336,444

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING BY

ADVERTISEMENTS —Accompanied by through, and set exceeding one square, will be inserted three simes for \$1.50, and twenty-five cents for each additional insertion. Those of a greater length in

Jon-Perarme-Such as Hand-bills. Posting-bills Pamphlets, Blanks, habols, &c. &c., executed coursey and at the shortest notice.

Boetical.

CRADLE SONS OF THE POOR.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

Hush. I cannot bear to see thee Stretch thy tiny hands in vain; I have got no bread to give thee-Nothing, Child, to ease thy pain. When God sent thee first to bless me

Proud and thankful, too, was I; Now my darling, I, thy mother, Almost long to see thee die. Sleep, my darling-thou art weary; God is good, but life is dreary.

I have seen thy beauty fading, And thy strength sink day by day; Soon, I know, will want and fever Waste thy little life away. Famine makes thy mother reckless,

Hope and joy are gone from me; I could suffer all; my baby; Had I but a crust for thee. Sleep, my darling, thou art weary; God is good, but life is dreary.

I am wasted, dear, with hunger, And my brain is sore oppressou; I have scarcely strength to press thee, Wan and feeble, to my breast. Patience, baby, God will help us-

Death will come to thee and me He will take us to His Heaven, Where no want nor pain can be Sleep, my darling; thou art weaty, God is good, but life is dreary.

THE CULTIVATION OF POTATOSS .-- An agri cultural society has been established at Pianitz, in Saxony, under the title of "Society for the cultivation of Potatoes." The society has already published a number of reports. One of them states that the best specimens of potatoes grown in sandy soil have quickly degenerated and given only an indifterent crop in the strong clayey land and in the neighborhood of Planitz. Since the foun-dation of the society, in 1800 the members have made numerous experiments on strong, light, clayey, gravelly, and stony soils. The society procured samples of every description which produced the best results. After a year's trial they have generally found that the greatest number of potatoes succeed best in light and slaty land. They found, howev er, that the long potato from Algiers become rotten in sandy soil, and produced large and perfectly sound potatoes in strong land. The white English Kidney potato planted in stony ground, produced potatoes quite red. The society has lately offered 10 kilogrammes of seed potatoes to any farmer who will contri bute 5 france annually, on the sole condition that he will turnish the society with a statement setting forth the quantity of potatoes pro-duced and the nature of the soil in which were planted. The cultivation of the potato is of such importance to the Saxon population, that the number of subscribers to the society is rapidly increasing.—North British Agriculturist.

A COUNTRY WITHOUT A REPTILE.—Captain Hardy, R. A., writes an interesting letter to yielded something less than \$200,000-a the Field newspaper, commenting on a state-ment that in Newfoundland there is not a ommend a revision of these acts for the pursnake, toad, frog or reptile of any sort; nor any squirrels, porcupines, mink or mice.— Captain Hardy says:

"Besides the above mentioned deficiencies,

summer, several others. It was midsummer, and the fireflies were scintillating in myriads in the warm evenings over every swamp in Nova Scotia; here not one could be seen, nor was there another pleasing summer visitor of our neighboring provinces—the night

nidering the immense portion of this island which is claimed by hogs and swamps, al banks in the hands of the holders, not ex-I think the absence of all reptiles very curious; and I plodded long and often round the edges of ponds and swamps, hoping to see bank; and by sunny slopes in the woods, where, on the mainland, they might be seen at every step in search of snakes, but all in vain. I believe some of our common greenheaded frogs were recently transported to this island, and turned out into a swamp, such this island, and turned out into a swamp, such refund to the banks the money advanced by as would be a grand residence for them at them to pay the volunteers in service during them to pay the invasion of the State in 1863. One huntiff on their backs. In fact, Nawfoundland stiff on their backs. In fact, Newfoundland dred thousand dollars (\$100,000) have been seems to be destined to remain as it now indubitably is-a country without a reptile!"

Sick .- 1st. Eating too fast, and swallowing

food imperfectly masticated. 2d. Taking too much fluid during meals.

