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TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, December 12, 1861.

Department Reports.

Report of the Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Dec. 1, 1861.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the annual report of this Department. The accompanying reports of the chiefs of the several Bureaus present the estimates of the appropriations required for the service of this Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1863, and also the appropriations necessary to cover deficiencies in the estimates for 1861—62. The following statement presents the entire estimated strength of the army, both volunteers and regulars:

STATES.	VOLUNTEERS.		
	3 mos.	The war.	Ag'gate.
California	4,638	4,638	4,638
Connecticut	2,236	12,409	14,645
Delaware	775	2,600	2,775
Florida	4,941	80,000	34,341
Illinois	4,686	37,332	62,018
Iowa	963	19,800	20,763
Kentucky	763	13,000	13,000
Maine	7,000	7,000	14,000
Massachusetts	3,435	26,700	30,135
Michigan	781	28,500	23,221
Minnesota	4,160	4,160	4,160
Missouri	9,356	22,130	31,486
New Hampshire	779	9,600	10,379
New Jersey	3,963	9,212	12,419
New York	10,188	100,200	110,388
Ohio	10,236	31,205	91,441
Pennsylvania	19,199	94,760	113,959
Rhode Island	1,285	5,808	7,138
Tennessee	789	8,000	8,789
Virginia	779	12,000	12,779
Wisconsin	792	12,153	14,945
Illinois	3,000	3,000	6,000
Indiana	1,000	1,000	2,000
Illinois	2,500	2,500	5,000
Illinois	1,000	1,000	2,000
Illinois	1,000	1,000	2,000
Illinois	2,823	1,000	3,823
Total	77,875	640,637	718,512

The several arms of the service are estimated as follows:

Arms of the service	Volunteers.	Regulars.	Ag'gate.
Infantry	57,728	11,125	68,853
Cavalry	34,064	4,714	38,778
Artillery	23,580	4,308	27,888
Rifles and Sharpshooters	8,265	1,000	9,265
Engineers	107	107	214
Total	124,744	21,254	146,000

The appropriations asked for the service of the next fiscal year are computed for a force of 500,000 men. They have been reduced to the lowest possible amount, consistent with the public interests, and are based upon a very economical administration of the various branches of this Department.

The appropriations to cover deficiencies are considered necessary by the excess of the force in the field over that upon which the estimates were founded, and by extraordinary expenditures connected with the employment and discharge of the three months' contingent. An item of very heavy expense is the large mounted force which has been organized, equipped, and made available since the called session of Congress, and which was not computed in the estimate. While an increase of cavalry was undoubtedly necessary, it has reached a numerical strength more than adequate to the wants of the service. As it can only be maintained at a great cost, measures will be taken for its gradual reduction.

In organizing our great army, I was effectually aided by the loyal Governors of the different States, and I cheerfully acknowledge the prompt patriotism with which they responded to the call of this Department. Congress, during its extra session, authorized the army to be increased by the acceptance of a volunteer force of 500,000 men, and made an appropriation of \$500,000,000 for its support. A call for the troops was immediately issued, but so numerous were the offers that it would be difficult to discriminate in the choice of the patriotism of the people demanded that there should be no restriction upon enlistments. Every portion of the loyal States desired to swell the army, and every community anxious that it should be represented in a manner that appealed to the noblest impulses of the people.

