizing the system of semi-starving and exposure, as well calculated to dispose of us. All this is true, and yet cold weather has hardly commenced.

We are horrified when we picture the wholesale misery and death that will come with the biting frost of winter. Recently several hundred prisoners per day were being removed to Danville. In two instances we were standing in view of them as their ranks filed past. It was a sad sight to see the attenuated features and pallid faces of men a few months since robust and in vigorous health. Numbers were without health—numbers were without shoes—nearly all without blankets or overcoats and not a man did we see that was well and fully clad.

But the credit of the prisoners in Richmond, of all ranks, be it recorded, that all along they have shown heroic fortitude under suffering, and spurned the idea that the government had forgotten them; they have held fast their confidence in the final and speedy success of our cause.

In addition to the above statement, we wish it to be distinctly understood that the Confederate medical officers connected with the hospitals referred to—Surgeons Wilkins, Simmons and Sabal, and the Hospital Steward, Hallet—are not in any way, so far as our observation has extended, responsible for the state of things existing there; but, on the other hand, we are bound in justice to bear testimony to their kindness and the faithful performance of their duties within the limited means at their disposal.

DANIEL MEEKE, Surgeon U. S. Vols.
C. T. SIMPERS, Asst. Sur. 6th Ind. Vols.
J. L. BROWN, Asst. Sur., 116th O. Vol. Inf.
A. M. PARKER, Asst. Sur. 1st Me. Cav.

HOW THE 300-POUNDER PARROTS ARE WORKED.—A correspondent on Morris Island writes: As there is no manual laid down for the 300-pounder Parrott, I subjoin that in use. The piece is on its carriage and "from battery." Implements, no two to be in the same place and no one in its proper place. The instructor gives the command, "load her up." At this command the gunner says, "some of you fellows bring a shell," and "John bring a cartridge." Some of the "fellers" take a small hand-barrow and bring a shell. Gunner says, "stick in that powder." "Now, boys, hold on till I get out a fuse." "Stick it in." All hands, by hard heaving, got the shell to the embrasure. Gunner says, "Swab her out." She is swabbed out. "Now, heave and haul, and in it goes." It goes in accordingly. "Now, ram it down." It is rammed down. "Now, run her in." She is run in. "Screw down the recoil bands."—They are screwed down. Gunner aims. "Slew her round a little." "All right." Where's that primer?" "Now, get out of the way, everybody." All go to windward, and No. 3 steps round a corner, so as not to be hit if the gun bursts. Gunner says, "Blaze way." She blazes away. Remark of the gunner on returning to the gun, "How are you, Sumter?" Repeat.

MORE REBEL PIRATES FROM ENGLAND.—The Canada brings news that the steamer Rappahannock, under the Confederate flag, and pierced for eight guns, sailed for Sheer ness, England, on the 26th ult., in an unfinish state, having a gain of carpenters on board, and arrived at Calais the same day. The vessel was at once seized by the French custom authorities, but was not long detained, and her captain has permission to leave port whenever he pleases. The Rappahannock was formerly her Majesty's steam sloop Victor, and was sold with three other steamers a few weeks ago. The three latter are English war steamers, and are reported to be fitting out in the Thames for Confederate privateers. The Confederate steamer Georgia had gone into dock at Cherbourg to repair some minor damages.

NEW STOCK OF BOOTS & SHOES for Men and Boys. Ladies and Misses, just rec'd at LAUGHMAN'

ANOTHER LARGE LOT OF THE CELEBRATED JERSEY HAMS just received and for sale at FRITCHEY'S

NEW GOODS.

THE undersigned would respectfully inform the citizens of Altoona and surrounding country, that he has just returned from the East, where he has been selecting his stock of

FALL AND WINTER GOODS,

which, for style, quality and price, cannot be surpassed in this neck of country. His stock is much larger than heretofore, and as it is quite an object, in these expensive war times, for every one to purchase where their money goes the most, he would say that he can and will sell as low, if not a little lower than any other house in this place. He would ask all to call and see his stock before purchasing elsewhere, as he feels confident he can offer inducements which will defy competition. His stock consists of

LADIES' DRESS GOODS of every description,
MEN AND BOYS' WINTER WEAR,
LADIES AND MISSES' DRESS SHOES,
MEN AND BOYS' BOOTS AND SHOES,
MEN'S HALF HOSE,
WOMEN'S AND MISSES' WOOL HOSE,
HATS AND CAPS,
BLEACHED AND UNBLEACHED MUSLIN,
GINGHAMS AND HEAVY DRILLINGS,

He will sell Ladies Sewed, Heeled Bootees at $1.50@1.75
Kip Pegged..... 1.50@1.75
Men's Boots..... 1.75@1.50
BALMORAL SKIRTS, very low. 2.75@3.00

GROCERIES.

White and Brown Sugar, Rio Coffees, Syrups, Teas, &c., and everything that is usually kept in a Dry Goods Store, and as cheap as the cheapest. J. A. SPRANKLE

Altoona, Oct. 7, 1863.

AVOID THE NEXT DRAFT!

THERE IS A PREVAILING EXCITEMENT among the people of Altoona and vicinity about THE SECOND DRAFT—not so much about the Draft as for making the *Three Hundred to pay exemption.* All patriotic but choose rather to stay at home with their beloved ones, for their support, than to risk their lives in this bloody war. Now, to bring the matter to a close, we will inform the public that by buying their Goods at the GREEN STORE, Corner of Branch and Annie street, East Altoona, kept by GETZ & CO., they will

SAVE THE THREE HUNDRED

in a short time. They have just received a large and well selected stock of DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES, which they are selling for Cash at the lowest living prices.

