

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

We give in full, this week, the annual Message of Gov. Curtin. It is a clear, business-like, practical, and to us, a very satisfactory document. It will repay a careful perusal.

The Governor says that they year 1864 closes with a train of brilliant successes, inspiring the hope that the Rebellion will soon be crushed and peace restored. The public debt has been reduced nearly \$117,000, leaving it on the 1st of December \$39,979,603, less the railroad bonds received for the sale of the public works, amounting to \$10,300,000. He says that the quota of the State for the new call for Volunteers is 66,930, and alluding to the President's statement that the call is chiefly to supply deficiencies in former calls expresses surprise at the deficiency, and can only account for it by the assumption that the men never reached the army, although enlisted and mustered in after the payment of large bounties by localities sending them. He estimates that the people of the State have in this way been robbed of twelve millions of dollars, not including money fraudulently taken from men who actually entered the army. The troops sent into service from Pennsylvania during 1864, were 91,706, including 17,786 re-enlisted men. The whole number of troops from Pennsylvania since the commencement of the war, including the ninety days' militia, is 336,444, besides 25,000 militia furnished in 1862. The gallantry of our soldiers in the field sheds lustre on the commonwealth and that their merit is appreciated is shown by the continued liberality with which the men and women of the State contribute the means for their comfort and welfare.

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AND CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD.

The Engineers of the S. P. & C. R. R. have been engaged for several weeks in running the various routes above us to the summit of the Allegheny. They returned to this place last week, after having completed a survey of the three routes proposed. We have no idea at this time which of the routes will be preferred by them; but suppose that the Deeter's Run and Breastwork route will be the most feasible one. We believe no further surveys are to be made this winter. They will be resumed early in the spring. It has been currently reported here for the last week or two that the company only desire to extend the line of their road from Mt. Dallas, the terminus of the Bedford Railroad in this county, to the terminus of the Connelville Railroad in Fayette county, and that no road will be built from Bloody Run to Chambersburg. We do not pretend to say that this report is correct, although there is a plausibility about it which we do not like too well. We think it would be bad faith on the part of the company, to the citizens of this county, to deviate from the plain propositions suggested by those who were interested in securing the incorporation of the company, and so confidently accepted by those who urged the adoption of the measure, in the countries referred to. We believe it was fairly understood that the road was to start at some point in the Cumberland Valley, and we hope that, that understanding will be adhered to. If there is any foundation for the report spoken of, it is evident that the Central company only desired to occupy the ground to keep others from doing so. This argument was used last winter against the incorporation of the proposed company and from present appearances, there was good ground for it. It would be well for the parties interested in a Grand Trunk Road to see that their interests are not thus overridden. We of course desire the road above all things, but if a road is to run through this section, let it be a road that will traverse the entire southern border and develop the entire southern tier of counties, otherwise the project will be a failure to a certain extent.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE CONSPIRACY.

The conspiracy which was headed in this Legislative District by B. F. Meyers and O. E. Shannon for the purpose of defrauding the soldiers out of the right of suffrage under the Constitution has most signally failed and come to grief. The Legislature convened on the 3rd inst., at Harrisburg and after a short discussion, by a decided vote, admitted D. B. Armstrong and Moses A. Ross, instead of B. F. Meyers and Hiram Findley, who were attempted to be foisted upon the people by one of the most transparent frauds ever perpetrated upon the ballot box. This was as we predicted a month or two ago, and it could not well be otherwise. We do not feel any inclination to exult over the result, because we have from the first, felt confident that justice would be done. A resolution, we learn, will be offered in the House of Representatives, asking for the appointment of a committee to investigate the fraud. This is right and proper, and when the facts appear let the guilty parties be brought to justice. And, further, we hope that the Attorney General will undertake the prosecution in person. Mr. Meyers and his tools, in such an event, will learn that trampling upon the laws, is not as pleasant as "downy pillows are."

Mr. Meyers is evidently very sore over the efforts of Hon. John Cessna to have justice prevail. He writes and makes as many ugly faces as Punch or Yankee Notions. This must be fine amusement for Mr. Cessna. We should be loathe to display our discomfiture as conspicuously as he has lately been displaying his through his paper. Poor fellow, we pity him, but loathe the spirit, which prompted him to act so selfishly. Surely the hand writing on the wall has been deciphered: "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting."

WANT TO COME BACK.—The New York Times has the following dispatch from Washington.

