

RICHMOND IS FALLEN!

The dawn of Monday morning saw the solution of the mighty question which has for four years been under the discussion of the sword by the two greatest armies which have fought anywhere on the globe for the last fifty years.

The operation which has thus grandly terminated the great campaign which opened in July, 1861, was commenced on Wednesday morning the 29th ult., and thus lasted through just five days.

If the whole of Lee's force could not withstand Grant behind the tremendous works which they had been for four years in construction and perfection, how can this miserable remnant withstand him even for a day in the open field?

It only remains now for Sherman to scatter the chaff under Johnson, and we will have an end of this whole rebel military power.

It has been a long and desperate struggle for Richmond and it will be forever memorable in the annals of the Union, as well as in the history of the war.

To the veteran and grand Army of the Potomac, which has thus crowned its labors in triumph and covered itself with glory, the nation gives boundless honor.

We have no doubt that the report of the treasurer is correct as far as it goes. Its discrepancies we have already noticed.

In a former issue, attention was called to the vague and unsatisfactory manner of making out the Poor House report, and as it is of interest to most of our readers, we allude to it again.

The Steward's report seems, at first sight to balance very nicely, but on a little examination you find that he sold 15 1/2 bushels of wheat, 4 3/4 bushels of rye, 4 bushels of corn and 2 bu shels of buckwheat.

only received for grain and flour sold, \$146 95 leaving \$203 02 unaccounted for: yet the directors under their hands and seals certify that the report is correct.

SUCCESS OF THE 7-30 LOAN. Our readers will notice that subscriptions to the popular 7-30 Loan are still continued in the most liberal manner.

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HARPER'S MONTHLY.—Harper's Monthly for April has been received, and contains as usual a large assortment of fine literary productions, nearly all of which are illustrated with fine steel engravings.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for April has a series of articles of more than ordinary interest and value, mixed with a number of romantic and instructive essays.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. March 24, 1865. MR. EDITOR:—Both branches of the Legislature adjourned sine die, to-day at noon, after being in session only fifty-five working days.

THE POOR HOUSE REPORT AGAIN. In a former issue, attention was called to the vague and unsatisfactory manner of making out the Poor House report, and as it is of interest to most of our readers, we allude to it again.

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commends the respectful attention of the House. The policy of changing members of the Legislature every year is a miserable one, and I hope in this case will not be carried out.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE. BEFORE PETERSBURG VA., March 25th 1865. MR. EDITOR:—I write in haste to give you a brief statement of a severe engagement that took place to-day in front of this Division.

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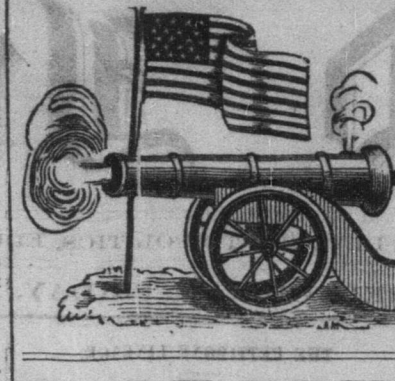
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VICTORY! RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG CAPTURED!!

"BABYLON HAS FALLEN." Rebellion Bowed Before the Union—The Rod of her Power Broken. Thirty Years of Plotting Ended in Four Years of Blood.

Rebel Cohorts Crushed though Enclosed in Tripte Walls. Rebellion's Last City and Last Army at the Mercy of a Conqueror. RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG OURS!

Lee's Army a Flying Mob! LEE IN FULL RETREAT ON DANVILLE! OUR ARMY IN PURSUIT! NEGRO TROOPS OCCUPY RICHMOND!

They are Welcomed with Joy by the Inhabitants. WASHINGTON, April 1, 11 o'clock, A. M. To Major General Dix, New York: The following dispatch from the President received to-night shows that the desperate struggle between our forces and the enemy, continues undecided, although the advantage appears to be on our side.

WASHINGTON, April 1, 11 o'clock, A. M. To Major General Dix, New York: A dispatch just received, shows that Sheridan, aided by Warren, had, at 2 o'clock P. M. pushed the enemy back so as to retake the five forts, and bring his own Headquarters up to B.

WASHINGTON, April 2, 6 o'clock, A. M. To Major General Dix, New York: A dispatch just received from General Grant's Adjutant General, at City Point, announces the triumphant success of our Army after three days of hard fighting, during which the forces on both sides exhibited unsurpassed valor.

