Lancuster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1864

"The printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature, or any branch of government; and, no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thought and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of men; and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject; being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of officers, or men in public capacities, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence."—Constitution of Pennsylvania.

The Fall of Savannah.

Christmas this year has been made ever memorable by the completion of the grand march of Sherman, and his entry into the city of Savannah. The news which first reached us through the Philadelphia papers of yesterday was received with testimonials of rejoicing, and the bells rang merrily. It is really a great and important success, and must be seriously felt by the rebels. It onens up one of the best and most important harbors of the South, and gives us a new base which can be used most advantageously for further offensive operations.

Whether this and our other great recent successes shall be the means of bringing about a speedy end of the war depends upon the use which shall be made of them by the Administration. A really magnanimous offer of terms to the South at the present time, whether it would be accepted by the rebel leaders or not, could not fail to produce the most gratifying results. If it should be rejected by the leaders of the rebellion, their rejection of it would greatly weaken them with the Southern people, and thus aid the Union cause. If the barbaric theory of universal devastation is to prevail, as the chosen means of subjugation, we shall yet find that all our conquests are of no avail, and that our costly victories bring us no advantages. It will cost us more to keep the South the end we shall be foiled, baffled and defeated by our own folly.

Jubilant as the Abolition press naturally is over the fall of Savannah, they do not run into that excess of over-confidence which once distinguished them. Even the Press. speaks in measured terms. The following extract is omin-

"The capture of Savannah is proba-"bly the most valuable of all our vic-"tories. Others have had far greater "immediate results, as Gettysburg "which saved Pennsylvania, and Nashville which crushed a whole army at "a blow; but from Savannah we shall "make another war. We do not see "how the military power of the rebel-"lion can survive this terrible defeat

The sixty day theory seems to have needed to overthrow the military power of the rebellion. It would not take that the Administration property to use aright the victories we have gained .multiplied unless wiser counsels shall

The Governor and his Attorney General. We call attention to the opinion of Attorney General Meredith, in the case

prevail.

of Hon. John L. Dawson. We gladly give place to this document, because it puts our State authorities in enviable contrast with the authorities at Washington. Mr. Meredith has not allowed his party predilections to influence his will be enforced with relentless vigor sense of right, or to interfere with his such as has not attended any of those clear appreciation of the law as appli- which preceded it. cable to the case on hand. And in this as in other cases of the kind, Governor Curtin has conscientiously discharged his duty by following the safe counsels of his Constitutional adviser. This is the more honorable to them in consideration of the nefarious examples of interference in the right of elections importance sufficient to justify any which have been set by the President sacrifice we can be called upon to make. which have been set by the President and executed by those under him in

authority. The Democrats of Maryland had that State. This triumph was achieved, despite the most outrageous frauds, and the most direct military interference at the polls. But, arbitrary power is not to be thus thwarted, and the military despotism at Washington does not hesitate as to the means to be employed. By threatening to arrest one member they have frightened him into resigning, while another, for refusing to do so un der similar threats, has been thrust into prison. We are glad to know that our public officials are yet obedient to the law of the State, careful in their construction of it, and willing to be bound by its provisions.

"Fighting Joe" Makes a Speech.

A short time since Major General Hooker and staff visited Wood's Theatre in Cincinnati to witness the rendition of Camille, by Miss Olive Logan. the beautiful and accomplished sister of Eliza Logan, who has recently made her successful debutupon the American stage. Between the acts some of the anthusiastic admirers of the General cheered and applauded him to such an extent that he was obliged to respond, which he did in a manner worthy the gallantry of a knight of the olden time. He said:

Ladics and Gentlemen :- I assure you I am not insensible to the compliment you show me. I am greatly honored by it, but pressing as are your importunities, it is only admissible to interrupt the performance of the even-ing in the briefest manner possible.— We are here for another purpose. We are here to show our respect for the genius, loyalty and accomplishments of the lady whose benefit we attend. Allow me to add that she is our 'star' to-night, and to request that you will not allow yourselves to be diverted from it by other influences. Again thanking you for your kindness, I will return to my seat.

A Remarkable Confession of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Secretary of the Treasury makes the remarkable confession that, if the people had only foreseen the vast expenditure of this war, they would never have engaged in it. He says, in speaking of the war in its commencement: 'Had it been then foreseen that what was believed to be a contest for months was to be continued for years, and that hundreds of millions of public debt would be swollen into thousands of millions before the close of that contes it may well be doubted whether, ignorant as they were of their own immense resources, the people might not have shrunk appalled from an undertaking

which contemplated a sacrifice so far exceeding all former experience? This draws from him the remark that it was fortunate the people were so ignorant. Hear him:

"Unaccustomed for a long course years to great national efforts, it was fortunate that their power of endurance should be tested only by degree, as the struggle which Providence had prepared for them developed its vast pro-portions, and the necessity of great and long continued effort became apparent. We never before heard of national-

shortsightedness and ignorance being made a subject of congratulation. We would add to the above comthat the same corrupt or ignorant leaders, who caused this ignorance of the masses whom they led, by their own | timated dissatisfaction with his managefalse teachings, are equally laboring ment of civil affairs in Missouri. The

to other vital matters!

The Coming Draft. On the third of last September, Se ary Stanton sent the following despatch General Dix, while the last draft was

ending: The naval and other credits required by the act of Congress will amount to about two hundred thousand, including New York, which has not been report-ed yet to the department; so that the President's call of July 19 is practically reduced to three hundred thousand man One hundred thousand new troops educed to three hundred thousand nen. One hundred thousand new troops, promptly furnished, are all that Gen. Grant asks for the capture of Richmond, and to give a finishing blow to the rebel armies in the field. The residue of the call would be adequate for garrisons in forts, and to guard all the lines of com munication, and supply, and free the country from guerillas, give security to trade, protect commerce and travel, and establish peace, order and tranquility in every State. EDWIN M. STANTON, "Secretary of War."