"It is rumored that Gen. Sherman has communicated to the President that the Georgia State authorities have applied to come back into the Union, and that Secretary Stanton's visit to Savannah has some connection with this subject. It is also believed that Secretary Stanton's visit to Sherman will result in the inauguration of a new policy in Sherman's command in reference to the treatment of negroes who may come into his lines hereafter. Such negroes will be armed and allowed to do effective service in the Union ranks."

AN IMPORTANT ORDER has just been issued by Provost-marshal General Fry, announcing that under the recent call for 300,000 troops, issued on the 19th of last month, the numbers specified actually be placed in the field. No credits are, therefore, to be allowed for any recruits under this call who were in the United States service at the date above-mentioned, and a thorough revision of the quotas of the various districts must now take place.

A Cry of Despair.

Two remarkable articles have lately appeared in the Richmond Sentinel and the Richmond Enquirer. They contain the most distinct and unmistakable confession of failure that has yet come from rebellion. If it be true, moreover, that the article in the Sentinel was written by Jefferson Davis himself—as the Richmond Enquirer intimates—then it becomes still more important and authoritative.

These articles tell us, in almost so many words, that the Confederacy has sustained so many reverses of late that it is no longer able to defend itself effectively, and that it is time to look about for foreign assistance. How deep this conviction of its impotence is, is shown by the fact that these writers are willing to purchase foreign aid by the sacrifice of everything distinctive in southern life. "If France and England," says the Enquirer, "will enter into a treaty with these Confederate States, recognising our nationality and guaranteeing our independence upon the abolition of slavery in all these states, rather than continue the war, we should be prepared to urge the measure upon our readers. We believe such a proposition would be favorably received and acted upon by those nations, and it ought to be made to them." That is, we will give up our independence, adopt a protectorate, and abandon our social system itself, to be saved from the domination of the people of the North.

Two sentiments are stronger than all others in the southern heart; the one is the love of rule, the ambition to govern, the sense of personal superiority, and the other is devotion to slavery, which has been intellectually petted until more than half the people have really persuaded themselves that it is a divinity. Yet, as depicted by these sentiments are, we hear of their leading men proposing to give up both in their utter despair of otherwise sustaining the fortunes of the Confederacy. Rather than submit to the Yankees, whom they have taught themselves to hate with an infernal malice, they would go back to the embraces of the nations of the Old World.

Nor does this purpose proceed from foolish pride alone; it is the only course left to the leaders of the rebellion. Having stirred up and conducted a most needless yet bloody civil war, they cannot retire from it without acknowledging their utter criminality. Having for many years alleged a long list of grievances against the Yankees, whom for the past four years they have accused of every sort of atrocity, they could not now submit to them without the most painful feelings of humiliation. To find "the spaniels" whom they used to talk of "whipping into obedience," themselves holding the lash, is a very sad reverse to the picture. To see "mudsills" "greasy mechanics" and "Paritians" swaying it in the very homes of the chivalry is anything but pleasant to the "high-toned gentlemen" of the South. They must escape that degradation at least, either by going to Europe or getting Europe to come to them. A repetition of the experience of Mexico, an imperial court with a multitude of new-made dukes, earls, counts and barons, would be the more delightful contemplation, but if that cannot be had they will migrate to South America or to the other continent.

But the masses of the southern people will not be under the same necessity. They had little or nothing to do in originating the war, and may abandon it when they please, without much loss of character. Neither will they find it a severe disgrace to come back under the laws of the Union, in the making of which they all had a hand. We do not believe that the inhabitants of Savannah feel themselves particularly degraded in being referred to all the blessings of the Union. Sherman's army has not appeared there as a conquering force but as a liberating force. It has enabled them to throw off the despotism of Richmond, which was fast starving them to death. They are once again free, and will be soon in the way of prosperous trade and industry.

It suits the purpose of the rebel leaders to represent success of our arms as a subjugation; to them indeed it is a subjugation; but to the people it is rather an emancipation and a relief. The constitution and laws of the Union are so beneficent; the operations of the national government touch them so lightly and at so few points, that it is a gross abuse of words to call the reposition of their authority a conquest or a subjugation. When Austria sends her troops into Venice, or England hers into India, to force upon the reluctant people strange modes of government, and a foreign authority, we may call the act a conquest; but when our Yankee troops penetrate the South, they do so to break off the fetters which a selfish oligarchy has riveted around the necks of the masses. They go as deliverers, and will be so estimated in history written by the children of the very men who are now most bitterly opposed to submission.