So thoroughly aroused was the national spirit, that I have no doubt this force would have been swollen to a million, had not the Department felt compelled to restrict it, in the absence of authority from the representatives of the people to increase the limited number. It will be for Congress to decide whether the army shall be further augmented, with a view to a more speedy termination of the war, or whether it shall be confined to the strength already fixed by law. In the latter case, with the object of reducing the volunteer force to 500,000, I propose, with the consent of Congress, to consolidate such of the regiments as from time to time fall below the regular standard. The adoption of this measure would decrease the number of officers and proportionally diminish the expenses of the army. It is said of Napoleon by Jomini that, in the campaign of 1815, that great general on the 1st of April had a regular army of 200,000 men. On the 1st of June he had increased his force to 414,000. The proposition, adds Jomini, "had been thought proper to inaugurate a new system of defense, would have raised it to 700,000 men by the 1st of September."—The commencement of this rebellion, inaugurated by the attack upon Fort Sumter, the entire military force at the disposal of this Government was 16,006 regulars, principally organized in the West to hold in check marauding Indians. In April, 75,000 volunteers were enlisted to enlist for three months' service, and responded with such alacrity that 77,875 were immediately obtained. Under the authority of the act of Congress of July 22, 1861, States were asked to furnish 560,000 volunteers to serve for three years, or during the war, and by the act approved the 29th of the month, the addition of 25,000 men to the

Regular Army of the United States was authorized. The result is, that we have now an army of upward of 600,000 men. If we add to this the number of the discharged three months' volunteers, the aggregate force furnished to the Government since April last exceeds 700,000 men.

We have here an evidence of the wonderful strength of our institutions. Without conscriptions, levies, drafts, or other extraordinary expedients, we have raised a greater force than that which, gathered by Napoleon with the aid of all these appliances, was considered an evidence of his wonderful genius and energy, and of the military spirit of the French nation. Here every man has an interest in the Government, and rushes to its defense when dangers beset it.

By reference to the records of the Revolution it will be seen that Massachusetts, with a population of 350,000, had at one time 56,000 troops in the field, or over one-sixth of her entire people—a force greatly exceeding the whole number of troops furnished by all the Southern States during that war. Should the present loyal States furnish troops in like proportion, which undoubtedly would be the case should any emergency demand it, the Government could promptly put into the field an army of over three millions.

It gives me great satisfaction to refer to the creditable degree of discipline of our troops, most of whom were, but a short time since, engaged in the pursuits of peace. They are rapidly attaining an efficiency which cannot fail to bring success to our arms. Officers and men alike evince an earnest desire to accomplish themselves in every duty of the camp and field, and the various corps are animated by an emulation to excel each other in soldierly qualities.

The conspiracy against the Government extended over an area of 133,144 square miles, possessing a coast line of 3,523 miles, and a shore line of 25,414 miles, with an interior boundary line of 7,031 miles in length. This conspiracy stripped us of arms and munitions, and scattered our Navy to the most distant quarters of the globe. The effort to restore the Union, which the Government entered on in April last, was the most gigantic endeavor in the history of civil war. The interval of seven months has been spent in preparation.

The history of this rebellion, in common with all others, for obvious causes, records the first successes in favor of the insurgents. The disaster of Ball Run was but the natural consequence of the premature advance of our brave but undisciplined troops, which the impatience of the country demanded. The betrayal also of our movements by traitors in our midst enabled the rebels to choose and intrench their position, and to re-enforce in great strength, at the moment of victory, to snatch it from our grasp. The reverse, however, gave no discouragement to our gallant people; they have crowded into our ranks, and although large numbers have been necessarily rejected, a mighty army in invincible array stands eager to precipitate itself upon the foe. The check that we have received upon the Potomac has, therefore, but postponed the campaign, for a few months. The other successes of the rebels, though dearly won, were mere affairs, with no important or permanent advantages. The possession of Western Virginia and the occupation of Hatteras and Beaufort have nobly redeemed our transient reverses.

At the date of my last report, the States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri were threatened with rebellion. In Delaware the good sense and patriotism of the people have triumphed over the unholy schemes of traitors. The people of Kentucky early pronounced themselves, by a unequivocal declaration at the ballot box, in favor of the Union; and Maryland, notwithstanding the efforts of bad men in power in the City of Baltimore, when the opportunity of a general election was afforded, under the lead of her brave and patriotic Governor, rebuked by an overwhelming majority the traitors who would have led her to destruction. In Missouri, a loyal State Government has been established by the people, thousands of whom have rallied to the support of the Federal authority, and, in conjunction with troops from other portions of the country, have forced the rebels to retire into the adjoining State. The Government established in Virginia by the loyal portion of her population is in successful operation, and I have no doubt will be sustained by the people of the entire State whenever the thralldom of the rebel forces shall have been removed.