Just before the Presidential election Mr. Solicitor Whiting deliberately, and to all appearance authoritatively, announced that there were " Men enough in the army," and that "no more drafts

would be made." At the time when all these electioneer ing lies were being circulated we denounced them as utterly false and unworthy of credit, and warned the people that the re-election of Lincoln would be the signal for more drafts. Multitudes allowed themselves to act the par of children or fools, and gave credence to the falsehoods which are regularly got up to suit each recurring necessity of the fanatics now in power. The world must wonder at the gullibility of the populace of the United States. Mr. Lincoln has constantly deceived them. Each new call for men has been pre faced by assurances that no more men were needed, and accompanied, when it came, by the most positive announce ment that this was the last draft that would be made. Each new increase of the army was declared amply sufficient to finish up the rebellion, whose unfortunate backbone was now at least un doubtedly broken. How much longer in subjection than it is worth, and in do the people intend to be gulled by these same threadbare falsehoods? The coming draft is an ugly reality.

The grim fact is staring us in the face There is no escape from it that we can see. Men will be demanded, and it is not improbable that men who have been heretofore credited will be disallowed as nothing but "figures," which are fast getting into disrepute. The old saying, "figures can't lie," is not as implicitedly trusted as it once was. A gentleman, given to getting up statistical tables, recently made a computation from the records official, and from Abo lition newspapers, of rebels that have been slain during the war, and found that the sum total of those killed outright exceeded five millions. We cannot be at all sure that the figures embeen abandoned. One year is the esti-mate made by the Press of the time any more skilfully handled. Old pact any more skilfully handled. Old pack horse Pennsylvania will be sure to have a good round number of solid thousands long if there was good sense enough in saddled upon her back, and the estimates of the department at Washington will never be examined. Our loyal We fear there is not, and believe the Governor will not interfere in the matone year of the Press will be repeatedly ter. Whatever the allotment be they must be forthcoming by the 15th day of February, or the wheel of fate will be Wo to the poor devils who turned. draw prizes in this lottery of death. No important election is immediately be fore us, and few considerations will be allowed to mitigate its severity. There are no considerations now to induce the administration to consult much with the people or to listen to suggestions from them. The coming conscription

The Policy of Destruction. We still persist in calling the war

raging in this country a war for the Union. To restore or reconstruct the Union of the now dissevered States we are taught to regard as an object of We are constantly told that the object of our desires will be accomplished very speedily after the armies of the South fairly elected majority in the Senate of are defeated. But how this most desirable consummation is to be achieved no one of the impracticable radicals of the day, in or out of Congress, has as vet been good enough to inform us, They cry havoc, and justify the most lestructive warfare, on the plan of weakening the enemy, but no one of them attempts to solve the seemingly impossible problem of our living again in peace and union with a people whom we are daily exasperating and driving to the most intense hatred, by the manner in which we are conducting our campaigns. The policy of destruction is the one now in favor. The beautiful valleys of Virginia have been made leserts, and wherever our armies march the inhabitants of the country are made to feel all the woes that can be attendant upon the rudest possible war of conquest. Our cry is vae victis, and whether so intended or not, every movement we make but adds intensity to the hatred with which we are even now regarded. Sherman's treatment of the people of Georgia, on his march through that State, will not be likely to beget any love for the Union. The time will yet come, even if we should succeed in subduing the armies now arrayed against us, when we shall be convinced of the folly and criminality of our present course of procedure. When we become thoroughly aware of the fact that our policy has rendered perpetual war, or ultimate separation inevitable, the real friends of the Union, those who have deprecated the barbarism displayed, and denounced the mad schemes of the fanatics who now lead, will be regarded in their true light, and recognized as the best friends of the nation. We are inflicting great miseries upon those whom we once regarded as brethren; we are maddening every man and woman in the South: we are insuring the perpetual existence of a hatred which never can and never will be appeased; we are, even by what we call our efforts to restore the Union, rendering any restoration; thereof under a form of free government an

utter impossibility. We may again have a united territory but it must and will be at the sacrifice of our republican institutions; A military despotism may for a while hold the dissevered sections together, by pinning them fast to each other with bayonets, but so surely as the devilish designs and the infernal policy now in vogue is to prevail, so surely shall we never again see the people of the States now dissevered-living together in peace under a free form of government. There must be a complete change of policy before we shall begin to reap any profit from the vast expenditure of blood and treasure we are making. In the end, the policy of destruction will prove more disastrous to us than to those who are now suffering from it.

General Rosecrans. This officer publishes a card in reference to some alleged aspersions of his character. He says whatever may have been the cause of his removal from the Department of Missouri, it was not that his campaign against Price was a failmentary of the Cincinnati Enquirer, ure, He asserts that it was successful, and fruitful of good to the Federal cause. Nor has the President ever innow to perpetuate a like ignorance as charge that he is an opium eater, Gen, Rosecrans likewise says is unfounded.

Political Proscription in 1799-- Scrap

of History. In the year 1799 politics ran high in this State, and in this county. The candidate of the Federalists was James Ross, that of their opponents, who called themselves Republicans, but who were nick-named Democrats by the ederalists, was Thomas McKean. Then, as now, the opponents of Democracy attempted to prescribe such as did not agree with them in political sentiment. They went so far as to make distinctions in social life, and refused to deal in a business way with such trades nen as were opposed to them in politics Even at this early day, the same procriptice spirit which has since maniested itself in the Know-Nothing organization, and in the bitter vindictiveness of our own times, was a marked feature of that party, which, sprung from Federalism, has never lost the distructive features of its anti-Republican origin. This spirit of proscription having been offensively displayed in the canvas in this State in 1799, the friends of republican institutions in this city, then called the Borough of Lancaster, held a meeting, at which the following series of resolutions were passed, which will be read with interest by every person in our community. They are not only a commentary on political intolerance, but will be found interesting as a picture of the habits and customs of the earlier days, when tradesmen publicly wore their "Aprons" and other badges to distinguish them in their business. The meeting was held at the house of Mr. Leonard Eichholtz, October 7, 1797. The ollowing are the resolutions as adopted : WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the Con-

stitution has declared "That elections shall be free and equal," in order to maintain invigate the important right of suffrage, it is stated that many of the partisans of James Ross, of Pittsburg, ave withdrawn, and threatened to withdraw, their support, custom, or employment from such tradesmen, me-chanics and others, as are known or supposed to favor the election of Thos. M'Kean for the office of Governor: Resolved, undrimously, Thatalthough

e reprobate, as unconstitutional and illiberal, a conduct so directly tending o subvert the rights of the people as reemen and republicans, we conceive t to be a duty which we owe to our-selves and our fellow-citizens to counteret the effects of such a procedure: and, therefore, that we will, ourselves, and by our example and recommendation, give a decided preference and support to Il those upon whom the unjustifiable conduct of our opponents in this par-ticular is intended to operate. That we recommend it to the tradesmen of this borough to come forward boldly, and their yotes with the dignity of reemen; and, if they shall think it proper, wearing their "Aprons."