3. Drinking poisonous whiskey and other

intoxicating liquors.
4th. Keeping late hours at night, and sleeping too late in the morning.
5th. Wearing the clothes so tight as to impede circulation.
6th. Wearing thin shoes.

7th. Neglecting to take sufficient exercise to keep the hands and feet warm.
8th. Neglecting to wash the body sufficiently to keep the pores of the skin open.

9th, Exchanging the warm clothing worn in a warm room during the day for the light

tumes and exposures incident to evening loth. Starving the stomach to gratify a really to tax the inhabitants of all the counvain and foolish passion for dress.

11th. Keeping up a constant excitement by fretting the mind with borrowed troubles. lowing quack nostrums for every immagina-

ry ill.
13th. Taking the meals at irregular intervals.

14th. Reading the trash and exciting literature of the day, and going crasy on politics.

15th. Taking the meals at irregular interaction to avoid increasing their discretions for any purpose.

16ct.

16ct.

16ct.

16ct.

17th State agencies at Washington and in the Southwest are in active and successful for 300,000 men. This renders it proper that the Southwest are in active and successful invite your attention to the evilst various particulars obeyed the laws by which operation. I communicate herewith the re-

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

TERMS:

During the past year the people of this Commonwealth have had reason to be grateful to Almighty God for many blessings.—The earth has been fruitful, industry has within the year. These terms will be rigidly adalered to in every instance. No substription discontinued until all sirearings are paid unless at the option of the Editor.

ADVARTISHMENUS.—Accommond. Chambersburg, we have no public misfor-tune to lament. The year closes with a train of brilliant successes obtained by the armies of the United States, inspiring hope. in every loval mind that the accuracd rewill soon be crushed, and peace be

restored to our country. The balance in the Treasury, Nov. \$2,147,331 70 Receipts during fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1864, 4,733,313 02

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1864, The payments for the same period have been

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1864, 1,942,203 63 The operations of the sinking fund during the last year have been shown by my proclamation of the 27th day of September last, Ls follows:

6,880,644 72

4,938,441 09

Amount of debt of Commonwealth. reduced,
As follows, viz:
Five per cent. loan of the
Commonwealth,
S268,308 03
Interest certificates \$268.589 50

-268,569 50 The fiscal year accounted for in the statement of the Treasury Department, embraces the time from the 1st of December, 1863, to the 30th of November, 1864. The sinking fund year commenced the first Monday in September, 1863. This will explain the discrepancy between the statement of the Department as to the reduction of the public debt of the State, and the statement embodied in the proclamation relative to the sinking fund.

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania, as it stood on the first day of Dec. 1863, Deduct amount re-decimen at the State Treasury during the

fiscal year enging with Nov. 30, 1864, Five por cont. stocks, \$101,712 73 Four and a half por ct.

stocks, Interest certificates, 39,379,603 94 Public debt Dec. 1, 1864,

Funded debt, via.
Six per cent. loans, ordinary
Five per cent. loans, \$100,030 00
Five per cent. loans, 35,695,263 72 Four and a-half per centum loans,

258,200 00 Unftended debt, viz: clief notes in circucertificatés Interest

· ereditors' certificates 724 32 115,510 22 36,379,603 94

Military loan, per act 15th May, 1861, 39,379 603 94 The Commonwealth holds bonds received from the sale of public works, amounting to

(10,300,000,) as fellows: Pennsylvania railroad compa-\$6,800,000 00

ny bonds, Philadelphia and Erie railroad 3.500.000 00 · company bonds; 10,300,000 00

These bonds are in the sinking fund, and educe the public debt to \$29,079,603 94. The tax on tounage imposed by the acts of 30th April and 25th August, 1864, has pose of rendering this source of revenue more productive, and amending other defects in those bills. The revenue derived from the "Besides the above mentioned deficiencies, found, when visiting Newfoundland last 639,606 67, but under the enabling act of the State so many of our banks have become National banks under the act of Congress, that this source of revenue may be considered as substantially extinguished, and it will be necessary in some way to make up the

leficiency from other sources. The act of Congress authorizes the taxa tion by the State of the stock in the Nation ceeding the rate of taxation imposed on other similar property, and part of the deficiency may be thus provided for.