THE CONFEDERATE FACTIONS.—Interesting compilations from recent rebel newspapers shows that the fight of the Jeff. Davis and anti-Jeff. Davis factions is constantly growing more sanguinary. The lines between them are now strictly drawn and the tone of their respective organs towards each other is deliciously bitter, from a Northern point of view. The newspapers opposed to Jeff. accuse him in the most open and vehement manner of being the cause of all their recent disasters, and they in turn are charged by Jeff's organs with destroying confidence in the ability of the confederacy to achieve its independence, preventing the full enforcement of the conscription and encouraging desertion. It is claimed by the Richmond editors that the saltworks at Saltville can soon be repaired, and that Hood has not lost near so many men as the Northern journals report. The Richmond Whig is very merry over what it considers two failures of General Butler—the Dutch Gap canal and the attack on Fort Fisher.

A European Protectorate of the South. The leading rebel papers forshadow the possibility that the rebel States, rather than yield to the power of the Union, will offer themselves as quasi colonies to France or England. This event should not, if the European Powers are just, result in their recognition of the dissolution of the Union, for it would be a confession that the insurgents were unable to take the Southern States from the Republic, and, therefore, foreign interference could not have the least possible justification. Hitherto intervention has been demanded by the South, contemplated, it may be, by Europe on the ground that the States in rebellion maintain a successful war. That ground falls beneath the feet of a demoralized army and a tottering conspiracy. France and England would not dare violate international law, or the common justice of the world, by assuming a protectorate of the States which would thus acknowledge that they had no power of themselves to withdraw from the Union. "Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow." If the suggestions of the Richmond papers are to be adopted as the policy of the Richmond Government, the demonstration of the failure of the rebellion ought to be the destruction of the danger of European interference.—The Press.

The Peace Rumors.

The N. Y. Evening Post comments as follows, on the Peace Rumors, of which notice was given in our last issue. "The question," says the Post, why Mr. Blair did not go to Richmond, is getting discussed in some of the Journals, even before it is all certain that he indeed to go there; and the Tribune blames Mr. Stanton for a telegraphic notice to General Grant, which the Secretary may never have sent if, however, Mr. Blair's own statement which is published, should confirm in every particular the rumor which comes from Washington, we should be disposed to praise the conduct of Mr. Stanton and General Grant.

In fact, these officers could not do less than refuse Mr. Blair permission to go through the lines of the army. If Mr. Blair may pass, so may Mr. Brown, Mr. Jones and Mr. Robinson: and Mr. Smith might demand the same privilege. One man is as good as another, and though Mr. Blair is an eminent and venerable citizen, they are probably a thousand Browns and twenty thousand Smiths in the country who are thought, by their wives and intimate friends at least, to be equals, in diplomacy, of Mr. Blair—or any other man.

Why should General Grant pass Mr. Blair through his lines? The President, according to the reports from Washington, refused to authorize this visit; he saw very clearly that to do this would give to the nimble rebel chiefs occasion to claim a formal and effective act of recognition; nor would the allies of the rebels in Europe have omitted to assert the duty of other governments to follow the precedent set by the United States government. This would have added greatly to the already heavy labors of Mr. Seward, and, to tell the truth we are strenuously opposed to anything which is likely to extend still further the formidable dimensions of the annual volumes of diplomatic correspondence.

But why should Mr. Blair go to Richmond? The Tribune takes for granted that he was going down there to ask Jefferson Davis if he was nearly ready to give up. Now, says our contemporary,

"the recognized object of war, at least among civilized and Christian nations, is an honorable and satisfactory peace; and how are we to know when this end has been rendered attainable, unless we take some means to ascertain."

When the rebel leaders are ready to relinquish the struggle we shall know it by the fact that they lay down their arms, send their soldiers to their homes, and themselves leave the country. We confess that we do not believe Davis, Beauregard, Benjamin, Seddon and other of the chiefs will do this so long as they have the slightest hope of wearing or cheating the people of the North out of better terms; and when they read in a leading northern journal:

"We do not know, and have at no time felt confident, that the rebels are yet prepared to agree to any terms of pacification that our government either would or should deem acceptable; but we can imagine no possible harm that could result from ascertaining precisely what they are ready to do."—they will say to themselves: "That writer, at any rate, acknowledges us as the rightful disposers of southern destinies; he does not believe in the dangerous usurpers; he takes it for granted that we are to be, and ought to be, treated with, as the legitimate owners of the southern states—and if that is so, if that is the ground upon which the North places us, we may as well fight on; for we have nothing to lose, and everything to gain. If we are to be treated with, if we are to name and accept terms, we can do that as well after another campaign as now." And if Mr. Blair has been sent to Richmond on any such errand, Mr. Davis would naturally have replied: "Call again; we are not ready just yet, though Grant and Sherman only know how soon we shall be!"