Resolved, ununimously, That it will be proper for the mechanics and tradesmen of this borough, who are the friends of freedom and the Constituon, to meet together immediately afte he election, and make known what threats or undue influence have been used, and by whom. And that such neasures be adopted as may seem most effectual for the support of their inde-pendence, by agreement to deal with and employ each other in their respective occupations; and especially those from whom our political adversaries may withdraw their employment.

Resolved, unanimously, That the late lection for Inspector for the borough Lancaster having evinced that the friends of Mr. M'Kean constitute a great majority of the electors within the boough, they have it completely in their power to frustrate any measures of our opponents, of the kind above mentionl so as to secure themselves, hence forward, from an indignity of the

Resolved, unanimously, That, in our opinion, the proportion of property be-longing to the friends of Mr. M'Kean, in this borough, is not less than the proportion of their numbers; and that the conduct of our opponents has ren-dered it necessary and proper thus pub-licly to declare that opinion. Resolved, unanimously, That,

though it has become necessary to declare this opinion with regard to property, we, nevertheless, recognize the indubitable privilege which every qualified citizen enjoys, under the Constitution, to the right of suffrage, whether he be rich or poor; a right in the enjoyment of which (as well as all others granted by the Constitution) every elector ought to be protected and pre-JACOB CARPENTER, erved. Chairman.

T. MATLACK, Secretary. A District Without a Congressman. The contest between Hon, A. H. Coffroth, the present member of Congress from the Sixteenth District, and his opponent, Mr. Koontz, has not been deeided by the Governor. After a full hearing in the case, each party being represented before the Governor and the Attorney General, these officials have decided that no certificate of election can be issued by the Governor to either of the claimants. It will be remembered that on the day appointed for the meeting of the return judges at Chambersburg, Mr. Koontz appeared in that town with a set of return judges. all bogus, except the one from Somerset, and that he and a tricky lawyer from Philadelphia managed to inveigle the regularly appointed return judge from Fulton county into meeting with their bogus board, where he signed the fraudulent return in favor of Koontz out no sooner had he ascertained what was going on, which was before the proceeding closed, than he repudiated he whole affair, denounced it, and demanded that his name be erased, and his papers returned to him. This was not done, the returns which he had aken to Chambersburg being pocketed by Mr. Koontz, or one of his partners in this dirty piece of rascality. In the afternoon of the same day four

out of the five regular return judges met, and counting the returns before them, there being no return on hand from Somerset, returned Gen. Coffroth as the regularly elected member of Congress for the district. Had the whole vote of Somerset been counted it would still have left Coffroth a fair majority. The Attorney General now gives it as his opinion that General Coffroth cannot be declared by the Governor to be entitled to his seat, because the judges who certify to his election failed to take into the account the vote of Somerset county, and that Mr. Kountz cannot be included in the Governor's proclamation for the reason that three of the judges who signed his certificate were not legally chosen to act as such. Thus the matter is left for the present. It now remains for the parties to appeal to the next House of Representatives. If General Coffroth has justice done him he will secure his seat, as there is no doubt about the legality of his election. he having received a clear majority of all the legal votes cast in the district.

The Emperor Maximilian, by a proclamation, published in the officia gazette of Merida, declares the peninsuls of Vucatan, with the entire territory of the colony of Honduras, and its bays and islands, incorporated with his empire, from the 1st of October last. He orders its government by three prefects, the seat of government being at Merida A few Englishmen engaged in cutting mahogany in the eastern portion of the Peninsula of Yucatan are permitted to remain, as wood cutters only, under the sole right granted by Spain. England's treaty claims to Honduras seem to be entirely ignored-a fact which will lead to trouble between the Queen and Emperor. Cotton planting and sugar cultivation gave profitable employment to the colonists in British Honduras,

The Destructionists.

Newhere is the work of destructions asy, and that of reconstruction and retoration so difficult, as in the political world. It takes years of toll and taxes to the utmost the best skill of wise statesmen to construct any proper form. of free government. An hour of popuar folly and madness may lay th proudest political fabric in the dust and so mar all its fair proportions that long years cannot renovate its shattere splendors. We are living now amid the ruins of our former greatness, groping about blindly among the broken frag ments of what we once boastingly de clared to be the best Government the world ever saw. The demon of destruc tion, the sorest scourge of nations, blind fanaticism, has been holding high reve in the halls of our nationality. In vain shall the nation call upon his followers to reconstruct the once proud fabric they have destroyed. They cannot rebuild. Their whole theory and all their practices are fruitful only of evil, of use only as implements of destruction. Every day that passes, every move they make, every proposition which comes from their leaders, either in or out of Congress, abundantly proves that from them this torn and bleeding nation has nothing of good to expect. They can cry war, but they know not how to make the slightest use even o victories. They spend the treasure of the nation with lavish profuseness, but fail to nurchase anything which can be regarded as an equivalent for their wastefulness. They sing songs of rejoicing over negroes set free, but fail to show how either the negroes or the whites are to be benefitted by the change; and, if they are asked to tell what they propose to do with them or for them when they are all emancipated, they are dumb. They denounce the old Union of our fathers, and curse the Constitution as framed by them. but buying rent in twain the one and almost destroyed the other, they have nothing else of value to offer us in their stead. Their theories of reconstruction are either so vague as to be entirely impracticable, or of such a character as to be incompatible with any form of free government. Their financial follies have made us the laughing stock of the world; their management of campaigns has cost us the loss of multitudes of lives uselessly slaughtered; their emancipation schemes have destroyed the commerce of the country, and the agriculture of the richest portion of it, only to insure tenfold greater misery to the negro than ever he suffered in slavery. And now, after almost four years of wasteful war, the people sigh in vain to see the end, or any indication thereof. They may just as well make up their minds to suffer on, until the time shall come, when men of enlarged views and statesman-like sagacity shall be called to take the place of the destructives who are now in power. These fanatics are only powerful to tear down; they can never rebuild the glorious fabric which they have laid prostrate in ruin. That is a task reserved for other men, holding widely different

political views. Unexampled Political Corruption.