WASHINGTON, April 2, 12:30 P. M. To Major General Dix, New York: A dispatch from General Grant states that Sheridan's Cavalry and Infantry have carried all before them, having captured a wagon train and several batteries of Artillery. The prisoners captured in all, amount to several thousand.

WASHINGTON, April 2, 12:30 P. M. To Major General Dix, New York: The following telegram from the President dated at 8:30 this morning, gives the latest intelligence from the front. A furious battle was raging with the continued success to the Union arms.

CITY POINT, April 2, 8:30 A. M. E. M. Stanton: Last night General Grant telegraphed that General Sheridan with his Cavalry and the 5th Corps had captured 3 brigades of Infantry, a train of wagons, several batteries, and several thousand prisoners.

CAPTURE OF RICHMOND CONFIRMED. CAPTURE OF MANY GUNS. THE PRESIDENT AT THE FRONT. WASHINGTON, April 3. Maj. Gen. Dix, N. Y.: The following official confirmation of the capture of Richmond, and announcing that the city is on fire, has just been received by this Department.

CITY POINT, VA., April 3 11 A. M. General Weitzel telegraphs as follows: We took Richmond at 8:15 this morning. Captured many guns. The enemy left in great haste. The city is on fire in one place. We are making every effort to put it out.

Particulars of Saturday's Battle. HARD FIGHTING ON ALL SIDES. A Great Victory. 4,000 PRISONERS CAPTURED. The Last Railroad with Richmond Seized.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, April 1. The greater portion of the army has not been engaged with enemy to-day, the time being occupied in erecting works on the new line, and repairing the roads connecting the different Corps.

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WASHINGTON, April 3, 11 o'clock, A. M. [OFFICIAL FROM GRANT.] Retreating and Richmond both captured with all the guns.

City Point at 4:30 this afternoon, with additional particulars of this great struggle. Petersburg was occupied by our troops at 3 o'clock, A. M., on Monday. The gunboats were all well up the James river, and it was thought a fight had taken place with the rebel iron clads.

Immense numbers of prisoners were captured, estimated at from 15,000 to 18,000 and more continually coming in at City Point. It was estimated that there were 15,000 this morning when the Dictator left. This morning a salute was being fired by all the war vessels at City Point.

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION. Ten thousand Republican Majority Gain of One Member of Congress—New England Sends no Democrat to Washington—A Fitting Response to Grant's Victory. Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Times. NEW-HAVEN, Monday, April 3, 1865.

Seven-Thirtieth in Richmond—The Rebel Capital a Base for the Sale of United States Bonds. WE UNDERSTAND that the box of Seventy-nine circulars, cards, etc., sent by Mr. Cooke, Subscription Agent, to Richmond, Va., and which has been lying at City Point for the last two weeks, was started on its way to Richmond yesterday morning.

HEADQUARTERS, PROVOST MARCHALL'S SIXTH DISTRICT, PETERSBURG, Va., March 25, 1865. The following Opinion of the Attorney General of the United States is published for the information of the people of this district.

UNDER this enactment, any person enrolled, and liable to draft, may obtain exemption from the draft during the whole period of time for which he shall procure a substitute to be enlisted, provided the substitute shall be so long not liable to draft. It is not a mere credit for a particular draft which such person obtains by furnishing a substitute before the anticipated draft, but it is an absolute exemption which he acquires from liability to be drawn at any and every draft which may occur during the entire time for which his substitute has been accepted by the Government.

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particular draft in advance and anticipation which he may have secured the "recruit." There is no provision in the Act of 1864 that the person furnishing a "recruit," under the 23d section, shall be "exempt from draft during the time for which the recruit may have been accepted and enlisted. But the only benefit which a person so furnishing a recruit derives, under the act of 1864, is securing, in the event of his being drafted, a "credit" on the particular draft in anticipation of which the "recruit" may have been furnished. The "recruit" may be mustered into the service for three years, and yet, as substitute, he can only avail the person who caused him to be mustered in for, and with respect to the one draft before, and in anticipation of which he was obtained. The liability of the principal to be drafted at any other drafts occurring after the mustering in of the "recruit," and during the term of his service, is not at all affected. There is manifestly, therefore, no conflict between the respective sections of the Acts of 1864 and 1865, which you have called my attention to. It does not impinge upon, nor even cross the path of, the other. They give different and distinct rights and privileges to the citizen liable to draft. He has the alternative course to pursue before any draft, either to buy a "substitute," and secure him to be mustered in, and thus obtain exemption from the draft during the entire term of enlistment of the substitute, if the latter be so long not liable to draft, or he may procure for the government a "recruit" not liable to draft, and obtain credit for such recruit in case he should be drafted, subjecting himself, however, to the liability of being compelled to repeat the operation at every succeeding draft that may be ordered by the President.