It seems to us that a person who would go to Richmond to inquire about terms of peace, fails utterly and lamentably to comprehend the nature of the struggle. It is not the southern leaders, but the Southern people—not the less than three hundred thousand slave-owners, or less than one hundred and fifty thousand planters, but the millions of non-slaveholders, who are to be treated with. Now, as the President once aptly remarked, we cannot get at the southern people without first overturning the power which stands between us and them—the military power of Jeff. Davis.—The one condition preliminary to negotiations is that Davis and the other rebel leaders shall be driven out of the country. When their power is broken, when they can no longer coerce the population of a region over which they have usurped despotic authority, then indeed will have come the time for judicious negotiations with the Southern people.

Then we hope Mr. Blair and every other man who can have influence with those people will go down amongst them, and declare to them the sole conditions upon which they can have peace.—When that time comes—and it seems to us not very far off—we shall be glad to see whole squadrons and regiments of diplomatists pervading the South, and telling the people there that they can never have peace unless they establish and multiply free schools, encourage and reward free labor, secure and maintain free discussion by speech and press, establish and defend equal rights for all men. Those are the true and only conditions of peace.

THE DEATH OF THE HON. WM. LEWIS DAYTON, U. S. Minister to France, is announced by the last arrivals as having taken place in Paris, Dec. 1, by a sudden attack of apoplexy. Mr. Dayton was born at Baskinridge, N. J., Feb. 17, 1807, and had consequently almost completed his fifty-fifth year at the time of his death. He was graduated at Princeton College in 1825, and after passing through the usual course of legal study, was admitted to the bar in 1830. After being elected to various offices by the people of his State, he was placed on the Fremont ticket as candidate for Vice-President. On the immigration of Mr. Lincoln he was appointed Minister to France. He was a man of ability and integrity.

NEW LITERARY PAPER.—The new literary enterprise in this city, the New York Weekly Review, is an exceedingly elegant, valuable, sprightly and attractive journal. Its first issue came out on Saturday last, and its success in every respect was proved at once. The lighter topics, in art, especially in music, and in theatrical gossip and general affairs, are treated with ability and vivacity. It gives evidence that there is abundant talent in this city for the conduct of a journal of its cast, and we are sure there is a sufficiently large community of the right kind to give it a handsome support.—New York Times, 10th inst.

THE NEW YORK Independent makes its appearance at the opening of the year in an enlarged form. It is now we think the largest newspaper in the country. It contains a sermon and a star article every week from Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, a large amount of information on religious topics, a carefully prepared summary of news, an excellent Washington letter and the most comprehensive review of the markets, of any paper that we see. Terms \$2.50 a year in advance.

Wary of the War.

Evidence is constantly accumulating to show that the mass of the southern people would gladly return to the allegiance of the United States Government, were it not for the absolute despotism under which they live. A Texas newspaper, published at Houston, called the News Bulletin, has a letter from a correspondent in the Texan rebel army, who says:

"I am sorry to say, Mr. Editor, that there are very many of the citizens in the counties through which I passed in favor of reconstruction; and I was told by intelligent and influential gentlemen—true southern men—that if the vote was taken, two-thirds of the men at home would vote for reconstruction."

We recently betrayed to another southern extract which adverted the fact that the most of the men in Hood's army were weary of the war, and anxiously longing for peace. Since Sherman has occupied Savannah the people have contentedly accepted the change, and a public meeting, at which the Mayor presided, has passed resolutions declaring that the people of that city gladly return to their old national allegiance. We have many accounts from Georgia, North Carolina, and even the interior of South Carolina, from prisoners who have traversed those regions, and who found the people weary of the war, longing for peace, and fully expecting the triumph of the old flag, which they were ready to acknowledge again. Under these circumstances it is no wonder, that the rebel organs at Richmond are growing desperate, and make preposterous efforts to hold up the phantom of a European colonial yoke.—North American.