Judge Pierrepont, one of the advocates

of Mr. Lincoln's re-election, used the following language in the opening speech in the Opdyke-Weed libel suit "In 1848 there was a great revolution, as you well remember, in France. Th king was driven from his realm. His government was forever overthrown and not one of Louis Phillippe's chil dren have ever been able to return to it The greater political philosopher, in my judgment, that has lived at any time was then a member of the Chamber Deputies, and arising in his place, an in his solemn voice he uttered these few words: 'Do you know what is the general, efficient, deeply-seated cause, why private morals are degraded? is because public morals have first become depraved! It is because pure morality does not govern the principa actions of life, that it does not descento the smaller ones. It is because private interest has taken the place of disinterested sentiment in public action that selfishness has become the law in private life. It has been said that there are two sorts of morality, the one for politics, and the other for private life. Certainly if what is passing around us really is what I see it to be, never was the falsity of such an assertion proved in a more striking and unhappy manner. Yes I believe that a taking place in our private morals, of such a nature as to trouble and alarm all good citizens, and this change pro-ceeds in great part from what is coming to pass in our public morals.' I speak without bitterness, or even, as I believe, party spirit. I am attacking men against whom I have no party animosity. But I am obliged to tell the country what is my profound and settled convictions, and it is that the public morals are becoming, and that this pub lie corruption will bring us a new, short time perhaps, at an hour that is already near, a new revolution. De Tocqueville was hissed by every man that heard him, and in thirty days from the utterance of that speech the king was driven from his throne, and France expiated for her crimes and corruptions by the blood of more than ten thousand of her sons; and not a vestige of that throne remains, and the children of Louis Phillippe are exiles and wanderthe blood of more than ten thousand ers on the face of the earth. Gentleme we shall exhibit here to-day a state corruption in our public affairs in this country worse than that of France."

This same suit was pending previous to the late election, and Mr. Pierrepont was as well acquainted with the "cor rupt" state of affairs as he is now, and he also knew that these corrupt acts were winked at (aye, worse,) by those in power; and yet, he had the assurance to advocate, and the America people the blindness to secure, the rein stalment in power of those who have brought us to this state of affairs. The people may shudder to think of the prediction of Mr. Pierrepont, but that the government is in the hands of those who are now in power, is something

more to be dreaded. The Congressional Mail.

The Postmaster General has issue orders that all postmasters shall make up letters, papers, and other mail mat ter intended for Congress and its employees in separate bags, which are to be delivered to the Congressional messengers at the Washing ton railroad station. If newspaper pub lishers will make up their papers in bundles labelled "Congress," and if route agents and postmasters strictly obey orders, the mail matter for the Capitol will be delivered several hours earlier than at present.

Where is the Second Corps? The following significant remark was recently made by the gallant General

Hancock: I have left the Second corps dead on the field between the Rapidan and

Petersburg. Could there be a more crushing commentary on the overland route policy The Second corps numbered 29,000 nen on the 1st of May last. A few weeks ago it had lost over thirty brigade commanders, over 2,000 commissioned officers, and within a fraction of 29,000 men! What survive of this gallant corps are but a few hundred more than the recruits which, from time to time, oined it while on its bloody march. When General Hancock said, "I have left the Second corps on the fields beween the Rapidan and Petersburg,' he didn't exaggerate. It was extinguished in that dreadful campaign, and is no more? It was sacrificed to the Moloch of fanatic egotism that presides over the White House. It is dead and gone, and the men who are now called fill up the vacant ranks will not recruit, but replace its vacant soldiers

Christmas as it Was.

difficult to realize the change which four short years have wrought. We involuntarily think of things they were before the fell demon of Abolitionism stirred up the flerce strife that has desolated and rendered wastemany of the fairest and richest sections of our land. How different were the Christmas holidays of four years ago. True, there were mutterings of the coming storm, and the air was full of ominous rumors, but few believed that our difficulties would not find some peaceful solution. Had any man, even at that late hour, predicted one tithe of the horrors through which we have passed he would have been hooted at. Some who more thoroughly understood the character of the Southern people had a proper dread of what was to come. But the masses in both sections eat their Christmas din ners undisturbed, and enjoyed the pleas ures of the holidays without being concerned about the future. In the South there was considerable excitement and much apprehension But Christmas was kept with the same joy it always had been. There it has ever been more generally observed than in the North. From the day before Christmas until the day after New Year was a holiday season. Masters and servants alike give themselves up to unrestrained festivity. No negro

did an hour's work unless he was paid for it. There was music and dancing n the hall and the hut, and good feeling everywhere. The slaves were a joyous, thoughtless crowd. Decked in their holiday suits. fully as well clad as the same number of the laboring class anywhere; with all their material wants amply supplied; without care for the future; happy in being relieved from the task of providing for themselves or their families; sure of a living with one half the labor it takes any poor man in the North to obtain it: fitted by nature to enjoy the present, but entirely improvident for the future. as they have always shown themselves to be, they were happy in their suborlinate position. True, they were not ree. They had not yet begun to experience all the delights of emancipation. The able-hodied men had not been run off to be bought up and put into the ranks as substitutes for the carcases of cowardly Yankees, and the women and children had not been crowded into contraband camps, to be sustained at the expense of the Government until they died off like rotten sheep. They hoed corn, picked cotton, ground sugar cane, threshed rice, added many milions yearly to the national wealth, and were happy and contented in occupying subordinate position. They eat and drank, and kept Christmas in merry nood. Four years ago no soldiers stood on embattled fields, no blood had been

fear it will be long, very long before it shall be so. CAPTURE OF SAVANNAH.

