The Example We are Setting. No thoughtful American can reflect seriously for a moment upon the spectacle presented to the world by our country without feeling sad. For many years much of the spread-eagle boasting of our Fourth of July orators was justified by existing facts. We really were the freest and the happiest nation on the earth. Nowhere did the burthens of the Government press so lightly; nowhere were the rights of individual citizens so much extended at the same time that they were seemingly well secured; nowhere were all the comforts and ever the luxuries of life so easily obtained as the legitimate reward of honest labor: nowhere was a people to be found se peaceful, so prosperous, and so happy Every right of the citizen seemed to be most carefully guarded. Our Federal Constitution, and the Constitution of every one of the States had incorporated into them such strong guarantees of all the great fundamental rights of the individual man, that they were regarded as being placed completely beyond the reach of any and every assault. Little did any one dream what inroads might be made upon all our cherished rights and privileges by a four-years' reign of fanaticism, in the midst of a great social and political revolution. It has been proven that all the barriers set up by our fathers as a restraint against executions, encroachments, strong as they seemed to be, were but as chaff before

the whirlwind of popular passion. To-day we are held up as a warning to the subjects of Kings. The despots who once feared the influence of our example now laugh us to scorn. Instead of being in a position where we command the respect and admiration of the world we have become an object of pity and contempt. We have exhibited the immense power of mere brute force, but we have done so at the expense of all the better and higher qualities which should distinguish a civilized nation. For four years past our national life has resembled that of an infuriated madman, with physical strength rendered almost superhuman by passion, but utterly destitute of the more important power of self control. We have wielded all our vast energies, and employed all the resources of the whole nation. in the work of destruction, apparently without caring how great and how lasting might be the ruin wrought. Constitutions, both federal and State, have been ruthlessly trampled under foot; the rights of the States, which were supposed to be well secured, have been utterly disregarded; the rights of the citizen, even those the most sacred and invaluable, have been rudely assailed and remorselessly stricken down; the sense even of personal security has been lost; laws have ceased to be any protection against the encroachments of arbitrary power: courts of justice have been deprived of their legitimate jurisdiction, and military tribunals and drum-head courts-martial have usurped their functions.

While all this has been going on among us, kings have pressed their crowns more firmly upon their brows. and grasped their sceptres proudly in the full assurance that the failure of re nublican institutions had been abundantly exemplified and proven. The follies and the crimes of our rulers have set back the dial on the clock of time. and indefinitely delayed the progress of mankind in self-government. We are held up to the world as a terrible example; and the advocates of republican institutions, wherever they are to be found, have had their mouths shut. It will be very long before the elective franchise will be extended even in England. This is the influence of the wrong acts of our rulers made to extend beyond our own country, and the masses of the old world must continue to suffer with us in consequence of our folly. Fortunately for them they only feel the reflex influence of our misfortunes. In so far they are happier than we are. We suffer, while they learn wisdom from our example.

The Uncertainty of Law in these Days. on as it has been doing for five or ten period of its existence, the conscription law may be reduced to the condition of an established and well understood statutory enactment. It may be that after some half dozen more Congresses have expended all their wisdom in

Heretofore it has had none of the certainfy which should attach to so important a law. What was the order and the law of to-day was reversed by the enactment or the decision of to-morrow The people have had good and sufficient reason to complain of the manner in which the whole business has been managed. Some of the late amendments are correct in principle but by reason of the absurdity of the former rendering of the law many districts are just now involved in serious difficulties. It is right in principle that every man enlisted shall be credited to the district in which he resides. Had this been the rule from the beginning, much difficulty and great injustice to poorer sections of the country would have been avoided. The adoption of the rule at the present period has, however, been productive of no little inconvenience. In this county, some of the districts have filled their quota, under the present draft, from other districts of the county. Now that all which are still deficient are required to furnish the men from their own limits, many find it impossible to do so. Men are still plenty, but many of those who are offering come from districts which have already filled their quotas. They cannot receive the liberal local bounties offered by those districts still deficient, and so they are lost to the service; while such districts are compelled to suffer the rigors of a draft because their own men, who were willing to enter the service, have already accepted the bounty from other sub-districts and been credited on their quota. This is creating no little excitement and giving rise to much disgust. Not a few of the very loyal are tempted to swear vociferously, as they contemplate the prospect of their names being drawn from the fatal wheel. Let them possess their souls in patience, and prepare to face the music. They voted for a continuance of the war: why, then, should they not be willing to fight as they voted? When wiser men ruled the nation, laws had some reasonable degree the receiving and forwarding of such of certainty and stability. We shall have complete confusion and most glorious uncertainty, so long as the miserable legislative quacks now in power That is a business for which they are utterly unfit,

Public Opinion. When this Government was founded hose who framed our political structure vere alive to the dangers which were ikely to beset it in the future. They knew it could not long endure, unless the people remained virtuous, and continued to exercise the rights of citizen ship with intelligence and moderation The fathers of the Republic repeatedly lifted up their voices to warn their countrymen against the dangers of party spirit, and especially against that mos ireaded form of the evil, which dis guised itself in the form of sectional nimosity. So long as public opinion continued to be perfectly healthy; so ong as the people decided calmly and intelligently upon their duties; so long ed without shame or a sense of degraas a regard for the general good was the predominant sentiment of all parties; so ong were we free, prosperous, happy; and so long did our Government chal-

Our present misfortunes are, to a very

the world.

great extent, the result of a want of intelligence and moderation on the part of the people. Public opinion is omnipotent among us. The history of the past four years shows plainly that a intolerable tyrant. It may, as it has even those fundamental rights which have ever been regarded as sacred and inalienable. Had public opinion among us been as intelligent as it should have it once was; had the men of this day founders of the republic; had the spirit never have allowed themselves to be excitement. They would have scrutinized every act of those in power with solved to defend them from every assault. Had the people been true to themselves, and to the best interests of the nation, they would so have controlled and moulded events as to have which has come upon us. When the excitement of these days shall have passed away, when the frenzy of the hour shall hall have subsided, when reason returns to the people of the North, they will see how utterly mad and foolish their acts have been. It may be the desired change will come too late; but the time will surely come when the people will curse themselves for having given heed to the insane teachings of the fanatics who are now in power. Unless the causes which are now in operation should result in the complete destruction of one there must and will come a complete change in the opinion of multitudes of the very men who now sustain the administration of Mr. Lincoln, and defends the many encroachments made by it on the rights of the States and the people. The only hope for the struggling nation is a complete and fundamental change of public opinion. May it come right speedily.

