

Towanda, Thursday, December 22, 1864.

THE CONDITION OF OUR COUNTRY.

Besides the noble stand taken by the President in his message to Congress, that there would be no backward steps taken on the question of slavery, there are other significant facts disclosed, in this document, which are of no less value to the cause of the country; and one of these, is that there is really no diminution of strength, or, no sign of exhaustion on the part of the government.

Inasmuch as we could only call the reader's attention to this wonderful—for such in truth it is—disclosure in our last issue, we propose now to refer more particularly to it. That there should be no visible exhaustion in the country, as well in resources generally, as of men, after such a stupendous war as we have sustained during the last four eventful years, is marvelous indeed; and yet the election returns show a gain of not less than 250,000 votes over the election returns of 1860.

If there had not been a full vote four years ago, it might account for the present increase; but it is patent to all, that that election was more warmly contested, was more acrimonious, and consequently, more exciting than the one just passed. So that with all the losses incident to the great war, we have to-day more men than we had when the war began. It seems hardly possible, that the maturation of our young men, and the naturalization of foreign citizens, should account for this great increase, and yet it must be so. We thought we had an idea of the rapid growth of our nation, but this far surpasses any thing we dreamed of, and is beyond all measure the most hopeful sign of our vast power, and sure triumph.

Taking into account, also, the fact, that our other material war resources, are now more complete, and abundant, than at any time before, it does appear that the nation is growing in strength as her energies are called into requisition. Perhaps, in nothing is this more manifest to the people themselves, than in the unbounded prosperity of the free states. The enhanced value of products of every description has renewed the hopes and consequent exertions of the dependent, and begotten enterprise to such a degree, that almost all are now either out of debt, or in a fair way of becoming so; and thousands upon thousands, who before the war seemed hopelessly involved in government securities. A government is strong when her people are strong, and weak when they are weak. When this war began, the government could not borrow money at a high rate of interest, to meet ordinary wants. Now she is receiving all she needs for the extraordinary demands of this gigantic war. Before the war the people, in a great measure, were restless, and unproductive, and moving from state to state, looking for remuneration for labor. Now this has come to every man's door; and as a sequence, thrift and advancement is the order of the day. Here, too, the wonderful progress of our nation in all the elements of greatness, has ever been a matter of amazement to the reflecting people of the old world; and yet, within the last three years, we have more than doubled in this respect, any six years of our previous history.

Gen. Sherman announces, under his own signature, his arrival on the coast. The capture of Fort McAllister on the 13th, completed his communication with the fleet. Previously to that he had destroyed all the railroads and invested the city. His march was "agreeable," the weather fine, supplies abundant. It is remarkable that we hear nothing of those astounding ravages which the Rebel Gen. Wheeler has all along been reported by the Richmond papers to have made on Sherman's forces. But Gen. Sherman says he has not been "at all molested by guerrillas." Not a wagon lost on the trip. He has utterly destroyed over two hundred miles of rails. And he "regards Savannah as already gained." Nothing could be more perfect than the whole conduct of this expedition, as nothing will be more glorious than its final result.

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The Doylestown, Reading, Easton and Wilkes-Barre papers have advanced the rates of subscription to \$2.50 per year in advance, and \$3, if not so paid. A change they say, made necessary by the enormous advance of all printing materials. For the present, we shall furnish the Reporter at \$2. per year, making it the cheapest paper in the State.

Richard P. Ross, Esq., of Tunkhannock, has been appointed one of the Doorkeepers of the House of Representatives at Washington, and has left home to assume the duties of his new position.

Gen. Steele, recently in command of the department of Arkansas, is said, by a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, to have been removed because of his conservative policy, his negligence, and inefficiency. This is doubtful.

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A Detroit paper states that the low stage of water in the Western Lakes is something remarkable. A fall of about two feet has recently taken place, and the water is now four feet lower than in 1861. At some of the ports on Lake Huron it is now difficult to make landings, where formerly there was water to spare.

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Purchasers of phosphorus in Boston are to be treated by the dealers, so that it will be almost impossible to obtain any for the purpose of incendiarism.

Bloodhounds were used to recapture our soldiers, prisoners at Columbia, S. C., when they attempted to escape. A Captain Parker, who was overthrown, was shockingly torn by the dogs, producing wounds from which he died in a day or two.