The amount of debt extinguished by the sinking fund during the year is unusually small, which is to be accounted for by the extraordinary expenses which have been incurred. Seven hundred and thirteen thou-sand dollars (\$713,000) have been paid to distributed among the inhabitants of Cham-bersburg, suffering by the rebel destruction of their town. About two hundred thousand FOURTEEN WAYS BY WHICH PROPLE GET dollars (200,000) have been extended under

the wants of a particular county. But in our system, ordinary local charities are left to the care of the respective localities, and to give the public money for their support is give the public money for their support is

10th. Starving the stomach to gratify a sin and foolish passion for dress.

11th. Keeping up a constant excitement y frestly to tax the innabitants of an the countries for the benefit of one.

The national taxation is heavy and must probably be made heavier, and the local taxes authorized by unwise legislation and paid by our people are excessive. In view of these circumstances, we should endeavor to avoid increasing their burdens by making

it was incorporated, the Attorney General ports of Col. Jordan, at Washington, and Col. which have resulted from abuses of the sys-(on the suggestion of parties claiming to be hereby injured) has filed an information in equity against that company, seeking an in-junction to prevent a continuance of its past, and the persistence in its intended illegal

Since my last annual message on the re port of John A. Wright, Esq., that the Sun-bury and Eric railroad was finished, I or-dered the bonds remaining in the treasury

to be delivered to the company.

It is a subject of just pride to the people of this Commonwealth, that this great work s completed, and whilst it opens a large and

The call for volunteers was made by the authorities of the United States, but it being found that men could not be got under that call, the form of a call by the State authorities for the defence of the State was, with the assent of the President, substituted. The United States agreed to furnish the arms, under the country paid for the country paid for them. Immense sums have the assent of the President, substituted. The United States agreed to furnish the arms, at this place, and kept until not the bounty paid for them. Immense sums have the assent of the President, substituted: The United States agreed to furnish the arms, and care for them. United States agreed to intrinsic the arms, subsistence and supplies, but it was atleged that Congress had made no appropriation covering the pay. In this state of things, the emergency being great, the Secretary of War telegraphed me, thus:

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1863. To His Excellency, Gov. A. G. Curtin:
Your telegrams respecting the pay of mi litia, called out under your proclamation of the 27th of June, have been referred to the President for instructions, and have been under his consideration. He directs me to say, that while no law or appropriation au-thorizes the payment, by the General Gov-ernment, of troops that have not been mustered into the service of the United States he will recommend to Congress to make an appropriation for the payment of troops called into State service te repel an actual invasion, including those of the State of Pennsylvania. If, in the meantime, you can raise the necessary amount, as has been done in other States, the appropriation will be applied to refund the advance to those the payment of troops mustered into the United States service as soon as the muster and pay rolls are made out. The answer of this department, to you as Governor of the

make answer. E. M. STANTON, (Signed) Secretary of War. The banks and other corporations refused to advance the money unless I would pledge myself to ask an appropriation from the Legislature to refund it. It will be noticed that inyself to ask an appropriation from the Legislature to refund it. It will be noticed that the pledge of the President is clear and distinct, but, notwithstanding the money was paid and the accounts settled and placed in the hands of the President before the meeting of Congress, no such recommendation as Its provisions are found to be practically so inconsistent with the due protection of the emergency for which they were called out

required. Several of the regiments were marched immediately into distant parts of the State, by order of the officers of the army stationed in Pennsylvania, against my repeated remonstrances. They were retained, as was alleged, to preserve the peace and enforce the draft. Nearly, if not quite onehalf the money was paid to troops thus held, and after the emergency had expired. Finding that the appropriation was likely to fail in Congress, I laid the matter before the Legislature, just prior to their adjournment, in May last, and an act of Assembly was im-

action by the President and Congress. By the act of 22d August, 1864, I was authorized to cause an immediate enrollment to be for the purposes of taxation and reguof the militia to be made, unless that recently made by the United States should be found sufficient, and to raise by volunteering or draft a corps of fifteen thousand men, for the defence of our Southern border. The United States enrollment being found very defective I directed an enrollment to be made, which is now in progress under charge of Col. Lemuel Todd, whom I appointed Inspector General. A draft by the United States was then in progress, and it was not thought advisable to harass our people by a contemporaneous State draft, even if a draft had been