Watching the Weather. Hackneved as the theme is, the weather is just now a subject of much inter-

est Vast hostile armies watch the float. ing clouds and note the variations of the wind, as they keep vigilant eyes fixed on each other. If the sun shines brightly, it brings not thoughts of pleasant spring labor in the fields, but of the fierce death grapple that must speedily follow. A storm, or a long dreary rain that soaks the earth, is welcomed by many a poor fellow as granting a brief resnite from the terrible battle. While those in arms thus watch the changing skies of early spring with variable emotions, there are millions at ome who are almost equally anxious. A few bright days are sufficient to draw the attention of the whole people of both sections to the two or three points where it is expected great battles will soon be fought. An interval of genial sunshine, which should make every heart glad after the long and dreary winter through which we have passed brings sad forebodings to many a mother's mind; and suggests the horrors of ensanguined battle-fields instead of pleasant thoughts of babbling brooks and banks of flowers, and hills and meadows dressed in living green. How anxiously do the hearts of millions turn instinctively toward the dread centres of attraction. Because life seems to move smoothly about us, because laughter is heard, and sounds of revelry and merriment meet the ear we must not conclude that the people do not feel the miseries that are ever pressing home upon them. There is scarcely a single one It is barely possible, if the war goes | in all the many thousands that make up the embattled legions, over whom years longer, that, at some remote anxious eyes do not watch, and for whose welfare some woman does not pray. As the weather varies from spring-like sunshine to the rude stormi ness that is appropriate to this month it is thought of, not as bringing flowers and fruits, seed time and harvest; but patching it up, it will be made so as hastening or retarding scenes in plain that not even the bungling and which horrid death shall be the reaper, blundering of the Provost Marshal Gen- and his full harvest the mangled forms eral can produce such utter confusion of thousands of the country's bravest as has prevailed in its past application. and best. Is it strange that the weather should now be regarded as a theme of much more than ordinary interest, since millions are anxiously noting every change?

Buying Him Off! A few days before the close of the late session of Congress, Senator Hale, of New Hampshire, made a speech, in which he depicted, in glowing colors, the corruptions of the Administration, and especially that branch of it repreresented by the Navy Department. The speech in question ereated a great sen-Washington, and, indeed, throughout the country, coming as it did from a man who was the very head and front of the Republican party for long years, and who had labored with might and main for the election of Mr. Lincoln. It was a most scathing review of the imbecility and outrageous fraud perpetrated within sight of the White House, and shows up the character of the men in power in its true light. This was the last speech of Mr. Hale in the United States Senate. It alarmed Mr. Lincoln and the Cabinet, and therefore it was necessary to buy him off in some way so as to prevent any farther expose the corrupt and swindling transactions of the party in power. Accordingly, Mr. Hale was nominated, immemediately after the inauguration, as Minister to Spain, and the nomination was, without delay, confirmed by the Senate. He is thus sent out of the country, and we shall hear no more about the peculations of Cabinet officers and shoddy contractors. There is no other Abolitionist left in the Senate who has the manliness and honesty to speak the truth, and Mr. Welles and his subordinates can now go on and plunder with impunity.

Order by the Provost Marshal General. The Provost Marshal General has issued a circular, in conformity with the recent proclamation of the President. pardoning desertes on certain conditions instructing all officers and employees of his bureau to give prompt attention to deserters as may present themselves in accordance with its provisions. The Secretary of War has directed that no reward be paid for the arrest of deserters continue to tinker at law-making. who may be arrested subsequent to the who may be arrested subsequent to the a slave-ship, in which the Yankees car-receipt of this order by the district ried the negroes they stole from Africa the printing of the whole ried the negroes they stole from Africa thirty-six States. So much l provost marshal.

The Message of Jefferson Davis. No intelligent man can read the mes sage of Jefferson Davis, which we publish to-day, without having forced upon his mind the conviction that it is possible to end the war without further bloodshed. For the first time he candidly admits the growing weakness of the power of the Confederacy. This message must increase the feeling of despondency that already prevails throughout the South; and under the nfluence of a wise policy on our part would do much to lead the people of the revolted States to take counsel from their fears. A magnanimous proclamation from Mr. Lincoln, offering terms of reconciliation which could be acceptdation, would work a complete revolution in Southern sentiment. Men of property would be glad to save something from the impending wreck, and lenge the admiration and the envy of the poorer classes who make up the

bulk of the rebel armies would joyfully exchange their places in the ranks for such comforts as their homes afford .-A proclamation to the people of the revolted States, declaring that they would be admitted to the Union on terms of equality as States and as indireckless majority may become the most | viduals, would remove from the leaders of the rebellion the strongest agency done, encourage our rulers to violate which they wield for the control of public sentiment.

Now is the very time when such action on our part could be properly taken. Our position in a military point been; had public virtue been as pure as of view would abundantly justify the most generous concessions. We could been as wise and cautious as were the | be indulgent without danger, and without abating one jot or tittle of honor. It of liberty among us been as sensitive as | is to be hoped Mr. Lincoln will not it should have been, the people would persist in a prolongation of the war beyond a point when a safe and honorcarried away by a torrent of popular able end of it might be readily obtained. If he stands out upon mere impractica ble theories, all the blood hereafter to the jealous watchfulness of men who be shed will rest upon his head. Were were mindful of their rights, and re- he fit for the position he occupies we should hope for a speedy and an honorable peace. The chief difficulties in the way of an proper adjustment of affairs have been removed. Has Mr. Lincoln the wisdom and the patriotism dewarded off's much of the misery manded by the occasion? We fear not A very short time will, however, be sufficient to determine the question.