Thus has it been made clearly apparent that in whatever direction the forces of the Union have extended their protection, the repressed loyalty of the people, irresistibly manifesting itself, has aided to restore and maintain the authority of the Government; and I doubt not that the army now assembled on the banks of the Potomac will, under its able leader, soon make such a demonstration as will re-establish its authority throughout all the rebellious States.

The loyal Governor of Virginia is proceeding to organize Courts under the constitution and laws of the State in all her eastern counties and in the occupation of our troops. I respectfully suggest that authority should be given to the President to send Commissioners with the army, with power to exercise all the functions of local government wherever the evil authority has ceased to exist, and especially to enforce the obligations of contracts, and the collection of debts due to loyal creditors.

As stated in my last Report, at the commencement of this rebellion the Government found itself deficient in arms and munitions of war, through the bad faith of those entrusted with their control during the preceding Administration. The Army at Harper's Ferry having been destroyed to prevent its possession and use by the rebels, the Government was compelled to rely upon the single army at Springfield, and upon private establishments, for a supply of arms. Every effort has been made to increase the capacity of our armory, the greatest product of which, prior to these troubles, had never exceeded 800 muskets per month. In charge of an energetic and able Ordnance officer, the force being

led, and operations vigorously prosecuted day and night, there were made at this establishment, during the past month of October, a total of 6,900 muskets; and it is confidently expected that 10,000 will be manufactured during the present month. On a recent visit with a view to enlarge the capacity of the armory, I directed the purchase of a large quantity of machinery already furnished, which when put in operation, will enable this establishment to produce, during the next year, 200,000 stand of the justly celebrated Springfield rifles. I respectfully suggest the recommendation of a liberal appropriation by Congress for the purpose of yet further increasing the capacity of this armory, believing that it can be made sufficient to supply all the muskets and rifles which the Government may hereafter need in any contingency. Located in a healthful country, to the midst of an industrious and ingenious people, where competent workmen can always be obtained without difficulty, and sufficiently near to all the materials needed in the manufacture of arms, it is at the same time accessible to every part of the country by water and railway communication.

After having made contracts for arms with private establishments in this country, it was deemed necessary by the President to insure a speedy and ample supply, to send a special agent to Europe with funds to the amount of two millions of dollars to purchase more. I am gratified to state that he has made arrangements for a large number of arms, part of which have already been delivered. The remainder will be shipped by successive steamers until all shall have been received.

Combination among manufacturers, importers, and agents, for the sale of arms, have, in many cases, caused an undue increase in prices. To prevent advantage being thus taken of the necessities of the Government, Collectors of Customs have been directed to deliver to the agents of the United States all arms and munitions that may be imported into this country.

The call for arms has called into existence numerous establishments for their manufacture throughout the loyal portion of the country, and it has been the policy of this Department to encourage the development of the capital, enterprise, and skill of our people in this direction. The Government should never have less than a million of muskets in its arsenals, with a corresponding proportion of arms and equipments for artillery and cavalry. Other wise it may, at a most critical moment, find itself deficient in guns while having an abundance of men.

I recommend that application be made to Congress for authority to establish a National foundry for the manufacture of heavy artillery at such point as may afford the greatest facilities for the purpose. While a sufficient number of cannon, perhaps, could be procured from private manufactories, the possession of a National establishment would lead to experiments which would be useful to the country, and prevent imposition in prices by the accurate knowledge that would be acquired of the real value of work of this character.