With such adequate protection, as proved by the brilliant campaign of that army, I did not think it right to incur the expense to the State of an independent army, and the with—

The act of 25th August, 1864, providing access year larger than larger than In my opinion this matter of donations to the donations to the statiles is fast running to a great abuse.

House of Refuge, and Insane, Blind and Deaf and Dumb Asylums, appear to be proper er subjects of State bounty, because their objects are of public importance; and to be more extensive than would be required for the wants of a particular county. But in our system, ordinary local charities are 1.00 the care of the reservable of quires that no more than are sufficients hould be placed on pay. The remaining 10,000 will be organized, and ready for service in

case of necessity. I invite your immediate attention to the very able report of the Inspector General, which sets forth the defects in the law which he has discovered in his preparation for carrying it into practical ef-

wealthy part of the State to the commerce of the seaboard, and unites capital and enterprise within our borders, it secures to the commonwealth the payment of sums due her from the company.

Online the act of the 6th of May, 1861, I appointed Hon. Thomas H. Burrowes to take the prise within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the orphans of soldiers. I communicate the poorer counties have become common. The ment of some of the poorer counties have become common. The ment of some of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the charge of the arrangements for the education of the properties within our borders, it secures to the properties with the subject. In arrangements of the form the subject is a properties. In arrangements for the education at the subject is a properties with the subject is a properties. In arrangements for the subject is a properties within our borders, it is a properties within our borders, and the subject is a properties within the subject is a properties. In arrangement is a properties within the subject is a properties within the subject is a properties. In arrangement is a properties within the subject is a properties within the subject is a properties. In arrangement is a properties within the subject is a properties within the subject is a p from the company.

In my special message of 30th April last, to which I refer, I communicated to the Legislature, in some detail, the circumstances connected with the advance by banks and appropriation be made to support this just who are tempted to describe the front the orphans of selidiers. I commindicate the detail of the company.

It is a commindicate to the requirement of the orphans of selidiers. I commindicate the company of the orphans of selidiers. I commindicate the company of the comp appropriation be made to support this just and worthy scheme of beneficence.

ters to be obtained without special legislation.
These acts have been generally prepared with some care, and contain the provisions which the Legislature thought necessary to protect the Commonwealth and her citizens. If these general laws are not found to answer such purposes, they should be amended and perfected. If any company desires to be incorporated with greater privileges than are conferred, or to be relieved from any of the conditions imposed by these acts, it appears to me that it should be required first to obtain a charter under the general laws, and then ap-ply to the Legislature for an act making the changes which are desired. The attention of the Legislature will thus be drawn to the specific object, and a judgement can be formed of its property. I would also observe that great evil results from the habit of granting privileges to a corporation by a mere reference to some former private act relating to other corporations, sometimes without even giving the date of these acts. All these prac State, will be given directly to yourself, whenever the department is prepared to sued by parties having no had intention, yet they certainly originated in the design of surprising the Commonwealth into grants of privileges which it was known could not be obtained if their extent were understood, and they are often followed now for the same frau-

dulent purpose.

luctance, and subsequent reflection and observation have satisfied me of its mischevous

I also recommended the reneal of an act passed the 22d day of July, A. D. 1863. entitled 'A further supplement to an act passed the 22nd day of July, A. D. 1861, entitled 'A further supplement to an act to enable oint tenants and tenants in common, and adoining owners of mineral lands in this Com-

monwealth, to manage and develop the same. This act allows foreign corporations to hold three hundred acres of land in this State for mining purposes. It was passed, it is be-lieved, for the purpose of enabling companies mediately passed to refund the money out of the State Treasury, which, as above stated, has been done. I ought to say that the approximation and the state that the sinking of an oil well and the state that the sinking of an oil well and the sinking propriation by Congress was vigorously supported by all the members from this State, in both branches. Having done everything in my power to procure the payment of this just claim of the State, I now recommend that the Lorislature tole the subject into that the Legislature take the subject into ter to remove all doubt on this question by consideration with a view to induce proper repealing the act. These companies, being foreign corporations, are not within the con trol of our laws to the extent that they ought