The Maryland Legislature. The Legislature of Maryland is principally made up of a set of miserable dventurers, hooked up on the points of bayonets from low positions. In ordinary times they would have been left to rot in obscurity. A majority of them never could have been elected to any office, however insignificant, had the ballot box been left free. They are the meanest and most contemptible tools and toadies of the present Administration. To them the honor of the State is nothing, and its welfare a matter of little importance. Having little or nothing to lose, they are most reckessas legislators. They are ever ready to register any decree which they think will please their masters at Washing ton. To do this, and to put money in their own pockets, they regard as their sole duty. Only the other day they voted to pay their own salaries in gold.

There is no doubt that he did offer the

econd position abroad to a man as com-

pletely unfit for it as any man could

well be. The idea of Bennett's becom-

ing the accredited Minister of this Gov

ernment to the Court of France is

enough to make any decent American

blush. No one but Mr. Lincoln could

have been guilty of tendering it to such

a man. If it was only offered for the

sincere in making the offer, or was

less discreditable to the man who should

as the chief magistrate of a great nation

realy seems that no means likely to

Stand from Under.

The rapid decline of gold for the las

erash is imminent, and those who can

had better take in all sails without de-

lay, so as to be prepared for the storm

which is rapidly approaching. Already

the price of dry goods has declined from

ten to fifty per cent., and it will not be

long, if gold continues to tumble, until

a much greater reduction will have to

be submitted to. To those who are out

of debt it will make but little difference

(although their loss may be heavy)

whether the crash comes at once, or is

postponed, by fictitious appliances, for

have purchased on credit, at high prices,

and have not the means to pay, will

have to go under if the revulsion comes

now. Again, we advise all who can to

stand from under, for the storm will

most assuredly come, and cannot be

much longer delayed. The war, so far,

has given a seeming prosperity to busi-

ness; but pay day is at hand, and this

hot-house, unnatural inflation will

wither and die under the fierce blasts

of adversity, which are already looming

up in the horizon. We shall soon begin

to realize a few of the grievous evils in-

flicted on the community by the present

Administration; but the people willed

it so in the election of Mr. Lincoln, and

we have no right to find fault with the

Defrauding the Government

The other night Charles Cooke, for-

merly the ticket agent at the Baltimore

depot, Charles Williams, the ticket

agent at the sanitary rooms,

and James Thompson, agent at this

depot, were arrested by the military

authorities and committed to the Old

Capitol on the charge of defrauding the

government of about \$30,000 worth of

transportation tickets. Thompson is

charged with abstracting the tickets

from the office, and giving them to

Cooke and Williams, who disposed of

them through agents. The first sus-

picion of the affair was created by many

of the certificates found affoat in the

city, and the detectives in hunting up

the matter found quite a number of

agents who stated that they at first had

received fifty per cent. for disposing of

them, but latterly twenty-five per cent.

A SCRIBLER from Charleston has sent

some relics, from what he calls a slave

pen in that locality, to Boston. It ought

to be placed side by side with a relic of

vox populi.

few months longer; but all such as

the world is to be left untried.

sake of giving Bennett a chance to de

instead of "greenbacks." The bill still nangs fire in the Senate, and it may be efeated as that body is nearly equally livided. Maryland will have abundant eason to rejoice when the day comes in which she shall be really free once more Bennett and the French Mission. When the N. Y. Tribune announced

He fled from the which he was sleeping with his pantafew days since, that the Mission to loons and slippers on, two officers fol-lowing his example. One of his Colo-nels commanding a brigade and the rest France had been tendered to James Gordon Bennet, of the Herald, and deof his officers were in the house, and clined by that worthy, we could not as a joke, only the more ludicrous be cause of the serious tone of the article in which the announcement was made were a couple of wounded soldiers. We expected to see a scathing reply in the Herald of the next day. But none came. It seemed to us a piece of folly oo great even for Mr. Lincoln to be guilty of. But the ways of our jocose President are literally past finding out.

drove out the rebels. As they leaving one end of the town, Kilp Gen. Aiken and taking a number of

cline it was none the less a disgraceful procedure. Whether Mr. Lincoln was The fight and the successful stan merely paying court to the New York Herald by a doceitful piece of flattery to ts editor, the proceeding was none the be governed by a sense of honor. It humiliate and degrade us in the eyes of over the country. few weeks is beginning to make its mark on business men, and especially on the mercantile community. A general

The Exchange of Prisoners.

ucceeded in saving it.

rolls: officers, 992; enlisted men, patients, who were unable to sit up. Of this class about fifteen have died daily

upon an average since coming into our hands; about half the number who died daily while in rebel hands. A large number of these are unable to give their names or the command to which they have been attached, in consequence o physical and mental debility. Some have become entirely demented by their dreadful sufferings from exposure and starvation. For these reasons many who have passed from their dreadful captivity merely to die under the folds of the old flag will forever remain among the "unknown." All others have their graves properly marked. But a few had clothes on, or anything in the shape of papers, letters or memoranda, about their

states, were entirely naked. Dr. Barnes has related to us many most affecting scenes which have come under his personal notice since the work of exchange began, which could only serve to wring the heart of the humane reader. Enough has already appeared to give some faint idea of the aln redible sufferings of these day of judgment only will fully reveal the horrible record. For the credit of our common humanity, for the sake of the civilization of the Nineteenth century, let a vail be drawn over the rest. and may a merciful God spare the nation a repetition of such scenes while the world stands.

THE public printing of Illinois for 1864 amounted to \$140,000, or one-fifth of the entire cost of the stupendous establishment at Washington, which does economy of the Abelition party.

Sherman's Grand March. The Sugar Trade of the United States. The New York papers have full accounts of the march of Sherman through From the New York Shipping List. The total receipts of foreign raw Sugar into the United States (not including the States on the Pacific coast) for the South Carolina. We make a few ex-SUMMARY OF WHAT WAS ACCOM

PLISHED. Never before has an army accomblished so much with such little sacri-ice of either life or property. We had been but about forty-five days hut out, as it were, from the outer Our march has been one continued

tracts:

success. Sherman's capital manœuvres completely split up the rebel army, breaking them into isolated bodies, thus destroying their power.

Our march has been somewhat retard ed by the heavy falls of rain, which looded the creeks and swamps and cut up the roads so that we had to corduro over a hundred miles of road, and built

several miles of the trestle work and bridges.