When shall it become such again.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES retary Stanton to Major General Dix WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Dec. 25—8 P. M.

o Major-General Dix. New York: A despatch has been received this evening by the President from General Sherman. It is dated at Savannah, on Thursday, the 22d inst., and announces his occupation of he ('ity of Sayannah and the centure of one hundred and fifty guns, plenty of ammunition and about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton. No other particulars are

An official despatch from Gen. Foster to General Grant, dated on the 22d inst., at even P. M. states that the city of Savannah was occupied by Gen, Sherman on the mornng of the 21st, and that on the preeding afternoon and night Hardee escaped with the main body of his infantry and light artillery, blowing up the iron-clads and the navy yard. He enumerates as captured eight hundred prisoners, one hundred and fifty guns, thirteen locomotives, in good order, one hundred and ninety cars, a large lot of ammunition and materials of war three steamers and thirty-three thousand bales of cotton. No mention is made of the present position of Hardee's force which and been estimated at about fifteen thous

The despatches of General Sherman and General Foster are as follows: SAVANNAH, GA., Dec. 22, 1864. His Excellency President Lincoln : I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the

and.

city of Savannah, with one hundred and ly heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and also about twenty-five thousand bale of cotton.

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.

STEAMER GOLDEN GATE, SAVANNAH RIVER, Dec. 22—7 P. M. \}
To Lieutenant General Grant and Major Gener
[H. W. Halleck: I have the honor to report that I have ust returned from General Sherman's headquarters in Savannah.

I send Major Gray, of my staff, as bearen despatches from General Sherman to you, and also a message to the President. The city of Savannah was occupied on the norning of the 21st. General Hardee, ancipating the contemplated assault, escaped with the main body of his infantry and ight artillery on the morning of the 20th, crossing the river to Union Causeway,

pposite the city.

The rebel iron-clads were blown up and he navy yard was burned. All the rest of ne city is intact, and contains twenty ousand citizens quiet and well disposed. The captures include eight hundred prisers, one hundred and fifty guns, thirteen comotives, in good order; one hundred and ninety cars, a large supply of ammunition and materials of war, three steamers and thirty-three thousand bales of cotton,

safely stored in warehouses. Alls these valuable fruits of an almos bloodless victory have been, like Atlanta, fairly won.

I opened communication with the city th my steamers to-day, taking up what corpedoes we could see and passing safely ver others. Arrangements are made to clear the channel of all obstructions. Yours, &c.,

J. G. FOSTER, Major General. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The Government Printing. The Western Press Association has

petitioned Congress to take the duty off of paper, and no doubt a general effort will be made in this direction by persons interested in the publication of newspapers and books. The revenue derives not a cent of advantage from the duty, but the cost of the articles is nearly trebled by throwing the monopoly into the hands of home-manufact turers. Yet we have been informed by Speaker's colleagues. judicious owners of paper-mills that it

would be much more for their real advantage, if former prices were resumed. In the meantime the Government itself is a great sufferer by the duty, since the amount of printing performed for it is immense, and it has to pay at least as much as the private consumer for the article. The Washington correspondent of the New York Express says in regard to the public printing: This is running up to be frightful. The uperintendent, Mr. Defrees, asks for as

cies the last year---Public Printing. eficiency in paper...

His estimates of expenses for the next fiscal year are \$1,448,929, about a million and a half of dollars! What a costly pubTHE MARCH THROUGH GRORGIA.

The Boutes taken by our Forces—What Opposition they Met—The Character and Wealth of the Country—The Battle of Griswoldsville—Our Approach to Savannah—Capture of Fort Wallister -Condition of the Army-P the Capture of Savannah. The New York Herald has along and

complete account of Sherman's march through Georgia, including all the in-

cidents from his departure from Atlan-ta, on November 14th, to his arrival at Savannah, 11th inst. The correspond-ent says that on the 11th the army was located as follows: The 20th corps at Atlanta, the 15th and 17th Corps at Powder Spring road, on the Chatta-hoochie river, and the 14th Corps at Kingston, Ga. Sherman's headquarters were at the latter place. On the morn-ing of the 12th the army commenced concentrating around Atlanta. The 14th Corps, Brevet Major General Davis commanding, remained at Kingston to cover the shipment north of the Government property and rolling stock of the railway, and at noon of that day the 3d Brigade of the 1st Division, Colonel H. A. Hambright, 79th Pennsylvania, commanding, who, by the way, was the first commandant at Kingston, moved out, and the place was evacuated. Next day the corps reached the Chatta-hoochie, and on the 15th Atlanta. On the same day the railroad to Chattanooga was destroyed. On the 14th and 15th the 15th and 17th Corps marched one mile south of Atlanta, where they were joined by Gen. Slocum. On the night of the 14th detached parties from the of the 14th detached parties from the 20th Corps burned Atlanta. The conflagration was a grand sight. As the flames spread from the public buildings and the depot that had been fired, whole heavens became illuminated by lurid glare, while the unexploded shells in the dwellings and storehouses became heated, and as they exploded in rapid succession one almost imagined that the scenes of August last, when one hun-dred thousand heroes confronted the rebel stronghold, were being reenacted Standing upon an eminence overlooking the doomy city, I had an excellent view of the conflagration, and never had I beheld so grand a sight. As night waned, the gentle breezes carried the destroying element from house to house, an block to block, until one-half of th rebel city was in flames, the glare of which was so bright that the soldiers a mile distant read their last letters from home by the light. Next morning I rode over the city among the ruins, where nothing remained to tell the tale but tottering walls and blackened chimneys, that, like grave-stones, stood there as monuments of departed glory.

On the morning of the 16th, the army took up its line of march through a country teeming with supplies stock, and full of evidences of stock, and full of evidences of the wealth and prosperity of the State. Passing through Conyers, a neat little town, the afternoon of the 17th was spent in destroying the Atlanta and Augusta Railroad from Conyers to Yellow river. Here the rebels for the firs time appeared in our front, but in no force. On the 18th, the first place of importance encountered was Covington where the ladies, who have the reputa ion of being the most beautiful of the South, crowded out to see our n soldiers. The bands were playing Dixie's Land as we passed through, and the ladies were deceived into the belief that the soldiery were rebels; but when Yankee Doodle was struck up, the piazzas were cleared of their beautiful shed, no endless civil war inaugurated. It was a glad festive occasion, celebrated with proper mirth by many thousands now mouldering in rude graves hastily hollowed out on battle-fields. It was then a holiday for a whole nation of united, prosperous and happy people.