In my last report I called attention to the fact that legislation was necessary for the reorganization, upon a uniform basis, of the militia of the country. Some general plan should be provided by Congress in aid of the States, by which our militia can be organized, armed and disciplined, and made effective at any moment for immediate service. If thoroughly trained in time of peace, when occasion demands, it may be converted into a vast army confident in its discipline and unconquerable in its patriotism. In the absence of any general system of organization, upward of 700,000 men have already been brought into the field; and, in view of the alacrity and enthusiasm that have been displayed, I do not hesitate to express the belief that no combination of events can arise in which this country will not be able not only to protect itself, but, contrary to its policy, which is peace with all the world, to enter upon aggressive operations against any power that may intermeddle with our domestic affairs. A Committee should be appointed by Congress, with authority to sit during the session, to devise and report a plan for the general organization of the Militia of the United States.

It is of great importance that immediate attention should be given to the condition of our fortifications upon the seaboard and the lakes, and upon our exposed frontiers. They should at once be placed in perfect condition for successful defense. Aggressions are seldom made upon a nation ever ready to defend its honor and to repel insults; and we should show to the world, that while engaged in quelling disturbances at home we are able to protect ourselves against attacks from abroad.

I earnestly recommend that immediate provisions be made for increasing the corps of Cadets to the greatest capacity of the Military Academy. There are now only 192 cadets in that important institution. I am assured by the Superintendent that 400 can at present be accommodated, and that, with very trifling additional expense, this number may be increased to 500. It is not necessary, at this late day, to speak of the value of educated soldiers. While, in time of war or rebellion, we must ever depend mainly upon our militia and volunteers, we shall always need thoroughly trained officers. Two classes have been graduated during the present year, in order that the service might have the benefit of their military education. I had hoped that Congress, at its extra session, would authorize an increase of the number. Having failed to do so, I trust that at the approaching session an increase will be authorized, and that the selection of cadets will be limited exclusively to those States, which, co-operating cordially with the Government, have brought their forces into the field to aid in the maintenance of its authority.

In this connection justice requires that I should call attention to the claims of a veteran soldier, to whom, more than to any other, the Military Academy is indebted for its present prosperous and efficient condition. I allude to Col. Sylvanus Thayer of the Engineer Corps, who now, by reason of advanced years and faithful public services, is incapacitated

for duty in the field. Under the recent law of Congress he may justly claim to be retired from active service; but believing that his distinguished services should receive some mark of acknowledgment from the Government, I recommend that authority be asked to retire him upon his full pay and emoluments.

The health of an army is a consideration of the highest consequences. Good men and women in different States, impelled by the highest motives of benevolence and patriotism, have come in aid to the constituted sanitary arrangements of the Government, and been greatly instrumental in diminishing diseases in the camps—giving increased comfort and happiness to the life of the soldier, and imparting to our hospital service a more humane and generous character. Salubrity of situation and pleasantness of surroundings have dictated the choice of the hospital sites, and establishments for our sick and wounded, of which we have every reason to be proud, have been opened in St. Louis, Washington, Georgetown, Baltimore and Annapolis, and will be attached to every division of the army in the field. To the close of the war, vigilant care shall be given to the health of the well soldier, and to the comfort and recovery of the sick.

I recommend that the system of promotions which prevails in the regular service be applied to the volunteer forces in the respective States; restricting, however, the promotions to men actually in the field. At present each Governor selects and appoints the officers for the troops furnished by his State, and complaint is not unfrequently made that when vacancies occur in the field men of inferior qualifications are placed in command over those in the ranks who are their superiors in military experience and capacity. The advancement of merit should be the leading principle in all promotions, and the volunteer soldier should be given to understand that preferment will be the sure reward of intelligence, fidelity, and distinguished service.

The course above recommended has been pursued by this Department, and it is my intention, so far as is in my power, to continue a system which cannot fail to have a most beneficial effect upon the entire service.