Besides compelling them to evecute Charleston, we destroyed Columbia, Orangeburg and several other places. Also over fifty miles of their chief lines of railroad, and thousands of bales o

At Columbia we captured forty-three annon, two hundred thousand catridges en tons of powder, nine thousand rounds of fixed ammunition, about ten thous and muskets, over one hundred govern ment presses, besides an immense amount of public stores, locomotive rolling stock, and other kinds of govern nent stores too numerous to mention.
At Cheraw we took twenty-five cannon, eight caissons and two traveling forges, besides a large quantity of government stores of various kinds in the arsenal and elsewhere.

At Fayetteville we took seventeen cannon, besides a large quantity of gov-ernment stores of various kinds in the rsenal and elsewhere. This makes eighty-five cannon, one third of which were field pieces—with carriages, caissons and all complete. We captured about twenty-five thousand animals on our line of march. We gave food and transportation to about fifteen thousand colored refugees, thus depriv-ing the confederacy of colored soldiers

nd slaves. We also had about four

thousand white refugees, all of whom were well cared for, and will be sent North to whatever destination they We operated over the following dis ricts or counties: In South Carolina-Beaufort, Barnwell, Orangeburg, Lexngton, Richland, Kershaw, Chester, Lancaster, Sumter, Darlington, Chesterfield, Malbourg, In North Carolina—Mecklenburg, Anson, Rich-

land, Union, Robeson, Cumberland and We marched on an average four hundred and fifty miles. This would give an area of over fifteen thousand square miles which we operated over, all the time supporting men and animals on the country. Indeed, the loss we have inflicted on the enemy is incalcul-

able, and all at a trifling sacrifice of life I think one thousand killed, wounded and missing will cover our casualties Several of these were owing to acciden tal explosions at Columbia and Cheraw The enemy's loss must be, in killed wounded and missing, about twelve hundred, while we have captured and n hand over three thousand prisoners The army is just resting a few days at Favetteville, and will then march fayettevine, and will then march to Goldsboroor Kinston, to join Schofield's gallant army. The army is in the best of spirits, flushed with victory, self-reliant and defiant. With such an army and such generals it needs no prophe to see the result of the next campaign.

KILPATRICK'S FIGHT.
On the morning of the 10th of March den. Kilpatrick was encamped about fifteen miles from Fayetteville, and was attacked by the whole of Wade Hampton's cavalry. Hampton commanded in person. The attack was very sudden and fell entirely upon one brigade, which was surprised, and for the time could offer little resistance. Near the portion of the camp which it guarded were Kilpatrick's headquarters, and Kilpatrick himself narrowly escaped The lady who was in the house

on being asked, when Hampton rode up, whether there were any Yankees concealed inside, answered that there eath these wounded men she had hidden Kilpatrick's flag, sword and coat, and thus saved his personal effects. Hampton at once put a guard over the house, and thus rendered it impossible for the soldiers who were inside to scape. Kilpatrick was driven back to a swamp

in rear of his lines. There he re-formed his men, charged the enemy in turn, got possession of his guns again, turned hem at once on the headquarters, and entered by the other, got his flag and tied it on a staff, charged again, and completely routed the enemy, leaving 68 of them dead on the field, killing orisoners. Kilpatrick's loss in this affair, killed,

wounded and missing, was less than 200, according to his official report. made by Kilpatrick after he had been surprised are regarded as among the most gallant deeds of the campaign. Two other cavalry fights of moment ook place, the first February 8th, when the 1st Alabama and 5th Kentucky of Col. Spenser's brigade, Kilpatrick' command, attacked Gen. Hugam's Al Kilpatrick's abama brigade, composed of the 3d, 9th, 12th and 51st Alabama, captured the general headquarter flag and five other olors, scattering the rebel brigade all The other action was n the attempt to gain a crossing of the Broad river, some distance above Col-umbia. Major Estes and Capt. Hayes, of Kilpafrick's staff, with a small force, charged through the railroad bridge which the enemy had set on fire, and

A special correspondent of the N. Y. Tribunc, writing from Wilmington The whole number of our prisoners received here under the late exchange was 8,648, of these there were on the Three reasons are given for the deficiency to make up the ten thousand priency to make up the ten thousand prisoners promised by the officers of exchange: First, many deserted and exchanged themselves before they could be delivered. Secondly, some died and were left by the wayside, where no mark, save a small mound, marks their last resting place. Others, and not a t off the train in a moribund state, being encumbrances, and were afterward found and died in our hands Quite a number, according to the con-fession of the rebel officers, died after the rolls were made out, and before they could be exchanged.

There were two thousand stretches

persons, by which they could be identified. Many had on merely a pair of ragged drawers; some, Dr. Barnes

trade in cotton. So much for the

year ending December 31, 1862, were 214,000 tons, against receipts in 1863 of 243,127 tons, in 1862, 247,015 tons; in 1861, 212,908 tons; and in 1860, 341,533 tons; and that the consumption of foreign in 1864 was 192,000 tons; against a consumption of foreign in 1864 of 231, 308 tons; in 1862, 241,811 tons; in 1861 241,420 tons; and in 1860, 296,950 tons while the total consumption of foreign and domestic cane sugar in 1864 was 220,600 tons, against a total consumption in 1863 of 284,308 tons: in 1862, 432,411 ons; in 1861,363,819 tons, and in 186 415,281 tons, being a decrease in the total consumption of 1864, as compared with that of 1863, of 63,648 tons, or over 空 已 cent.
The consumption of raw Sugar in

California and Oregon we estimate the past year at 10,500 tons. Cheap sugars are now in favor, and hence sugars made from molasses have met with more ready sale than in any previous year. There are refineries for this purpose in eight cities of the Union, that have consumed the past year, it is estimated, about 100,000 hhds. of molasses, being an increase of 5,000 hhds over the previous year, which have yielded, say 22,321 tons of clarified sugar The manufacture of maple sugar was prosecuted the last season with unremitting energy, and though it is extremely difficult to arrive at any satisactory conclusion with regard to the extent of this important crop, owing to the numerous small plantations on which the syrup is gathered being scattered throughout the entire Northern Eastern and Western States, yet we have no doubt that the estimates that are generally made of 26,000 to 28,000ons, are rather within than in excess o

the actual quantity.