Yankee Doodle was struck up, the piazzas were cleared of their beautiful inhabitants, vindows came down with a slam, and doors closed very abruptly, until not a fair face was visible. On the 18th, the right wing was encamped at Jackson, and Slocum (the left) was near by. Neither of them had met any rebels in force. On the 19th the column moved at daylight. At night the command encamped near Eatonton. Up to this time the army had beautiful weather, but rain fell in the night, making the roads almost impassable.— On the 20th, however, the command still moved on, the roads in a horrible condition, and encamped at Shady Dale On the night of the 20th (Sunday) Mil

ledgeville was captured by scouts. The method of capture is thus indignantly detailed by one of the lady residents of 'Early in the afternoon five Yankee scouts came dashing pell mell into the town, when the men—the mean, craven hearted wretches, fully two hundred hearted wretches, tuny two numered strong—skedaddled, leaving our baby Mayor to go out and surrender the place unconditionally to five greasy Yankees, ten miles in advance of their army. Oh, the men are mean, chicken-heated the men are mean, chicken-heated wretches, and the Mayora puffed-up old fool. Had I been in town I'd have co lected all the women, and driven the skunks out with mop handles and

proom-sticks!"

loss, however, was but twenty-three killed. The rebels were forced after The town, which our troops found to be a very handsome one, full of the improvements suggested by wealth and re fined taste, was soon occupied. Those of our men the town could not accomodate were encamped in the woods around the city. The penitentiary was burned by the 20th

The rebels on evacuating the place released all the Union men confined in the prison, and conscripted them into the rebel army. The State House, when I visited it, presented an appearance of devastation and chaos. The troops had entered the Senate and Representative chambers, and the office attached, and up the furniture, scattering the contents of drawers about the floor, de stroyed the library and State papers left behind by Gov. Brown and his associ-ates, in hurried flight, appropriated to their own use everything they could carry, cut the trimmings from the windows, and revelled in broad sheets of unsigned, State bonds and currency, everal millions of which were found piled up in one of the rooms, as well as the plates from which they had been struck. As I strolled leisurely through As I strolled leisurely through the chambers and committee rooms and gazed upon the hundreds of negroes who filled the Capitol and revelled in its halls, I could not but feel that it was no descration—that it was fitting that a council hall where the treasonable ordinance of secession was hatched and given form should be spit upon and insulted by conquering troops and dis-enthralled darkies, under the very shadows of the life-like portraits of Georgia's chivalrous sons that adorned a matter of surprise that General Sher man, on evacuating that city, did not lay the building in ashes.

4 On the day that the 14th Corps triumphantly marched into the capital to the music of the Union, the officers of the 20th Corps, to the number of about one hundred, assembled at the Senate Chamber, called the roll of the House, appointed a Speaker and clerks, and opened the Legislature with prayer, the

facetious chaplain praying for the over-throw of the rebel Government; the return of Georgia to the old Union; fine weather and little fighting march to the coast, concluding with the remark, "All of which is respectfully submitted."

A lobby member very gravely arose in the gallery, and asked if this honor-able body would hear from the gallery. Half an hour's discussion followed, and, on a division, it was decided that the gallery should be heard.

Rising with all the dignity and polish of a Chesterfield, he quietly put his hand in a side pocket, drew out a flask, placed it to his lips, replaced it in his pocket, and resumed his seat.

The Speaker. I must raise a point of order.

order. I believe it is always customary to treat the Speaker.

Lobby Member. I beg the pardon of the honorable House for my thought-lessness. I believe it is customary to treat the Speaker.

Here he produced the flash, and proceeded: "Yes, I beg to inform the House that I shall treat the Speaker— The flask dropped into his pocket, and he into his seat, amid cheers from the gallery and smiles from the honorable

After the organization of the Legisla-After the organization of the Degistature the question of reconstructing the State was taken up and discussed for some hours, with all the gravity conceivable, by the Yankee representatives from the various counties of the deliberations was that the was led back like a conquered child into the Union, and a committee ap-pointed to kick Governor Brown, and resident Davis' nates, which committee retired, and soon after returned and reported that they were animated by a progressive spirit, but that the articles upon which they were to exercise their "pedal extremities" were non est.

The Legislature adjourned after the style of Governor Brown's Legislature of the progress.

of the previous Friday—by taking squaredrink and handful of "hognuts The march towards Savannah on the 23d and 24th was marked by much skirmishing on the 26th at Sandersville, some miles from the Ogeechee. Wheeler was stampeded by a foraging party. On the 28th the left wing arrived at the

Ogeechee river, and Sherman reached Milton on the 29th; part of the men of the latter passed through Louisville, and several divisions of the other corps marched to Waynesboro. On Dec ber 2d the left wing reached here. the 7th Davis' corps advanced, skir-mishing with Ferguson's brigade of rebel cavalry towards the Ogeechee. time, if he did not feel confident of hav-ing the town without the great effusion

of blood that an assault would necessarily

produce. He desires to save his men in

every way, and he will do it by not be-ing in a hurry. The question of sup-plies is one that Hardee cannot control. Our forces were not looked for under

least eight or ten thousand beings were

commissariat in Savannah, acknow-

Opinion of Attorney General Meredith

Defining the Power of the Governor

in Declaring the Election of Members

The 21st Congressional District is

composed of the counties of Indiana, Fayette and Westmoreland. The dis-trict return judges of that district have sent to the Secretary of the Common-

wealth their return of the election held

n October last, in which they state the

number of votes cast for each candi

of Congress.