THEIR TROUBLES.—The latest rebel newspapers present a very interesting picture of the troubles into which the cardinal secession doctrine of State rights has brought its advocates. The Governors of the different rebel States, from their disposition to be punctilious in regard to their peculiar rights or assumed prerogatives, interfere seriously with that unity of action and despotism which Jeff. Davis is desirous of maintaining. He has now on his hands a quarrel with the Governors of Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. The Richmond Whig thinks the recent alleged peace mission of the two Blairs entitled the United States to be considered the most impudent nation that has ever had existence. A correspondent of the Charleston Courier, speaking of the charge against General Grant, of the Richmond Sentinel, that the lavishly sacrifices his men, says that "Hood has butchered his troops as recklessly as ever Grant did."

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

George M. Dallas, an eminent citizen of Philadelphia, died on the last day of the year 1864, in the seventy-second year of his age. He belonged to a historic family, and was born July 10, 1798. In 1813 he accompanied the distinguished Albert Gallatin as secretary to St. Petersburg, when the offices of the Emperor of Russia were tendered to bring about a peace. In 1817 he was appointed Deputy Attorney General for the city and county of Philadelphia, and in 1838 gave most efficient support to Gen. Jackson. In the same year he was elected Mayor, and shortly after was appointed United States District Attorney. In 1831 he was elected United States Senator to fill a vacancy, but declining a re-election in 1833, was made Attorney General of the State, and on the accession of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency, was appointed Minister to the Court of St. Petersburg.—Recalled at his own request, in 1839, he was tendered the appointment of Attorney General, in place of Felix Grundy, but declined it to practice his profession. In 1844 he was elected Vice President of the United States, on the ticket with President Polk, and incurred no little antagonism in his own State by the support of the tariff of 1846. Towards the close of Mr. Polk's administration he was appointed Minister to the Court of St. James, as the successor of Mr. Buchanan, and served in that capacity during Mr. B.'s administration. Since then he had withdrawn himself from active politics, and contented himself with the practice of his profession, of which he was a distinguished ornament. Of courtly manners and well cultivated intellect, he was for many years a prominent leader of the party which exerted a paramount control in Federal politics.

Major General Benjamin F. Butler has been removed by the President from the position of commander of the Army of the James and the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, and ordered to report at Lowell, Massachusetts. The official document in the case directed him to turn over his command to "the person named by Lieutenant General Ord, lately in charge of the Twenty-fourth Corps, has succeeded temporarily to the important position.

The loyal men of Philadelphia have subscribed and raised a fund with which to purchase and present to the wife of Lieut. Gen. Grant a new first class residence, furnished from top to bottom. Mrs. Grant has been officially notified of the gratifying fact. It was her New-Year's present. The cost will be nearly \$50,000. The widow of the deceased Gen. Birney has also been presented with a house costing \$10,000, and an additional \$20,000 have been invested for her benefit.

Gen. Thomas has been appointed Major General in the regular army, vice John C. Fremont, resigned, to date from Dec. 15, the day of his great victory over Hood. The appointment is said to have been made at the request of Gen. Grant. Brevet Major-Gen. George Crook has been made full Major-General of Volunteers.

The Secretary of war has gone to Fortress Monroe, Hilton Head, and Savannah to consult with Generals Grant, Foster, and Sherman on important matters relating to the service. The supplies and exchange of prisoners, organization of colored troops, raising the blockade of Savannah, and the seizure of rebel property and products, are among the subjects of consideration.

The President on Friday sent to the Senate the nomination of a large number of military officers, including Sherman, Meade, Sheridan and Thomas, for Major-Generals in the regular army; Hancock and others for Brigadier-Generals in the regular army, and about forty Major-Generals and Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers.

Ex-Governor Richard Yates, Union, of Illinois, has been chosen United States Senator to succeed William A. Richardson, Democrat, whose term expires with this Congress. Mr. Yates was a member of the House of Representatives from 1851 to 1856, elected by the Whig party. For the past four years he has been Governor of the State.

Secretary Fessenden has been nominated for reelection to the United States Senate by the caucus of Union members of the Maine Legislature. Of course this fore-shadows his resignation of the Secretaryship of the Treasury. He will, without doubt, be elected.

The Hon. Jacob M. Howard was, on Wednesday, Jan. 5, re-elected by the Legislature of Michigan to the Senate of the United States.

GENERAL NEWS.