The immense development of wealth in some of our western counties by the discovery of oil, has added vastly to the resources

increasing. The productions and manufactures of the State have become so diversified and abundant that some measure should be taken for practicable under the present law. Volunteers could not be obtained, there being no an accurate ascertainment of them, so that bounties, and the men not being exempted by their enlistment in that corps from draft by the United States. Fortunately the United States placed on army under themselves the creation of a Bureau of which ted States placed an army, under General purposes the creation of a Bureau, of which Sheridan, between us and the enemy, and thus provided effectually for our defence.—

be members, and the head of which shall be be members, and the head of which shall be a new officer, to be styled Commissioners of

herewith the opinion of the Attorney General on the conflicting returns for the Sixteenth Congressional District, which will show some of the practical difficulties which arise under the existing system. Without undertaking to recommend the adoption of any particular plan. I submit the whole subject to your careful and carnest consideration, in the hope that in your wisdom you will be able to devise some measure which will produce the result so essential to the existence of a free grownment; that yous shall be fairly taken result so essential to the existence of a free government; that votes shall be fairly taken fice of the Auditor General in the first instance, and fairly counted and No similar appropriation will be required at

usurping any. I shall endeaver to persist in the damages done in the counties this course to the end.

Chamberlain, agent for the source.

I collect moneys due by the United States to soldiers, have been beneficent. A reference to their reports will show the magnitude and usefulness of this branch of their service I desire to invite the attention of all our volundations.

The result has been to the last degree oppressive to our citizens, and unproductive of pressive to our citizens, before the continued by sundry acts of Assembly.

The result has been to the last degree oppressive to our citizens, before the continued by sundry acts of Assembly.

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The result has been to the last degree oppressive to our citizens, before the continued by sundry acts of Assembly. Chamberlain, agent for the Southwest. The previsions of the law requiring the agents to collect moneys due by the United States to soldiers, have been beneficent. A reference In some counties and townships it is believed that the bounty tax, during the last year,

as I have reason to believe that many are still ignorant of that fact, and are greatly imposed upon by the exorbitant commissions charged by private claim agents.

Under the act of the 6th of May, 1834, I appointed Hon. Thomas H. Burrowes to take have become common. The men of some of the programment for the advantage. other corporations of the funds to pay the volunteer militia of 1863.

It is not necessary here to recapitulate for pensions to the volunteer militia men, them at length. The case was peculiar, and it is believed none quite like it has occurred The call for volunteers was made by the authorities of the Volunteer sometimes arrive here who are inspect to desert by the taching of the radiity of escaping detection, and the prospect of naw gains by re-enlistment, a process which they expect to be able to repeat an indefinite number of the radiity of the radiity of escaping detection, and the prospect of naw gains by re-enlistment, a process which they sane, and who should be protected and cared in the ranks of the army, and even those who for, I recommend that provision be made for bave joined it have probably not on an aver-

> to remove and care for them.
>
> I feel it to be my duty to invite your serious attention to the evils growing out of the system of passing acts of incorporation, for the system of passing acts of incorporation, for the act of Assembly of 14th August last, and they were bound over by the Mayor of this but after the witnesses had come here laws. We have passed acts authorizing charcity, but after the witnesses had come here on the meeting of the court, they disappeared from the public eye. I recommend the whole subject to your careful consideration, that the

system may be purged of these evils.

I am officially informed that the quots of this State, under the recent call, is 69,999, but I am not informed of the principle on

which the draft is to be made.