rebel cavalry towards the Ogeechee. Here Ferguson attacked Kilpatrick in a swamp, but only a few volleys were exchanged, and Kilpatrick and Howard sat down that night forty-six miles from Savannah. Slocum reached Sringfield, the county seat of Effingham. Kilpatrick, during the whole march, was very serviceable on the flanks. On the 22d, near Gordon, some of the enemy showed fight, but were repulsed in utter confusion by the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who charged two weeks from this, and the supplies necessary to maintain a siege were not collected and stored away in the city; nor were inhabitants-non combatants sent to other locations. trary, thousands resorted to the city as a place of refuge, from all portions of the country in front of Sherman, and drove many of their negroes before them. At least eight or text the weak his way. added to the non-combatante Hardee had to feed, and Hardee had not Pennsylvania Cavalry, who charged and routed them. While this cavalry the time to make the necessary arrange ments for this army of hungry mouths; so they must starve if he holds out. An intelligent and frank rebel officer battle was progressing the rebels brough upthree brigades of infantry, under Gen Phillips, when Horward ordered up Gen. Walcott's brigade of the 15th Corps to taken prisoner at Fort McAllister, who was familiar with the condition of the support the cavalry, and the engagement at once assumed the form of a battle. ledged, a day or two since, that there were not more than ten days' supplies in Savannah, and with his communica-Walcott came down on the rebel militia like a hurricane, dealing death and de struction into the enemy; yet they gal-lantly stood the terrific fire of infantry in Savalinan, and with his communica-tions closed, as they are now, he cannot hold out a fortnight. This is corrobor-ated by the best information our gene-rals have. It is generally believed that Hardee will attempt to slide out with his forces before the last door is closed against him, and leave to the municipal authorities the duty of convendence and artillery, until fifteen minutes slipped by, and hundreds of rebel dead and wounded wentdown. Walcott was him, improved them, and fell upon them with irresistible ferocity. He swent the hillsides, pickets, breastquick to see the advantages gained by authorities the duty of surrendering the city to General Sherman. swept the hillsides, pickets, breast-works, and road before him. In dis-order rushed the horror-stricken men. Gen. Phillips tried to rally his tro but it was in vain. They still ran madly to the rear. Phillips saw the day was lost unless the men were rallied, and throwing himself in front, he called wildly upon them to follow. A few turned back, and, hurriedly forming the n, he moved forward; but our deadly shells and bullets struck his column

while it was being dressed. Walcott rushed forward at the moment on the double-quick; the enemy broke in dis-

order, and away they cut across field and forest, throwing their arms away, and leaving Philips and many of his date; and further, that John L. Daw-son, having the highest number of votes, is therefore duly elected member of command prisoners in our hands. Congress from the said district.

A number of returns of soldiers' votes yells of triumph of our men only heightened their terror, mingling, as they did, with the whistling of Enfield for member of Congress for said distric nave been sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, some of which may probably not have been received by the balls, the deep-toned tramp of Emield balls, the deep-toned tramp of horses and men, and the rolling of gun cerriages in the storm that follows war. The battle lasted four hours, and Walcott—the brave leader of the victorious hosts—was carried out wounded at night, and all was still. Next morning the sun rose upon the block. roper officers in time to be counter and estimated before issuing the certificate of election. On this state of facts my opinion is requested by the Governor on the following the sun rose upon the bloody field, and the enemy were gone, leaving near ng questions, viz :

1. Can he go behind the return of the ly four hundred dead and wounded o the field. Walcott lost but thirty-seven.
On the 11th and 12th, most of our district return judges, and if satisfied by proof that they have not correctly army had arrived near Savannah, and ounted and estimated the returns sul by the 9th Sherman had made prepara-tions to open communication with the fleet. The 11th and 12th were spent in mitted to them, can he correct their er-rors, and proclaim as elected Mr. Fuller the opponent of Mr. Dawson? putting troops in position, locating artillery, erecting breastworks, repairing 2. Can he receive proof on the question whether any of the returns of soldiers votes were not received in time to be counted and estimated by the district return judges, and if satisfied that there roads, and all the et ceteras preliminary to a thorough investment of the city. Baird's division, left in the rear of Slocun to keep Wheeler back, placed batteries on the river to check the gunare returns of soldiers' votes not so re-ceived in time, can he count and esti-mate such votes in addition to the votes boats that the rebels patrolled the river with, and employed themselves in tearreturned by the district return judges, and proclaim as elected the candidate who may thus appear to be elected? ing up the railway and burning the bridge across the Savannah river. On the evening of the 12th they moved up 3. Is he bound to proclaim as elected the candidate whom the district return and took position in reserve of Carlin. The line on the 12th was about ten miles udges have returned as elected long, extending from the Savannah, where Slocum's left rested, three miles The 20th section of the act of 25th August, 1864, requires the county return judges to include in their enumeration the soldiers' votes returned. from the city, to beyond the Gulf Rail-way, where Howard's right rested, eleven miles from the city. Howard The 82d section of the general elec-

tle-flags on the parapets. The rebel

After the capture communication was

ade vessels, the Flag, a little stream of

away. Another rocket was immediate

same position as the first. It then be-

were rebel signals to delude our officers.

At about 7 o'clock the navy tug Dande

lion, Acting Master Williams, took Lieutenant Fisher and his party, and

Capt. Williamson, of the flag-ship, and

proceeded up the Ogeechee to a point within sight of Fort McAllister and the

batteries on the Little Ogeechee. Here

Lieut. Fisher took a small boat and pro-ceeded up as far as possible without

drawing the enemy's fire. A careful

reconnoissance was made of the fort and the surrounding woods from which

proceeded the reports of musketry, and

the attention of the garrison seemeed to be directed inland entirely. A flag, which seemed to be our own, was seen

flying from a house four miles off, and, on more careful examination, the stars

were plainly visible, and all doubts of

day Foster paid the General visit. He passed the obstructions below Fort Mc

ollowing morning, General Foster or

dered the steamer to go on. The rive through an immense fields of rice, thous

the rice mills were observed to be run

and attempted to annoy our forces by

vigorous shelling. They did not occa

sion any damage, and only elicited a number of shots from our twenty-poun-der Parrotts on the city, which was

easily reached by our projectiles. Find

ing that the city was suffering from our fire, the rebel gunboats desisted from

heir annovance and withdrew to th

Our position is now secure. Hardee

holds the city, and has but one avenue of escape. Whether General Sherman

proposes to cut that line of retreat or not

I am not in a position to say. It is not improbable that other points may be

ound to cut that line: and, meanwhile

Hardee, by extending his lines, has weakened his front around the city

proper. His force is variously estimated at from fifteen to twenty thousand men, of whom only five thousand are old

works and carry them by storm at any

defences of their batteries.

of escape.

oldiers, the

of the city of Savannah.

question whether or not the

wards to remove them.

came

had previously torn up many miles of this last link in the railways centering tion act of 1839 provides that the district return judges shall cast up the several county returns, and make duin Savannah. In front of some division of our lines were impenetrable marshes and swamps, where we could not approach within rifle range of the enemy. On the evening of the 12th Howard relieved Hazen's 2d Division of the 15th plicate returns of all the votes given for any office in the district, and of the name of the person or persons elected, and shall send one of these returns to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Corps by a part of the 17th Corps, and threw it across the Little Ogeechee, to-wards the Great Ogeechee, with the view of crossing it to Ossabaw Island, The 83d section of the same act requires the district return judges to transmit to each of the persons elected and reducing Fort McAllister, which to serve in Congress, a certificate of his election, within five days after the day held the river.