By existing laws and regulations, an officer of the regular army ranks an officer of volunteers of the same grade, notwithstanding the commission of the latter may be of antecedent date. In my judgment, this practice has a tendency to repress the ardor and to limit the opportunity for distinction of volunteer officers, and a change should be made by which seniority of commission should confer the right of command.

I submit for reflection the question, whether the distinction between Regulars and Volunteers which now exists, should be permitted to continue. The efficiency of the army, it appears to me, might be greatly increased by a consolidation of the two during the continuance of the war, which, combining both forces would constitute them one grand army of the Union.

Recruiting for the Regular army has not been attended with the success which was anticipated, although a large number of men have entered this branch of the service. While it is admitted that soldiers in the Regular army, under the control of officers of military education and experience, are generally better cared for than those in the Volunteer service, it is certain that the popular preference is largely given to the latter. Young men evidently prefer to enter a corps officered by their friends and acquaintances, and, besides the bounty granted to Volunteers in the most of the States, inducements are often directly offered to them by those whose commissions depend upon their success in obtaining recruits. In addition the volunteer is allowed to draw his whole pay of \$13 per month, while by law \$2 per month are deducted from the pay of the Regular to be returned to him at the end of his term of service. In my judgment, this law should be repealed, and the Regular soldier be allowed to receive his full pay when due. He should also receive either a reasonable bounty upon enlisting, or an advance of \$20 of the \$100 which a law of the last session of Congress grants to regulars and volunteers on the expiration of their periods of service. This would doubtless stimulate enlistments, as it would enable the soldier to make some provision for those dependent upon him for support until he receives his pay.

By the act approved August 5, 1861, the President is authorized to appoint as many aids to Major Generals of the regular army, acting in the field, as he may deem proper. The number of aids, in my opinion, should be limited, and no more should be allowed to each Major General than can be advantageously employed upon his own proper staff. Much expense would thus be saved, and the Executive and this Department would be relieved by applications very embarrassing from their nature and extent.

The fifth section of the act approved September 28th, 1850, makes the discharge of minors obligatory upon this Department, upon proof that their enlistment was without the consent of their parents or guardians. In view of the injurious operation of this law, and of the facilities which it opens to frauds, I respectfully urge its early repeal. Applications for discharges of minors can then be determined either by this Department, in accordance with such regulations as experience may have shown to be necessary, or by the civil tribunals of the country.

The employment of regimental bands should be limited; the proportion of musicians now allowed by law being too great, and their usefulness not at all commensurate with their heavy expense. Corporations, like individuals, are liable to be governed by selfish motives in the absence of competition. An instance of this kind occurred in the management of the railroads between Baltimore and New York. The sum of \$6 was charged upon that route for the transportation of each soldier from New York to Baltimore. As this rate seemed extravagant to the Department, when considered in connection with the great increase of trade upon these roads, made necessary by the wants of

the Government, inquiry was made concerning the expediency of using the roads from New York to Baltimore via Harrisburg. The result was an arrangement by which troops were brought by the last named route at \$4 each; and, as a consequence, this rate was at once necessarily adopted by all the railroads in the loyal States, making a saving to the Government of 83 1-2 per cent in all its transportation of soldiers, and at the same time giving to the railroads, through increased business, a liberal compensation.

The railroad connection between Washington and Baltimore has been lately much improved by additional sidings, and by extensions in this city. In order, however, that abundant supplies may always be at the command of the Department, arrangements should be made for laying a double track between this city and Annapolis Junction, with improved sidings and facilities at Annapolis and along the Branch road.