A large assortment of LADIES' COATS AND CIRCULARS, ranging in price from $4.50 to $12.00

The attention of the public is particularly drawn to the fact that they are selling Brown and White Muslin from 18 to 45 cents; Calicoes from 12½ to 25 cts.; Delaines from 18 to 35 cents per yard.

They have always on hand a large assortment of MEN AND BOYS' CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS, SHOES, and, in fact, everything kept in a first-class Store.

Altoona Oct. 7, 1863.

Victory Won!

THE Subscribers would respectfully announce to the citizens of Altoona and vicinity that they have just returned from the East with their

FALL AND WINTER STOCK OF

HATS & CAPS,
BOOTS & SHOES.

Their stock of HATS & CAPS have been selected with great care, and with the view of suiting all who may favor them with their patronage. Their line of Boots and Shoes is complete.

Their *LADIES' MISSES' and CHILDREN'S SHOES* are of City make, and warranted. Their Balmoral Shoes for Ladies and Misses, are just the thing for wet weather and saving health

Thankful to the public for their very liberal patronage heretofore, they hope to merit a continuance of the same. Store on *MAIN ST.* next door to Bowman's Exchange Hotel. SMITH & MANN

Altoona, May 12, 1863.

SAVE THE PER CENTAGE

BY BUYING YOUR

CLOTHING FROM FIRST HANDS.

ETTINGER & TUCK, Manufacturers of and Wholesale and Retail dealers in Ready-made Clothing, would respectfully invite the attention of the public to the following facts in reference to their stock

1st. We manufacture our own goods. They are made up in our own Store, in Philadelphia, under our immediate supervision, and we know they are well made and can be warranted

EQUAL TO THE BEST,

and superior to the largest quantity of Ready-made clothing in the market.

2nd. We buy our Cloths directly from the Importers and Manufacturers, consequently we save the per centage paid on by middle men.

3rd. We sell our Clothing at a reasonable percentage over the cost of our Cloths, thereby saving the purchasers of Clothing the percentage which must be added by those who buy from second hands to sell again. We retail our Clothing at the same price which other merchants pay for theirs at wholesale, consequently those who buy from us get their goods at the same price which other Clothiers pay for theirs in the city, thereby saving said Clothiers per centage.

We have branch Stores in

ALTOONA AND JOHNSTOWN,

where goods may be had at the same figures at which we sell them here in the city.

If any person has been told, or imagines, that Tuck's Store, in Altoona, is "played out," let such person drop into his establishment, on Main Street, and examine his goods and prices.

Wholesale House, No. 702 Market Street, Philadelphia
Dec. 2, 1863.—tf.

CITY DRUG STORE.

DR. E. H. REIGART would respectfully announce to the citizens of Altoona and surrounding country, that he has recently purchased the Drug Store of Berlin & Co., on Virginia Street, opposite Fries' Hardware Store.

His Drugs are Fresh and Pure,

and he hopes by strict attention to business, to merit a share of public patronage.

Call and examine his stock. He has constantly on hand,

DRUGS,
MEDICINES and CHEMICALS,
FINE TOILET SOAPS, PERFUMERY, BRUSHES, GLASS, PUTTY, PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, CARBON OIL AND LAMPS, NOTIONS, CIGARS,
and every article usually kept in a First-class Drug Store
PURE WINES AND LIQUORS
for medicinal use.
DOMESTIC GRAPE WINE—PURE—WARRANTED.
PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS,
accurately compounded, at all hours of the day or night.

Altoona, Sept. 30, 1863.

OH, YES! OH, YES!

THIS WAY!

TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, THE PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR, or any one wanting

Choice Family Groceries,
A PRIME QUALITY OF FLOUR,
OR ANY KIND OF FEED,

will save money by calling at the

Grocery, Flour and Feed Store of
M'CUNE & WILSON,

Corner of Clara and Virginia Streets, in the store room known as Johnston Moore's.

The highest cash prices will be paid for Flour, Feed, and all kinds of country produce.

J. MILES M'CUNE
ALBERT WILSON.

Altoona, Pa., Nov. 4th, 1863. [3 m.]

VALUABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE

The subscriber offers at Private Sale a valuable property, situate on Branch St., East Altoona, immediately opposite the Machine Shops.

The house is well built and nearly new, and contains

Fifteen Rooms with Good Cellars.

It is calculated for THREE FAMILIES, and at the most reasonable terms will bring $20 per month rent. There is a well of good water in the yard. Terms easy.

Apply to MICHAEL WYROUGH, on the premises, or to JAMES KEARNEY, at his store, in East Altoona.

July 28, 1863—tf.

TEAS! TEAS! TEAS!—FRITCHEY is selling Teas superior to any ever offered in Altoona. They are free of adulteration, coloring, or mixture of any kind.

BOSTON CRACKERS—A LARGE supply of these delicious crackers just received and for sale by FRITCHEY.

HARDWARE OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS just received and for sale by J. B. HILEMAN

Oct 15-tf]

EXTRA FAMILY FLOUR, FROM the Cove, always on hand and for sale as low as the lowest by FRITCHEY.