The enemy had destroyed King's bridge f making up their return. across the Great Ogeechee, and this had to be repaired. Capt. Reese, topographi-cal engineer of Howard's staff, with the Missouri engineers, prepared the timber and bridged the one thousand feet of

The 25th section of the same act provides that it shall be the duty of the Governor, on the receipt of the return: y the Secretary of the Comm lare, by proclamation, the name river during the night, and the mornof the persons so returned as elected in ing of the 13th, Hazen crossed and mov-ed towards the point where Fort Mc-Allister obstructed the river. The fort the respective districts, and that he shall also transmit the returns so made to the House of Representatives of the United States was soon invested in a half circle, and at a given signal our men charged over the ground and soon planted their bat-

The 22nd section of the act of 25th of august, 1864, provides that in all cases f contested elections, all legal returns had buried torpedoes in the ground charged over by our men; our entire of soldiers' votes which shall have been ona fide forwarded, shall be although the same may not have been received by the proper officers, to be counted before issuing the certificate

pened between Dahlgren and Sherman. It seems that at about three o'clock, on The above, I think, are all the statu tory provisions that are material to the decision of the questions now submitted the morning of the 13th, the day of the capture of the fort, after a rocket had been discharged from one of the block-

to me. 1. It is obvious from this recital that the law has given the Governor no authority to go behind the return of the light was observed to shoot up in direction of the Ogeechee, and queikly die district return judges, or to receive proofs of any kind tending to contradict ly sent up from the flag-ship, and a second stream of light was seen in the the return, or to show that it is incorrect I am, therefore, of opinion that the first question ought to be answered in the

negative. 2. In the case of soldiers votes not returned in time to be counted by the return judges, it is only in the case of a contested election that the law has provided that they shall be counted, and the election of a member of Congres nor. I am, therefore, of the opinion

that the second question ought to be answered in the negative. 3. The district judges are required to eturn the names of the persons elected and it is expressly made the duty of the Governor to declare, by proclamation he names of the persons so returned as elected, and to transmit the returns themselves to the House of Representaives of the United States.

fore, of opinion that the third question

the character of the flag were at once removed. It was the flag that had floated over General Howard's headought to be answered in the affirmative There is no connection between the Governor, as the Executive officer of the quarters at Atlanta, and now flamed State, and the election of members of Congress. He has nothing to do with State, and the election of members of Congress. He has nothing to do with the election or the returns of it, except so far as the Legislature has expressly imposed certain duties upon him. Under the acts of Assembly on the subject his functions in this regard are strictly ministerial and of the narrowest kind. He is not a judge of the election or a returning officer. He is simply the channel through out on the sea coast, within eight mile Lieutenant Fisher at once returned to the tug, and moved up to an opening out of range of Fort M'Allister, when, from the top of the pilot-house of the Dandelion, the American flag could be distintly seen. A white signal was at once raised, and a signal conversation ensued, which re-sulted in the glorious information that He is simply the channel through Sherman had reached the coast, and the two warriors met where the fort which the returns are to be transmitted to Congress, and the names of the persons returned declared to the people by his proclamation. Congress must of course act on the returns. His proclamation is not congress. was captured. On the following Thurs-H Allister, and proceeded some distance mation is not communicated to them, up the river, when darkness and the dense fog which arises nightly over the rice marshes, made it impossible to venand if it were, it purports merely to declare the names of the persons stated in the returns to be elected. If he were to issue a proclamation stating that he had received satisfactory evidence of the ture further, the channel being unknown and exceedingly tortuous. As soon as the fog was dissipated on the incorrectness of the returns, and that a person not named therein as as duly elected, such a proclamation would be a mere nullity—it would afinds of acres in extent, on either side, and ford no legal proof anywhere in favor of a person so proclaimed to be elected. If, on the other hand, he should, by here and there we passed large steam rice mills surrounded by negro huts.— On the banks, in front of their quarters, proclamation, declare that a certain person had been returned as elected, when the returns themselves were assembled groups of negroes of both sexes and of all ages and sizes, who watched our passage with wonder, not unmingled with joy, which they mani-fested by tossing up their hats, waving bandanna handkerchiefs, making low showed that he had not been so re-turned, then he would have proclaimed what the production of the returns would prove to be wilfully untrue courtsies, and dancing plantation jigs to the great amusement of all. Some of has, in my opinion, no more right to misstate the contents of the returns in his proclamation, than he has to alter ning at a high rate, and we afterwards ascertained that General Sherman's solthe returns themselves. One source of the practical difficulties diers were in possession, and were engaged in grinding rice and laying in a nice supply of that popular edible.

On the next day a couple of rebel gunboats ascended the river from the city, and attenuated to appear our forces by a exist in ascertaining the results of popular elections, is to be found in the apparently increasing tendency of officers intrusted with ministerial functions, to

This evil is becoming alarming; if it be not checked, it may possibly at last be more important to have a majority of the return judges, than of the voters. It would be indeed an untoward spec-tacle to see the chief Executive Magistrate of such a State as Pennsylvania, encouraging, by his example, a mal-practice of which every good citizen must earnestly desire the rigorous suppression. W. M. MEREDITH, pression.

usurp discretionary or judicial powers

Attorney General.
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, \ HARRISBURG, Dec. 8, 1864.
Since writing the foregoing opinion, my attention has been called to the fact that the counties of Indiana, Fayette and Westmoreland compose the 20th Congressional District, and not the 21st, as stated in the return.

balance being Georgia ting of old men and boys. The man can run over his ry them by storm at any

militia, consisting of old men and boys. General Sherman can run over his