HEAVY ROBBERY AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE.—On Friday night the 8th ult. the fire proof or money vault in the Philadelphia Custom House was robbed of a quantity of gold, bank notes, &c., amounting to about \$80,000 in currency. It seems that the keys of the fire-proof are kept by the cashier, J. M. Allen, who says that on Friday afternoon he took them to his home as usual. On Saturday morning, on getting up, he found that his pantaloons had been removed from the room, the door of which had been locked on the inside. The key of the safe got the safe open, but without avail though a locksmith was employed for the purpose. At last an entrance was effected by breaking through the wall in the rear. On entering the fire-proof, it was discovered that the money had been taken. A member of the staff of the Custom House, a bottle of chloroform and a Colt's pistol, and some gunpowder were found inside of the fire proof. Allen, the Cashier, was arrested in the forepart of the week on suspicion of having himself committed the robbery, and upon an examining J. G. Wednesday, the affair looked suspicious so far as he was concerned.

MORE THAN TRUTH.—The Harrisburg Telegraph announces, (as credible to our patriotism, we suppose,) that "one firm in Westmoreland county pays \$70,000 as an annual tax on their production of whiskey." We don't know where the Telegraph got its information, but we can say to it that it did not get it correctly. We have one establishment in Westmoreland whose tax on the product of whiskey in July, August and September—just three months—amounted to \$100,787.00! Put that in your pipe and give us another puff for patriotism!—Greensburg Herald.

There is a rumor current in London that the Princess Mary of Cambridge has married Viscount Hood. According to the royal marriage act, a member of the royal family cannot marry without the consent of the Sovereign, or without giving notice to the Privy Council. The giving notice to the Privy Council does not make the marriage absolutely valid, for it may be decided illegal by act of Parliament. It is both absurd and impertinent to suppose that the Queen, and the Queen refused her sanction.—However, there is no fear, if the marriage has been contracted, that it will be dissolved by Parliament, for the Princess is very popular and the English people are very rich and generous. Viscount Hood is a very rich, handsome, and enjoys a very high reputation.

SHOCKING CASUALTY.—A sad calamity occurred in West Buffalo township, Union county, Pa., on Friday evening Dec. 30. Three little children were burned to death, the precise origin of the fire being wholly a matter of conjecture. The parents were both absent.—Mr. Strickler was lumbering in the mountains, and Mrs. S. was out of the house a few moments, attending to domestic duties. Returning, she found the inside of the dwelling in flames, but was unable to rescue one of all her children. The oldest child was three and a half years and the youngest but a few months old.

DESERTERS ARRESTED.—Some days since two Deputy Marshals arrested two deserters near Troutville, Clearfork county, and started in the direction of Brooklyn with them. The news of the arrest coming immediately to the ears of a "Cop," he at once started to inform the "faithful" of the mishap to their two brothers and allies. The "gang" were ready with rifles on their shoulders, and started in pursuit of the Marshals, overtaking them where the Pannuxatunway and Brookville roads diverge. The Marshals being outnumbered ten to one, were compelled to relinquish their prisoners—which they did without much hesitancy. The rescuers and rescued then returned toward Troutville, yelling and hurrahing and laughing over their success in driving off the officers of the law without their prisoners.

NATURAL ASTROLOGER. It is perhaps not generally known that there lives at South Adams Mass., a natural Astrologer, in the person of Fisher Jennings, Esq. He claims that he can, by the aid of the stars, the planets or other books, calculate the changes of the moon, rising and setting of the planets, eclipses of both sun and moon for any number of years ahead, the appearance of all the comets, &c. He knows all the planets, not however by the names given in the books, but by names of his own. All given knowledge he claims was not obtained from books, or teachers, but by "laying forty days and forty nights in a hog trough watching the stars!"—North Adams Transcript.

An Anti-Slavery Convention was held in Frankfort, Ky., on Wednesday Jan. 4. Resolutions were adopted adhering to the Baltimore platform, requesting the representatives in Congress to vote for a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, endorsing Colonel Burbridge, and approving of vigorous retaliatory warfare against guerrillas. Great harmony prevailed in the convention.

Oil has been found in Fayette county, and wells sunk to a depth of eighty feet, are now flowing a splendid quality of the green fluid. The oil is being raised in Cambria county, where several companies have been organized to bore for oil.

WAR SUMMARY.

The occupation of the city of Savannah by our troops was quickly followed by the establishment of an express depot in that city, and the arrival of the Harden Express. It is expected that the in a short time the commercial relations between the two sections will render the full resumption of this line necessary. At present only soldiers' parcels are sent.