Chiefly, I suppose, the design of the provision of the act of 1865, under consideration, was to offer inducement and present a stimulus to numbers or associations of individuals in any sub-district, before the liability of any of them became fixed by a draft, to obtain volunteer recruits for the army. Congress, in this law, offers such associations a premium to use their exertions to fill up the armies. It says to the residents of the multitudes of counties, townships, wards, and precincts throughout the country, "Organize yourselves into recruiting societies; induce volunteers to enlist into the service before the draft; pay them such amounts of bounty as you may be able to raise by your contributions to the recruiting funds of your several districts; and when they have been enlisted into the service, the volunteers you may have raised will stand to the credit of as many of you as may happen to be drafted, to the extent of the number of recruits, in the order designated, at the time the recruits are mustered in."

Such is the declaration, and promise of the new law. Its policy is to encourage recruiting, not the procurement of substitutes; to induce the people to organize associations for the advancement of volunteering, rather than the purchase of substitutes. In enacting this new law, and inaugurating this new policy, Congress, however, has not taken away the right of the enrolled person, before the draft, to furnish a substitute with the qualification before stated, and thus secure his exemption from draft during the time for which his substitute shall have been accepted. He still has it in his power to exercise that right in preference to the right conferred by the 23d section of the Act of 3d March, 1865, of obtaining a "recruit" previous to each draft as it may occur, and securing thereby a credit in even, on any occasion, of his being drafted.

I am of opinion, therefore, that the 23d section of the Act of March 3, 1865, does not supersede the 4th section of the Act of February 24, 1864. The second question which you have referred to me, is, whether the "recruits," which are "to be taken as substitutes," are to be considered and borne upon the muster-rolls and records of the office of the Provost Marshal General, as other volunteer recruits which are obtained at the expense of the United States, or as substitutes which are furnished at the cost of the principals. I am of opinion that the "recruits" which "cause to be mustered into the service of the United States," in pursuance of the 23d section of the act of 3d March, 1865, are to be considered and treated as other volunteers who are obtained at the expense of the United States. It will be observed, from the remarks, that the idea involved in the law of 1865 is substituting, while the idea of the law of 1864 is substituting. The section of the act of 1865 under consideration does not speak of the "recruits" in question as "substitutes," but declares that they "shall be taken as substitutes" for the persons who cause them to be mustered in. They are not substitutes, but only of the nature of substitutes. Their primary and essential character, under the law, is that of credits for their procurers or principals; and this description is the first description given them in the section in question, for, after saying "which recruits stand to the credit of the persons thus causing them to be mustered in," the section proceeds, "and shall be taken as substitutes for such persons, or as many of them as may be drafted, to the extent of the number of such recruits."

A critical study of the words of the statute thus develops the fundamental idea which I have supposed, from other indications, was intended to be embodied in the law. The "recruits" who are "to stand to the credit" of the enrolled persons, causing them to be mustered in before the occurrence of a draft, I am of opinion, then, are to be considered as other volunteer recruits which are obtained at the expense of the United States, and not as "substitutes," in the ordinary sense of that term, which are furnished at the cost of the principals. Very respectfully, your obedient servant. JAMES SPEED, Attorney General.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant. JAMES SPEED, Attorney General. April 7, 1865.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES OF DRY GOODS. AT CRAMER'S. BARGAINS, BARGAINS, BARGAINS. FOR CASH. Stock Must be Reduced.

NOTICE.—Having left my Books and Stationery in the hands of H. NICOLEMUS, Esq. of Bedford, for settlement, all persons knowing themselves indebted to me will please call on him at his office, and settle. WM. DIBBET, Late proprietor of the Washington Hotel, Bedford, March 31, 1865.

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