The expectations that have been in dulged in respecting the sorgho as a su-gar-producer, have not, as yet, been realized to any considerable extent, owing erhaps, to the crude methods adopte y the cultivators of this plant in treating the juice of the cane; but as regards its molasses properties, it is to the West-ern farmer of inestimable value, and is getting to be fully appreciated.

The present extraordinary prices that sugar commands stimulate the economic and scientific minds of the country ir endeavors to discover some substitute for cane sugar; hence, there are many devices to extract saccharine matte from various plants hitherto neglected at least on this side of the Atlantic. company wielding a large capital, it is said, will embark during the ensuing season, in the manufacture of beet-root sugar, on an extended scale, and this article, which for these many years has formed so large a portion of the con-sumption of Continental Europe, may pecome as important an American pr duct. Another company is also in process of formation, for the extraction of sugar from the Indian corn, which, it is claimed, can be made to yield a large per centage of sugar, at a low cost—at east in the extreme Western State where this grain can be cultivated in immense quantities, at an insignifican

expense. To sum up, it will be seen that the consumption of the country, of all kinds of raw sugar, the past year, may be stated at 280,500 tons, against a consumption of all kinds, in 1863, of 340,500 tons, being a decrease of 60,000 tons, or 17

per cent.
Under the influence of the very high prices that have prevailed throughout the year, the consumption of the country continues to shrink; consumers have been dependent almost entirel upon the foreign article, by reason of the meagre crop of domestic, and as sugars of foreign growth now pay a heavy duty, and that in gold, the cost has been so high that the most severe economy has been practiced among all classes, and it may be said that this food article has at length become so much of a luxury, that many hitherto large consumers can now indulge in it but very sparingly. The large demand that preailed in former years for the preserving of fruits, &c., when prices were within the reach of all, is now partially no more and buyers, as a class, are content is they can command sufficient to suppty

their most urgent wants.

It is impossible, in the present state of political and financial affairs, to fore cast the future. The crop of Louisiana, that in some former years yielded from 200,000 to 220,000 tons, and supplied a large portion of our wants, is for the present annihilated—the crop now coming forward is so small that it is scarcely worth mentioning; the esti-mates range from 5,000 to 8,000 hhds., and our dependences, for the present

year at least, must be entirely upon su gars of foreign production. roreign and e year ending Foreign Bold Robbery.

On Wednesday night, 8th instant, between 9 and 10 o'clock, four men came o the house of Mr. Frederick Witman in Tulpehoccon township, and knocked at the door. The son of Mr. Witman nquired what was wanted, to which they replied that their wagon had oroken down, their horse run away and that they feared one of their party had broken his leg. The young man then came to the window, and said he would not open unless they told who they were. In reply to this they begged he would at least hand them a quilt and a candle out of the window. As he raised the window to comply with their request, and asked whether he should light the candle, one of the men seized him violently by the throat, another pointed a revolver at his breast and the two others jumped in through the window.

The whole party then entered by the

same way, when all the family, consisting of Mr. Witman, his wife, son and daughter, were tied with their hands upon their backs, and all four thrust into an adjoining room, where two of the scoundrels, armed with revolvers, kept watch over them, while the others searched the house. Finding no one to resist them, they returned and demanded money, or the keys to the place where the valuables were kept. Mrs. Witman exhibited the most courage, and refused, until her husband and children besought her, to tell where the keys were concealed. She at last yielded, and pointed to a spot under the carpet, where the thieves found the key to the money chest. They at once unlocked the chest, and took from it \$400 in gold and silver, and \$260 in notes to the Farmers' Bank of Reading, and the Farmers' Bank.) Having others of the Lebanon Bank.) Having accomplished their object, the robbers made their exite through the window, after warning their prisoners, whom they left bound, not to stir from the house before 2 o'clock, as one of them would remain to watch, and would shoot the first person he saw come out. It was also said that the one left on guard ernment would take the black mare stable at 2 o'clock, and ride after his companions. Mrs. Witman, being tied only with

Airs. Witting, being fied only when hankerchief, while the others were bound with halter-ropes, was the first to free herself, and between 1 and 2 clock, she ventured out into the stable. Finding all right there, and loosened the others. No trace of and loosened then be discovered Finding all right there, she went back although it was evident that they must have been persons who had some ac quaintance with the place. They were all ressed in dark clothing, and apparently between 25 and 35 years of age. One of them was an uncommonly stout, large man, with dark hair and beard. His three accomplices were about 5 feet high, two with beards and one with shaven face. Mr. Witman offers a reward of \$100 for the detection of the perpetrators of this daring robbery, and \$100 for the recovery of the money.— Reading Gazette.

What Does it Mean? The Washington correspondent of th

Y. Tribune writes as follows: of duty, and stimulated by a sense of The regular Rebel mail-carrier between the perils which surround of Washington and Richmond, to urge upon you additional legislation to urge upon you additional registration this subject.

The bill for employing negroes as soldiers has not yet reached me, though the printed journals of your proceeding inform me of its passage. Much of the dentist persuasion, who has for eighteen months rejoiced in cotton permits an enriching trade in Mississippi Va ssippi Valley. arrived here yesterday direct from Rich mond, in the regular course of his busi ness, with a well-founded contempt for the Old Capitol Prison, and a just scorn of courts-martial. Breckinridge passe him through the Rebellines. His open sesame of our lines can be guessed.— Cotton is king; and cotton will be king and instruction during the winter months. until the fortieth Congress makes and The bill for diminishing the number tries an impeachment for treasonab

A large emigration of Chinese is flowing into British Columbia.

Message of Jefferson Davis. The following is the message of Jefferson Davis, to receive which he deemed it worth while to request the Con-

gress to postpone its adjournment:
To the Senate and House of Representa
of the Confederate States of America: When informed on Thursday last that when intorned on Thursday last that it was the intention of Congress to adjourn sine die on the ensuing Saturday, I deemed it my duty to request a postponement of the adjournment, in order that I might submit for your consideration out it was the same of the tion certain matters of public interest which are now laid before you. When that request was made the most importattention during the session had not been so far advanced as to be submitted for executive ention for executive action, and the state of the country had been so materially affe by the events of the last four months as to evince the necessity of further and more energetic legislation than was con-templated in November last.