Should the navigation of the Potomac River be interrupted by blockade, or the severities of winter, it would become absolutely necessary, for the proper supply of the troops in the District of Columbia and vicinity and of the inhabitants of this city, to provide additional railroad connection between Washington and Baltimore. A responsible company with a charter from the State of Maryland, has proposed to do this upon condition that the Government will endorse their bonds; they binding themselves to set aside annually a sufficient sum for their redemption at maturity, and thus eventually release the Government from any liability whatever, and to charge, for transportation, rates in no case to exceed four cents a ton per mile for freight, and three cents a mile for passengers. During the continuance of the war, however, their charge for passengers is not to exceed two cents per mile. The charge for the transportation of passengers between the two cities is at present 3 3-4 cents per mile, and for freight the rates per ton will average from five to eight cents per mile. The large saving to the Government in cost of transportation would amply compensate for all liability, and give to the citizens of all the loyal States greatly improved facilities for reaching the National Capital, and at much less rates than they are now compelled to pay. To the citizens of the District it would cheapen the cost of supplies, and prove of immense value in every respect.

I recommend that a railway be constructed through this city from the Navy Yard, by the Capitol to Georgetown, forming connection with the existing railroad depots, and using the Aqueduct bridge for the purpose of crossing the river at Georgetown. By a junction of this proposed railway with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, not only would the communications with our troops in Virginia, be greatly improved, but an easy access be obtained to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Harper's Ferry, by means of the Loudon and Hampshire Railroad. To its importance as affording facilities for moving troops and supplies in time of war, may be added to the future benefits it would confer upon the District of Columbia. The outlay required would be saved in a few months by enabling the Government to dispense with the expensive ferry at Georgetown, and by greatly decreasing the costly wagon transportation of the army through this city.

The injuries to railroads, instigated by the Rebel authorities of Baltimore, in order to embarrass communication with the North and West, via Harrisburg, and with the East, via Philadelphia, have been repaired by the different companies that own them. That portion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, West of Harper's Ferry, which was so ruthlessly destroyed by the rebels, has not yet been restored. The great interests of trade requires that this road should be reopened as speedily as possible by the company, for the transportation of the West. To aid this object the Department has tendered to the company a sufficient force for its protection during the progress of the work, and will render such facilities as it may be able to provide, in connection with its other important public duties.

For the purpose of facilitating the transportation of supplies to Alexandria and to points beyond, it has been found necessary to rebuild portions of the Orange and Alexandria and the Loudon and Hampshire Railroads, and to lay a track from the Railroad Depot to a point on the Potomac River, in this city.

Under an appropriation granted for that purpose at the last Session of Congress, a Telegraphic Bureau was established, and has been found of the greatest service in our military operations. Eight hundred and fifty-seven miles of telegraphic line have been already built and put in operation, with an efficient corps of operators, and a large extension is now in process of construction.

Congress at its late session, made an appropriation for the reconstruction of the Long Bridge across the Potomac, which, in its then dilapidated condition, was unsafe for military purposes. The work which has been carried on without interruption to trade or travel, is rapidly approaching completion, and, when finished, will be a substantial structure.

On the first of the present month Lieut.-Gen. Winfield Scott voluntarily relinquished his high command as General-in-Chief of the American army. He had faithfully and gallantly served his country for upward of half a century, and the glory of his achievements has given additional luster to the brightest pages of our national annals. The affections of a grateful people followed him into his retirement. The President immediately conferred the command of the army upon the officer next in rank. Fortunately for the country, Maj.-Gen. McClellan had proved himself equal to every situation in which his great talents had been called into exercise. His brilliant achievements in Western Virginia the untiring energy and consummate ability he has displayed in the organization and discipline of an entirely new army, have justly won for him the confidence and applause of the troops and of the nation.

Extraordinary labor, energy, and talent have been required at the various Bureaus of this

Department to provide for the wants of our immense army. While errors may have been occasionally committed by subordinates, and while extravagant prices have undoubtedly in some cases, controlled by haste and the pressure of rapid events, been paid for supplies, it is with great gratification that I refer to the economical administration of affairs displayed in the various branches of the service. Our forces had not only to be armed, clothed, and fed, but had to be suddenly bridged with means of transportation to the extent heretofore unparalleled. While I believe that there is no army in the world better provided for in every respect than our Regulars and Volunteers, I candidly think that no forces so large, and so well equipped, was ever put in the field in short a space of time at so small an expense.