It appears from the President's proclamamation that it is made chiefly to supply an alleged deficiency in former calls. I am surprised at the amount of this large deficiency and can only account for the difference be tween the number of men furnished by the State and the deficiency alleged to exist in the assignment of the present quota, by the assumption that the men never reached the army, although enlisted and mustered after the payment of bounties by the localities in the State to which they were supposed to be the batte to which they were supposed to be credited. It is probable that there are very few counties in the State which have not paid large bounties for a number of men sufficient to fill their former quotas.

Taking the local bounties at the low average of four hundred dollars, it is believed that it can be demonstrated that the people of Pennsylvania have thus been robbed of more than twelve millions of dollars during the past year. This estimate does not include the money fraudulently taken from men who have actually gone into the service.

The continuous of these monstrous and

unparalleled abuses cannot be tolerated. Certainly more men are required to aid our the bill introduced for that purpose failed.

The men were raised and placed under the command of Major General Couch and the other U. S. officers in this Department. The troops were held in service longer than the command of Major General Couch and the other U. S. officers in this Department. The troops were held in service longer than the command of Major General Couch and the other U. S. officers in this Department. The laptroved the act in question with great regallant soldiers in the field in crushing thi ting that the members of the Committee might be allowed to visit and examine the

prisons and poor houses throughout the Com-monwealth. I transmit with this communication a copy of the report made to me by commend the same to your attention with a view to the adoption of proper measures to reform the abuses which have been found to exist. In connection with this subject, I again

call your attention to the expediency of pro-viding for the reception in the penitentiaries, of persons convicted of murder in the first degree, and who may be pardoned on condi tion of serving a limited term therein. It has become a custom that an incoming Governor should not issue a warrant of execution in cases left unacted on by his predecessor and it not unfrequently happens that even in cases which are recent, while some punish-ment should be inflicted, that of death may appear to the Executive to be too severe. The result is that there are at this time, in the various prisons, some eighteen or twenty persons under sentence of death, and who may lie there for an indefinite period of time.

The vast amount of additional labor which has been imposed upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth by the existing state of affairs renders it absolutely necessary that the olerical force of his department should be inof the Commonwealth.

I have made efforts to ascertain the value of this product during the last year, but have failed in procuring information sufficiently accurate to justify me in estimating its filing and recording the returns of the of solutions of the of solutions and the preparations of the army—the receipt, filing and recording the returns of the of solutions are the content of the con amount. It is already vast, and is rapidly dier's votes—the enrolment of the yearly in increasing. charters obtained under general laws and the making out of letters patent for them-all these, together with the previous heavy du-ties of the office—form an aggregate, the weight of which must ultimately break down his few subordinates, diligent, faithful and enduring as they are. I recommend, therfore, that provision be promptly made to meet the

necessities of this case. It is a subject of just congratulation that notwithstanding the distracted condition o the country, our system of common schools continues to flourish. The report of the Su-perintendent, which I herewith transmit, shows that there has been an increase of schol-

this session. I have endeavored since I came into office | Abill was introduced and passed the House to exercise as cautiously as possible the pow-ers confided to the Executive, and avoid ding for the appointment of a commission to

priety of the passage of such a bill during Drafted men and substitutes, the present session. It is just to the people of these counties who have suffered, as well as to the Government that these damages
should be fairly ascertained and the evidence
perpetuated, whatever may be the view to be
taken on future consideration by the United
Artillery States or State Government as to the propriety of paying such claims.

Major General Hancock has been authori

zed by the War Department to raise a corps of veterans, to be called the First Corps.— One of the regulations is that on application by the Governor of any State, recruiting offi-cers will be designated for such State. I have probably not be entitled to the relief provided by our own laws for the families of volunteers. I have inquired of General Hancech whether the proposed corps is to form part of the regular army or of the volunteer force and if the latter, under what act of Congress it is to be raised. He has referred that com munication to the War Department, from which I have as yet received no answer to

The following letters have passed between General Hancock and myself on this subject:

Monday last. I returned this morning and Monday last. I returned this morning and hasten to reply.