Our country is now environed with perils which it is our duty calmly to contemplate. Thus alone can the measures necessary to avert threatened calamities be wisely divised and efficiently

Recent military operations of the enemy have been successful in the cap ture of some of our seaports, in inter rupting some of our lines of communication and in devastating large districts of our country. These events have had the natural effect of encouraging our foes and dispiriting many of our people. The capital of the Confederate States is now threatened, and is in greater danger than it has heretofore been during the war: The fact is stated without reserve or concealment as due to the people whose servants we are, and in courage and constancy entire trust is reposed: as due to you in whose wisdom and resolute spirit the people have confided, for the adoption of the measures required to guard them from threatened

While stating to you that our country in danger, I desire also to state my deliberate conviction that it is within our power to avert the calamities which menace us, and to secure the triumph of the sacred cause for which so much sacrifice has been made, so much suffering endured so many precious lives been lost. This result is to be obtained by fortitude, by

courage, by constancy in enduring the sacrifice still needed; in a word, by the prompt and resolute devotion of the whole resources of men and money in the Confederacy to the achievement o onr liberties and independence.

The measures now required, to be suc cessful, should be prompt. Long delib eration and protracted debate over important measures are not only natural but laudable in representative assembles under ordinary circumstances, but in moments of danger, when action be-comes urgent, the delay thus caused is itself a new source of peril. Thus it has unfortunately happened that some of the measures passed by you in pursuance of the recommendations contained in my message of November last have: been so retarded as to lose much of their value, or have for the same reason, been abandoned after being matured, because no longer applicable to our altered con-dition, and others have not been brought under examination. In making these remarks, it is far from my intention to attribute the loss of time to any other cause than those inherent in deliberative assembles, but only urgently to recommend prompt action upon the measures now submitted.

We need for carrying on the war suc-

cessfully men and supplies for the army. We have both within our country army. We have both within sufficient to attain success.

To obtain the supplies, it is necessary to protect productive districts, guard our lines of communications by an increase in the number of our forces; and hence it results that with a large augmentation in the number of men in the army, the facility of supplying troops would be greater, than with recent reduced strength. with our For the purchase of supplies now re-

quired, especially for the armies in Vir-ginia and North Carolina, the treasury must be provided with means, and modification in the impressment law is required. It has been ascertained by examination that we have within our reach a sufficiency of what is most needed for the army, and without havng recourse to the ample provision existing in those parts of the Confederacy with which our communication has been partially interrupted by hostile operations. But in some districts from which supplies are to be drawn, the in which supplies are to be drawn, the inhabitants being either within the enemy's lines or in very close proximity, are unable to make use of Confederate treasury notes for the purchase of articles of prime necessity, and it is necessary that, to some extent, coin be order to obtain supplies. It is there-

fore recommended that Congress devise the means for making available the coin within the Confederacy for the purpose of supplying the army. The officers of the supply departments report that with two millions of dollars in coin the armies in Virginia and North Carolina can be amply supplied for the remainder of the year, and the knowledge of this fact should suffice to insure the adoption of the measures necessary to obtain this

The impressment law, as it now exists, prohibits the public officers from impressing supplies without making payment of the valuation at the time of mpressment. The limit fixed for the ssue of Treasury notes has been nearly reached, and the Treasury cannot a ways furnish the funds necessary for prompt payment, while the law for assing revenue which would have afforded means for diminishing, if not re moving this difficulty, was, unfortunately, delayed for several months, and has just been signed. In this condition of things it is impossible to supply the army, although ample stores may exist in the country, whenever the owners refuse to give credit to the public officer. t is necessary that this restriction or the power of impressment be removed The power is admitted to be objectionable, liable to abuse, and unequal in its operation on individuals: vet all these bjections must yield to absolute neces It is also suggested that the sys tem of valuation now established ought

to be radically changed. The legislation requires in such cases of impressment, that the market price be paid, but there is really no market price in many cases, and then valuation is made arbitrarily and in a depreciated currency. The result is that the mos extravagant prices are fixed, such as no one expects ever to be paid in coin.-None believe that the Government can ever redeem in coin the obligation to pay \$50 a bushel for corn, or \$70 a barrel for flour. It would seem to be more flour. It would seem to be more just and appropriate to estimate the sup-plies impressed at their value in coin; to give the obligation of the Government for the payment of the price in coin with reasonable interest, or he creditor to return in kind the wheat or corn impresed, with a reasonable in terest also payable in kind; and to make the obligations thus issued receivable for all payments due in coin to the Gov-Whatever be the value attached by Congress to these suggestions, t is hoped that there will be no hesita ion in so changing the law as to render possible to supply the army in case of ecessity by the impressment of pro-

visions for that purpose.

The measure adopted to raise revenue, though liberal in its provisions, being clearly inadequate to meet the arrear of debt and the current expenditures, some legree of embarrassment in the man agement of the finances must continue o be felt. It is to be regretted, I think, hat the recommendation of the Secre tary of the Treasury, of a tax on agricul-tural income, equal to the augmented tax on other incomes, payable in Treas-ury notes, was rejected by Congress. This tax would have contributed mate-rially. rially to facilitate the purchase of provisions, and diminish the necessity that is now felt for a supply of coin. The measures passed by Congress during the session for recruiting the army and supplying the additional force needed for the public defense have een, in my judgement, insufficient, and I am impelled by a profound conviction

ings inform me of its passage. Much benefit is anticipated from this measure hough far less than would have resulted from its adoption at an earlier date, so as to afford time for their organization

of exempts has just been made the sub-ject of a special message, and its pro-visions are such as would add no strength to the army. The recommenstrength to the army. The recommendation to abolish all class exemptions

has met with your favor, although still leemed by me a valuable and important neasure: and the number of men eximpted by a new clause in the act just passed, is believed to be quite equal to hat of those whose exemption is reall class exemptions would not only strengthen the forces in the field, but be still more beneficial by abating the natural discontent and jealousy created in the army by the existence of classes privileged by law to remain in places of safety, while their fellow-citizens are

exposed in the trenches and the field. The measure most needed, however, at the present time, for affording an effective increase to our military strength is a general militia law, such as the Constitution authorizes Congress to pass by granting to it power "to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Confederate States." in the service of the Confederate States —and the further power "to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Confederate States, suppress insurrections and repel invasions." The necessity for the exercise of this power can never exist, if not in the circumstances which now surround us. The security of the States against any incroachment by the Confederate Govern nent, is amply provided by the Consti tution, by "reserving to the States, respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia, according to the discipline pre-

scribed by Congress."