Secretary Stanton has left Washington for Fortress Monroe, Hilton Head and Savannah, to confer with Generals Grant, Sherman and Foster on important matters connected with the military service of the country.

The Rebel pirate Olustee made her escape from the port of Wilmington, N. C., on Christmas night, while nearly all our naval vessels in that quarter had their attention engaged by the attack on Fort Fisher. On the next day she was discovered and chased for some distance by the United States steamship Lillian, but finally turned upon her pursuer, which was obliged to make a hasty retreat, owing to having only two guns against five heavy ones carried by the pirate.

By the arrival at Fortress Monroe on Thursday 5th inst., from Hilton Head, S. C., we are informed that General Sherman's army had not yet entered on any extensive movement since the capture of Savannah; but detachments from it were out in search of armed rebels. General Kilpatrick, with his cavalry, was watching the movements of Hardee's army. The main portion of Sherman's troops were resting in the vicinity of Savannah, re-equipping and preparing for their prospective campaign. Richmond papers of the 5th inst. confirm the report that Hardeeville, S. C., on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, twenty miles from the latter city, has been captured by General Kilpatrick.

Additional evidence of his satisfaction felt by a large portion of the people of Savannah at his escape from allegiance to Jeff. Davis and restoration to the protection of the old flag is furnished by the fact that many of its leading merchants have already sent to the city of New York funds to cancel in full their indebtedness to our merchants at the time of the commencement of the rebellion, and others have made partial payments, with promises to clear off their old obligations fully and honorably as soon as able. The money for this purpose consisted of United States Treasury notes, and arrived a few days ago, in charge of an army officer.

Richmond papers of Friday, January 6, in addition to what has been already telegraphed, contain the following:

The Examiner says: "Yesterday a commissioner from Grant's lines arrived at Varina under a flag of truce, with 1,500 prisoners for distribution amongst the Federal prisoners in Richmond, in addition to 1,000 received last week.

"Of the fifty-odd thousand Yankee prisoners held in the South, not over 2,000 are confined in Richmond, and more than half of those are in the hospitals. For a year past the great body of them has been drafted South, and Richmond, hard pressed to feed its superabundant population, and the large army defending its gates, is relieved from the incubus of an overstocked prison post in its midst."

A captain, lieutenant and seven men of Mosby's command were captured on Wednesday 4th inst., at the Relay House, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. They were dressed in citizens' clothes.

The Richmond Examiner of the 2d gives currency to a report that General Sterling Price had died in Arkansas, of apoplexy.

Rebel papers of Wednesday Jan. 4, contain a dispatch from Beauregard, at Charleston January 2, announcing that the Federal raiders have returned from the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, going westward. The rebel General Johnston was badly wounded. Hardee telegraphs from Charleston on the 2d that the Federal troops are landing in force on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, and are driving the rebel pickets toward Hardeeville. An official report states that the salt works were not very severely damaged by the Union troops.

A special dispatch from Cairo states that Gen. Dana's raid on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad was completely successful. Twenty-five bridges were burned, four thousand carriages, a large amount of ammunition, and three hundred army wagons were captured. Many officers and men were killed, officers, and thirty-two rail-cars were destroyed.

General Steadman's cavalry have pursued, captured and burned Hood's pontoon train. Some 500 mules, 100 wagons and 200 hogs were also captured. A deserter reports that Hood had been ordered to Tusculooza to reorganize his shattered army.

Previous to the capture of Savannah, Lee drew large supplies of meat from Florida, the cattle being transported on the Albany and Gulf road to that city, and thence sent northward. Through this channel over eleven thousand head were sent to be forwarded per week. It is now effectually closed up.

Richmond papers of Friday say that the report of Gen. Sherman having crossed the Savannah River is confirmed, and that he is believed to be moving on Grahamsville. Gen. Hood's army is reported to have crossed the Tennessee river, and is moving toward Tupelo, which it is expected will be the future base of operations.

CONGRESS.

THURSDAY, JAN. 5. CONGRESS RE-ASSEMBLED on Thursday, after holiday adjournment. In the Senate, the Pension and Appropriation bill was passed. A joint resolution to make free the wives and children of slaves who enlist in the U. S. Army was discussed. In the House a bill to provide for the temporary government for the new Territory of Wyoming, cut out of parts of Washington and Utah territories, was referred to the committee on Territories. A resolution providing for the appointment of another Lieut. General of a lower grade, with a view to confer the honor on Gen. Sherman, was offered and objected to. A resolution of thanks to Gen. Sherman and his army was referred to the committee on military affairs.