Having no knowledge of the organization of the corps you are to command than what appears in the newspapers and orders, I will be obliged if you will inform me if it is to be regarded as a part of the regular army of the United States or as part of the volunteer ser-

If it is part of the army of the United states, I certainly have no connection with it, as Governor of the State. If it is organized as volunteers, be pleased to inform me under

to embarrass the plan proposed.
We have benefits, by general and special legislation in Pennsylvania, which attach to the volunteer and his family. While I will do nothing to deter the veterans of the State from entering your corps, I hesitate to con-nect myself with a mode of enlistment which may deprive them of such benefits, unless it is my duty under the law. I am, General, very respectfully, your obe

A. G. CURTIN. Major General WINFIELD S. HANCOCK. HEADQUARTERS FIRST CORPS. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31, 1864. To his Excellency Hon. A. G. Curtin, Gover

nor of Pennsylvania: Sin: I have the honor to acknowledge the eccipt of your communication of the 29th ust, and have referred the same to the War ncession of personal good will, and regret that there should be any hesitation on your part to lend your official influence, as Governor, to he raising of the corps as proposed by the

War Department. It is not within my province, perhaps to discuss the plan of organization, as I am ac-ting under the direct orders of the War Deartment, and my own views, therefore, are of no practical moment. I may say, howev er, that I have no knowledge of the organiza-tion other than what I have derived from the orders and circulars of which I mailed you official conies December 5th.

from your State lose any of the advantages attatching to those for other organizations.

They are credited to the localities where they or their families are domiciled, and count on the quota of your State. It should be borne in mind that this is an

fully, your obedient servant, WINFIELD S. HANCOCK, Major-General U.S. Volunteers, commanding

by the Governors of the several States. The men in this corps are not to be formed into organizations of the respective States, and it OBSCURED .- We find the following in the St. s propsed that its officers shall be appointed ov the General Government. I know of no act of Congress or of Assembly under which men so raised will be entitled to pensions or their families to benefits from the United States or State Government. In addition, I will observe that without any feeling of jealousy, I am still not ready to participate estivaly in a few other unseemly extravagences, he is I am still not ready to participate actively in transferring to the United States illegally the right of appointment vested in the State, and which the State authorities can exercise with the State authorities can exercise with more discrimination by reason of having a tells a joke except to point a moral of adorn greater fauliliarity with the merits of the cities a Juke except to point a moral of adortizens of their own State, than the United States authorities can possibly have. I will transmit any further communication that I may receive on this subject. It will be perceived by reference to the correspondence, ceived by reference to the correspondence, that I have offered to raise, in the manner provided by law, two or three regiments of veterans for Hancock's Corps. My desire is to assist the Government in every legal mode in raising men, and especially to facilitate un officer—a native Pennsylvanian—so distin-guished as General Hancock, in his efforts to

organize a new corps.
I shall throw no obstacles in his way or the present occasion, but I cannot, certainly be expected to invite a violation of laws in carrying out a plan which sacrifices the rights of the State under existing laws, and would leave the men unprotected by them, so far as concerns future provision for their comfort and that of their families.

I will further observe that it appears by the report of the Adjutant General, herewith transmitted, that the State, under the system established by law, has put into the military service of the United States since the com-mencement of the war, the following number of men. viz:

Troops sent into service during 1864.

Organizations for three years' Organizations for one hundred days' term, Organizations for one year term Volunteer recruite, Recruits for regular army, Re-enlistments of Pennsylvania

13.862 Infantry, 799 389 Accredited to other States, 17,876

91,701 Troops sent into the service of the United States since the commencement of the rebel-lion, including the ninety days' militia in the departments of the Monongahela and Susquehanna, in 1863: During the year 1861, Do. do. 1862, Do. do. 1863, Do. do. 1864, 73,828 Re-enlistment of Pennsylvania Vol-17,876

The twenty-five thousand militia of 1862 re not included in this statement. I call the attention of the Legislature to the report of the Surveyor General, herewith presented, and commend the suggestions made by that officer to your consideration.

The following letters have passed between leneral Hancock and myself on this subject:

Pennsylvania Executive Chamber, Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 29th, 1804.

General:—I received your letter at the moment of my departure for Philadelphia on made by that officer to your consideration.