A law is needed to prescribe not only now and of what persons the militia are to be organized, but to provide the mode of calling them out. If instances be required to show the necessity such a general law, it is sufficient to mention that in one case I have been informed by the Governor of a State that the law does not permit him to call the militia from one county for service in another, so that a single brigade of he enemy could traverse the State and devastate each county in turn, without any power on the part of the Executive to use the militia for effective defense while in another State, the Executiv refused to allow the militia "to be employed in the service of the Confederte States," in the absence of a law for

that purpose.

I have heretofore, in a confidential message to the two Houses, stated the facts which induce me to consider it necessary, that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus should be suspended. The conviction of the necessity of this measure has become deeper as the events f the struggle have been developed. ongress has not concurred with me opinion. It is my duty to say that the time has arrived when the suspension of the writ is not simply advisable and expedient, but almost indispensable to the successful conduct of the war. Or ongress must rest the responsibility of declining to exercise a power conferred by the Constitution as a means of public safety to be used in periods of national safety to be used in periods of national peril resulting from foreign invasion. If our present circumstances are not such as were contemplated when this power was conferred, I confess myself at a loss to imagine any contingency in which this clause of the Constitution vill not remain a dead letter.

With the prompt adoption of the measures above recommended, and the united and hearty co-operation of Congress and the people in the execution of the laws and the defense of the country, we may enter upon the present campaign with cheerful confidence in the result. And who can doubt the continued existance of that spirit and fortitude in the people, and of that constancy under reverses which alone are needed to render our success secure? What other esource remains available but the undying, unconquerable resolve to be free? It has become certain beyond all doubt or question, that we must continue this struggle to a successful issue, or must make abject and unconditional submission to such terms as it shall please the conqueror to impose on us after our surrender. If a possible doubt could exist after the conference between our Commissioners and Mr. Lincoln as ecently reported to you, it would be lispelled by a recent occurrence, of hich it is proper that you should be

informed. Congress will remember that in the conference above referred to our commissioners were informed that the Cov ernment of the United States would not enterinto any agreement or treaty whatever with the Confederate States, nor with any single State; and that the only possible mode of obtaining peace was by laying down our arms, disbanding our forces, and yielding unconditional obedience to the laws of the United States, including those passed for the confiscation of our property, and the Constitutional Amendment for the abolition of Slavery. It will further be re-membered that Mr. Lincoln declared hat the only terms on which hostilitie could cease, were those stated in his message of December last, in which we vere informed that in the event of our penitent submission, he would temper justice with mercy; and that the queswould be governed as ion whether we dependent territories, or permitted to have a representation in their Congress was one on which he could promise nothing, but which would be decided

by their Congress, after our submission had been accepted. It has not, however, been hitherto stated to you, that in the course of the conference at Fortress Monroe, a sug-gestion was made by one of our Commisdioners that the objections entertained by Mr. Lincoln to treating with the sovernment of the Confedercy, or with any separate State might be avoided, by substituting for the usual mode of ne sotiating through Commissioners of other diplomatic agents, the method sometimes employed of a military convention to be entered into by the Commanding Generals of the two belliger ents. This, he admitted, was a power ossessed by him, though it was no thought commensurate with all the questions involved. As he did not accept the suggestion when made, he was fterward requested to reconsider his conclusion, upon the subject of a suspen-sion of hostilities, which he agreed to do, but said that he had maturely considered of the plan, and had determined that it could not be done.

Subsequently, however, an interview with Gen. Longstreet was asked for by Gen. Ord, commanding the enemy's Army of the James, during which Gen. congstreet was informed by him that satisfactory adjustment of the present unhappy difficulties, by means of a military convention, and that if Gen. Lee desired an interview on the subject, it would not be declined, provided Gen. Lee had authority to act. This communication was supposed to be the con-sequence of the suggestion above referred to, and Gen. Lee, according to instructions, wrote to Gen. Grant, on the 2d of this month, proposing to meet him for conference on the subject, and stating that he was vested with the requisite authority. Gen. Grant's reply stated that he had no authority to accept that he had no authority to accept the head no authority the head no aut cede to the proposed conference, that his powers extended only to making a convention on subjects purely of a mili tary character, and that Gen. Ord could only have meant that an interview would not be refused on any subject on which he, Gen. Grant, had the right to act.
It thus appears that neither with the

Confederate authorities, nor the authorities of any State, nor through the commanding generals, will the Government of the United States treat or make any terms or agreement whatever for the essation of hostilities. There remains then for us no choice but to continue this contest to a final issue; for the people of the Confederacy can be but little known to him who supposes possible they would ever consent to purchase, at the cost of degradation and slavery, permission to live in a country garrisoned by their own negroes, and governed by officers sent by the conueror to rule over them.

Having thus fully placed before you

the information requisite to enable you to judge of the state of the country, the dangers to which we are exposed, and measures of legislation needed for averting them, it remains for me but to invoke your attention to the consideration of those means by which above all others we may hope to escape the calamities that would result from our failure. Prominent, above all others, is the neessity for earnest and cordial co-opor ation between all departments of Gov ernment, State and Confederate, and al eminent citizens throughout the Coneminent citizens inroughout and federacy. To you, especially, as Senators and Representatives, do the people look for encouragement and counsel. look for encouragement and co

your public duties will not be ended when you shall have closed the legislative labors of the session, but that your voice will be heard cheering and encouraging the read of the session. couraging the people to that presistent fortitude which they have hitherto displayed, and animating them by the manifestation of that serene confidence which in moments of public danger is the distintive characteristic of th triot, who derives courage from his devotion to his country's destiny, and is thus enabled to inspire the like

in others. Thus united in a common and holy cause, rising above all selfish considera-tions, rendering all our means and faculties tributary to the country's welfare, let us bow submissively to the Divine will, and reverently invoke the blessing of our Heavenly Father, that as He pr tected and guided our sires when strug-gling in a similar cause, so he will enable us to guard safely our altars and our fire and maintain inviolate the political rights which we inherited.