While it is my intention to preserve the strictest economy and accountability, I think the last dollar should be expended and the last man should be armed to bring this unholy rebellion to a speedy and permanent close.

The geographical position of the metropolis of the nation, menaced by the Rebels, and required to be defended by thousands of our troops, induces me to suggest for consideration the propriety and expediency of a reconstruction of the boundaries of the States of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Wisdom and true statesmanship would dictate that the seat of the National Government for all time to come should be placed beyond reasonable danger of seizure by enemies within, as well as from capture by foes from without. By agreement between the States named, such as was effected for similar purposes by Michigan and Ohio, and by Missouri and Iowa, their boundaries could be so changed as to render the Capital more remote than at present from the influence of State Government which arrayed themselves in rebellion against the Federal authority. To this end, the limits of Virginia might be so altered as to make her boundaries consist of the Blue Ridge on the east and Pennsylvania on the North, leaving those on the south and west as at present. By this arrangement two counties of Maryland (Allagany and Washington) would be transferred to the jurisdiction of Virginia. All the portion of Virginia which lies between the Blue Ridge and Chesapeake Bay could then be added to Maryland, while that portion of the peninsula between the waters of the Chesapeake and Atlantic, now jointly held by Maryland and Virginia, could be incorporated into the State of Delaware. A reference to the map will show that these are great natural boundaries, which for all time to come would serve to mark the limits of these States.

To make the protection of the capital complete, in consideration of the large accession of territory which Maryland would receive under the arrangement proposed, it would be necessary that that State should consent so to modify her constitution as to limit the basis of her representation to her white population.

In the connection, it would be the part of wisdom to reannex to the District of Columbia that portion of its original limits which by act of Congress was retroceded to the State of Virginia.

It has become a grave question for determination, what shall be done with the slaves abandoned by their owners on the advance of our troops into Southern territory, as in Beaufort district of South Carolina. The whole white population therein is 6,000, while the number of negroes exceeds 32,000. The panic which drove their masters in wild confusion from their homes, leaves them in undisturbed possession of the soil. Shall they, armed by their masters, be placed in the field to fight against us, shall their labor be continually employed in producing the means for supporting the armies of rebellion?

The war into which this Government has been forced by rebellious traitors is carried on for the purpose of repossessing the property violently and treacherously seized upon by the enemies of the Government, and to re-establish the authority and laws of the United States in the places where it is opposed or overthrown by armed insurrection and rebellion—its purpose is to recover and defend what is justly its own.

War, even between independent nations, is made to subdue the enemy, and all that belongs to that enemy, by occupying the hostile country, and exercising dominion over all the men and things within its territory. This being true in respect to independent nations at war with each other, it follows that rebels who are laboring by force of arms to overthrow a Government, justly bring upon themselves all the consequences of war, and provoke the destruction merited by the worst of crimes.—That Government would be false to national trust, and would justly excite the ridicule of the civilized world, that would abstain from the use of an efficient means to preserve its own existence, or to overcome a rebellious and traitorous enemy, by sparing or protecting the property of those who are waging war against it.

The principal wealth and power of the Rebel States is a peculiar species of property, consisting of the service or labor of African slaves or the descendants of Africans. This property has been variously estimated at the value of \$700,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000.

Why should this property be exempt from the hazards and consequences of a rebellious war?

It was the boast of the leader of the rebellion, while he yet had a seat in the Senate of the United States, that the Southern States would be comparatively safe and free from the burdens of war, if it should be brought on by the contemplated rebellion, and that boast was accompanied by the savage threats that "Northern towns and cities would become the victims of rapine and military soil," and that "Northern men should smell Southern gunpowder and feel Southern steel." No one doubts the disposition of the rebels to carry that threat into execution. The wealth of Northern towns and cities, the produce of Northern farms, Northern workshops and manufactories, would certainly be seized, destroyed, (Continued on fourth page.)