FRIDAY, JAN. 6. SENATE.—Petitions for the abolition of slavery and an increase in the pay of army officers were received. A resolution asking the Secretary of the Interior for information in regard to the employment of pension agents in the various States was adopted.—The bill to regulate proceedings in criminal cases, relating especially to the punishment of treason, was passed. The bill to discontinue the sale of the army unemployed officers was taken up, and after considerable discussion was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 28 to 8. Mr. Sherman introduced a bill levying a tax of twenty cents per pound on leaf tobacco, thirty cents on cut tobacco (plug and twist) five cents on smoking tobacco, ten cents on pipe cut chewing tobacco, fifteen cents on snuff, ten dollars per thousand on cigars, and five dollars per thousand on cheroots or cigarettes in paper wrappers sold for not over fifteen dollars per thousand. Referred to the Committee on Finance. The House resolution of thanks to General Sherman was passed. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Passed the resolution of thanks to General Sherman and command. The Committee on Ways and Means was instructed to consider the propriety of providing for a commission of members of the Senate and the House to examine and report on a system of tax bearing equally on the property and industry of the country. The Senate joint resolution amending the Constitution so as to abolish slavery throughout the country was discussed at length, but no final action was taken. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7. The Senate was not in session Saturday. The House met as usual. On motion of Mr. Holman, of Indiana, (Dem.) the Secretary of war was directed to inform the House why he has not communicated the information relative to the filling up of new regiments, asked for in December last, and further directing him now to send in the same. The House then resumed the consideration of the Senate's proposition for the amendment of the Constitution so as to abolish slavery. Mr. Bliss of Ohio, (Dem.) argued against such a change as improper and destructive to the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Mr. Rogers, of New Jersey, (Dem.) also spoke against the constitutionality of such an amendment. Mr. Davis, of New York, (Union) argued in favor of the amendment. Mr. Ashley, of Ohio (Union), gave notice that he should move the previous question on Monday or Tuesday next, in order to get a vote on the resolution.

MONDAY, JAN. 9. SENATE.—Several petitions for increased pay of army officers were presented. The Military Committee reported the resolution for the distribution of the proceeds of the captured Savannah cotton among Gen. Sherman and his army. The amendment to the bill to indefinitely postpone. Agreed to. A resolution directing an inquiry into the treatment of the Indiana tribes by the civil and military authorities was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. The Judiciary Committee was instructed to report what legislation is necessary to enable the President to call an extra session of the Thirty-ninth Congress without sixty days' notice. The joint resolution freeing the wives and children of colored soldiers was then taken up. Mr. Davis moved to amend so as to extend the action of the resolution prospectively to the 1st of March next. The amendment was voted down, as were also one of Mr. Powell, that the owners of slaves shall be compensated, and another by Mr. Salsburg, that States that have not attempted to secede shall be exempted from the operations of the resolution. The resolution was passed by a vote of 27 to 10. After an executive session, adjourned.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES concurred in the Senate amendments to the Pension Appropriation bill. A bill directing the Secretary of the Treasury to refund the tax collied on an expedition prior to March 7, 1864, was introduced and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Senate resolution to amend the Constitution so as to abolish slavery throughout the country was then discussed up to the adjournment.

PREPARING TO EVACUATE.—It is stated that the rebel officials are now busily engaged in preparing for the evacuation of their capital; that much of the government property and many of the employers have already been sent into the interior of the South, and that hundreds of families have taken the hint and removed into Georgia and North Carolina. It is said that Jeff. Davis has become convinced of his inability to hold Richmond much longer, and that the whole city is being mined, with the design of blowing it up as soon as it shall have been abandoned.

THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER, which is telling much wholesome truth to the rebels lately, not only declares that it prefers to submit to the Yankees rather than call for foreign help, but also asks: "If neither England nor France will so much as recognize us, how would they receive such an invitation as this, now that we are sinking and perishing under the mighty power of the Yankee nation?"

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BEDFORD HOUSE.

AT HOPEWELL, BEDFORD COUNTY, PA. BY HARRY DROLLINGER. EVERY attention given to make guests comfortable. If you stop at this House, on Hopewell, July 29, 1864.