JEFFERSON DAVIS. Richmond, March 18, 1865.

andalism of Our Troops in Columbia. The special correspondent of the New York Herald gives the following account of the disgraceful conduct of a portion of our troops on the occupation f Columbia:

I spent the evening in the Capitol looking over the archives and libraries. Partof Colonel Stone's brigade—I think the Thirteenth Iowa, Colonel Kennedy's regiment—were on duty there.
Col. Stone and Col. Kennedy had earned an enviable fame in being the first to noist the flag of freedom over Columbia.

Coming on night, crowds of our escaped prisoners, soldiers and negroes, intoxicated with their new born liberty, which they looked upon as license to do as they pleased, were parading the streets in roups

As soon as night set in there ensued a ad scene indeed. The suburbs were irst set on fire, some assert by the burninst set on fire, some assert by the burning cotton which the rebels had piled along the streets. Pillaging gangs soon fired the heart of the town, then entered the houses, in many instances carrying off articles of the property of the street of the control of the street of the control of the street of the st off articles of value. The flame soon burst out in all parts of the city, and the streets were quickly crowded with helpess women and children—some in their night-clothes. Agonized mothers, seeking their children, all afrighted and terrified, were rushing on all sides from the raging flames and falling houses. Invalids had to be dragged from their bads and lay overed the flames. eds, and lay exposed to the flames and

moke that swept the streets, or to the cold of the open air in back yards.

The scene at the Convent was a sad one indeed. The flames were fast encompassing the Convent, and the Sis ers and about sixty terrified young ladies huddled together on the streets Some of these had come from the North, previous to the war, for their education, ind were not able to return. perioress of the Convent had educated eneral Sherman's daughter, Minnie He had assigned them a special guard of six men, so they felt secure, and were totally unprepared for the dreadful scene that ensued. Some Christian people formed a guard around this agon-ized group of ladies and conducted them

to the park. Toward morning General Hazen, who ay encamped, outside the town, hearing of the sad state of affairs, ordered Col. Olliner and his brigade to clear out the city and restore order at the point of the bayonet. This they did, taking a couple of hundred of prisoners, bayoneting some and killing one. Though Hazer has proved himself a true and tried solon many a battle field, such an act does nore credit to his heart than a victory over the enemy. Several officers, too, ventured their lives in this charitable attempt to restore order. Colonel York, of General Logan's staff, was fired at while thus engaged. It is to be regretted that the burning of the city was ac-companied by many riotous scenes.— Sherman and hisgenerals are very much hurt about it, as it was quite

their orders.

The negroes and escaped prisoners were infuriated, and easily incited the inebiated soldiers to join them in their work of vandalism. Governor Mc-Grath and Gen. Wade Hampton are of their city. General Beauregard, the Mayor, Mr. Goodwin and others wanted to send a deputation as far as Orange-burg to surrender the city, and when evacuating to destroy all the liquors. In both of these wise views they were overruled by the Governor and Wade Hampton—the latter stating that he would defend the town fron

ouse.
The houses of the Prestons, Honystons and other wealthy secesh were occupied as official quarter, and were preserved. During the fire it was melancholy to witness the agonized torture of the sick and wounded in the rebel hospital, which contained over three hundred. The streets and buildings around it were on fire, but fortunately it escaped. Several soldiers and citizens must have been buried in the ruins of falling houses or caught by the devouring flames. Next morning I saw a lady, a crazy in-

mate of the asylum, whose child had been burned during the night. The 18th of February dawned upon a city of ruins. All the business portions—the main streets, the old Capitol, two churches and several publicand private buildings were one pile of rubbish and bricks. Nothing remained but the tall spectre looking chimneys. The noble looking trees that shaded the streets, the flower gardens that graced them, were blasted and withered by fire. The streets were full of rubbish, broken furniture and groups of crouching, desponding, weeping, helpless women and chil-

The park and lunatic asylum, as affording the greatest chance of safety, were crowded with these miserable outcasts. In one place I saw a lady richly dressed, with three pretty little children clinging to her. She was sitting on a mattrass, while round her were strewn some rich paintings, works of art and virtu. It was a picture of hopeless misery surrounded by the trappings of refined taste and wealth. General Sherman ordered six hundred head of cattle and some stores to be left for the nuns and the destitute.

The New Postal Act.

The new act relating to the postal laws provides that all domestic letters except letters lawfully franked, and duly certified letters of soldiers and marines in the service of the United States, which are deposited for mailing in any post office of the United States, on which postage is unpaid, shall be sent by postmasters to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, and all letters deposited for mailing, paid only in part forwarded to the destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on

delivery.
The provisions of the act for the relief of postmasters who have been robbed by Confederate forces or rebel guerrillas, approved April, 1864, are extended to cases of loyal postmasters, where by reason of the presence of armed forces, a post office is destroyed, and the post-master loses the fixture, and furniture, or postage stamps, or stamed envelopes, and to cases where such losses are oc-casioned by armed forces other than those of the so-called Confederate States. The Postmaster General is authorized to allow for publication in newspapers of the list of non delivered letters at any post office, the compensation not to exceed two cents for each letter so adverceed two cents for each letter so adver-tised, and is also authorized to cause the mails to be transported between the United States and any foreign port or ports, or between ports of the United States touching at a foreign port by steamship, allowing and paying therefor, if by any American vessel, any sum not exceeding the sea and United States inland postage, and if by a foreign vessel any sum not exceeding the sea postage on the mails so conveyed.

The system of free delivery is to be established in every place containing a population of 50,000 within the delivery of the office thereof, and at such other laces as the Postmaster General in his udgment shall direct: Provided that the pre payment postage on drop letters in all places where free delivery established shall be one cent only. Persons depositing obscene books, pam-phlets, &c., in the mails are to be punished by fine and imprisonment.

Defeated.

The bill appointing Commissioners to assess the damages from rebel raids in the border counties of the State has To your action, not only in the legislative halls, but in your homes, will their eyes be turned for the example of what is befitting men, who by willing sacrifices on the altar of freedom, show that they are worthy to enjoy its blessings.

I feel full confidence that you will concur with me in the conviction that