This message is accompanied by full reports of all the military departments. They exhibit the large amount of service performed during the past year, and contain a full history of all the military operations of the State manual than the past year, and contain a full history of all the military operations of the State manual than the past year. them to promote the efficiency of our volun-teers, and the comfort of the sick and wotinded, which I commend to your earnest and immediate attention. It affords me great satisfection to bear my testimony to the abil-ity, diligence and fidelity of all the officers in

these several departments. Before closing this message I desire to advert to the delay which has sometimes occurred in the passage of the general appropriation bill. It is necessary that this bill should become a law, as otherwise the action of the gravernment would be seened. To deof the government would be stopped. To dewhat act of Congress.

I need not say, General, that I would be most happy to do all in my power personally thour of the night before the morning fixed for and officially to raise a force to be command the final adjournment, is to deprive the peoded by you. Can we not raise you two or ple of their right to have all bills submitted three regiments in Pennsylvania, in the usual to the revision of the Legislature before becoming layer, in case the Executive should manner and according to the act of Congress, for your corps? Of course, I would consult you in the selection of officers and only commission where you approved.

I cannot understand the importance of my asking that persons be sent to Pennsylvania to induce veterans to go to the District of Columbia to enlist. I certainly will do nothing to embarrass the plan proposed. and in fact as the Legislature was on the point of adjournment; the only question presented to me was whether that bill should become a law without amendment or the ne-cessities of the Government remain unprovi-

> The gallantry of our soldiers in the field still sheds lustre on the Commonwealth, and that their merit is appreciated by a generous people is shown by the continued and obser-ful liberality with which the men and women of the State contribute of their means for their comfort and welfare. May the blessing of God be on those brave men who have sto by the country through the dark hours of her trial.

A. G. CURTIN. EXECUTIVE CHANGER, Harrisburg, Jan. 4, 1865.

To Select Mears .- Beef .- Beef may be known by its color; the fat will be of oily smoothness, and incline to white, rather than yellow, while the lean will be of an open grain, bright red. Yellow fat is a sure sign of inferior quality. The fat of cow beef is

generally yellow.

Pork.—In pork the flesh is firm smooth, a clear color and the fat set. Dairy fed pork bears the palm over all others. In young pork, the fat, when pinched, will break.—
Excellent bacon may be known by the lean being tender and of a bright color, the fat firm and white, yet bearing a pale rose tings, the rind thin, and the lean tender to the touch. Rusty bacon has yellow streaks in it.

touch. Rusty bacon has yellow streaks in it.
The test of a sweet ham is to pass a knife or
skewerdown the bone, and when drawn out,
smell it; if the knife is daubed greasy, and
the smell disagrecable, the ham is bad.

Veal.—When the kidney is well surrounded with fat, you may be sure the meat is of
good outlity. Always above that which is effort to get men into service who are not sub-ject to a draft.

good quality. Always choose that which is whitest and fattest. If the vein in the shoulder, which is very perceptible, it is a bright red or blue, it is a sure sign that the meat is fresh.

Mutton and Lamb.—The best mutton is of First Corps.

The only act of Congress for raising volunteers that I am aware of, requires that the field and line officers shall be commissioned by the Governors of the raise commissioned by the G

A Durley Eclipse-Both Sun and Moon

Louis Republican:
We've a friend about town who is literally

and while plodding their weary way along a suburban street, they suddenly came upon the glimmer of a distant gas-light.

A Mrs. Brough, wife of Henry J. Brough, of Hartford, Conn., while engaged in writing a letter to her husband in New Jersey, was burned to death in a few moments by a kerosene lamp being overturned and setting her clothes on fire.

Any one may do a casual act of good pature, but a continuation of them shows it to be a part of the temperament.

An Eastern editor calls Congress "an becene bird." But doesn't he like its gold

"Shall I have your hand?" said an exquisite to a belle, as the dance was about to commence. "With all my heart," was

the soft response. Be temperate in diet. Our first par rents ate themselves out of house and home.

Show may be easily purchased; but happiness is a home-made artic