The Press says that the aggregate net profits of the great Sanitary Fair held in Philadelphia last June, have been ascertained. They amount to the splendid sum of one million two hundred and thirty thousand dollars. The expenses of the Fair were not as heavy as had been anticipated.

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In Filton county, Pa., Dec. 2d, a gang of skulkers from the draft fired upon a file of soldiers on duty, when the latter returned the fire, killing one and wounding two of the outlaws.

Soth Marvin, of Conneaut township, Crawford county, Pa., is 105 years old. He voted the Union ticket; is not for every Democratic candidate for President since the Government was formed, until the last election was at the battle of Monmouth, in the Revolution; and now has ten grandsons in the Union army.

Bloomsburg contains one Bank, three News papers, nine Churches, one Academy, a Court House and Jail, three Furnaces, two Foundries, one Machine Shop, ten Stores, three Drug Stores, three Hotels, ten Saloons, several Groceries, &c. &c. The population is about 3,000.

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Gen. Bartram A. Sheaffer died at his residence, in Lancaster, on Monday. He was not long since a State Senator.

The last Internal Revenue report shows the income to be sixteen millions a month, or nearly \$200,000,000 a year.

Quartermaster-General Pitkin, of Vermont, is at Washington to procure fifteen thousand stand of arms and equipments for the Vermont militia.

Two brothers, Richard and Thomas Amy, of Dartmouth, N. H., died together on Thanksgiving day. One was aged 90, and the other 92 years.

Mrs. Choate, widow of Rufus Choate, and daughter of the late Miles O'Leary, of Hanover, N. H., died at Dorchester, Mass., on Friday last, after a brief illness.

A boy in Holliston, Maine, the other day fired a gun in the direction of a neighbor's house, and the ball entered the back of a daughter of H. H. Bianchi, inflicting a fatal wound.

Admiral Porter's great vessel was seen on the 24th, off New Inlet, North Carolina.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1864.

One week of the Second Session of the 38th Congress, is now past. In order to give the respective Committees time to act upon bills in their hands, both houses have adjourned over from Thursday last to Monday next.

The appointment and confirmation of Mr. Chase as Chief Justice, in place of Judge Tancy, deceased, gives general satisfaction among the friends of the Administration. As the court is now constituted, the country may feel assured that we shall have no more Dred Scott decisions.

The appointment of Mr. Speed, of Kentucky, as Attorney General, in the place of Mr. Bates, resigned, has not yet been confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Speed is said to be an able lawyer, but has until recently acted with the Conservative elements in the Kentucky politics, co-operating with the Louisville Journal. He, however, left that party this fall and came out acting in support of Mr. Lincoln, and now stands with the radical anti-slavery element in Kentucky. His appointment will no doubt be confirmed.

Several important measures have already been proposed in Congress. On the very first day of the session, Mr. Washburn revived the whisky tax question in the House, by offering a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill taxing whisky in the hands of holders. The Committee, I have no doubt, will report a bill proposing to tax liquors in the hands of such holders as purchased before any tax was imposed, and are still holding it for speculative purposes, but it is hardly probable that they will impose a further tax up, on liquors purchased since the tax of one dollar and fifty cents per gallon was imposed.

I deem the government tax on liquors the best temperance law the people have ever had, and am decidedly in favor of taxing it to the highest point it will bear, based upon principles of justice and equity.

When the Message of the President was read by the clerk in the House, on Tuesday last, the galleries were crowded to their utmost capacity, yet the most perfect quiet and order was maintained by the vast concourse, except when the closing passages of the message relating to the restoration of the Union was read, there was an occasional outburst of applause, and when the clerk pronounced the following paragraph in the message, viz: "I repeat the declaration made a year ago, that while I remain in my present position, I shall not attempt to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an Executive duty to re-enslave such persons, another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it," there seemed to come an involuntary outburst of joy, which was manifested by the general clapping of hands by the vast multitude, and which was heartily joined in by the Union Members on the floor of the House.

By the action of the House on Monday last, Mr. Stevens' bill proposing to declare the government money "of equal value for all purposes as gold and silver coin of like denominations," etc., etc., was laid on the table, by a vote of 73 yeas to 52 nays.

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be spoken of to their praise throughout the land. By a unanimous vote of the college, they appropriated their fees, or wages, to the Christian Commission. This for one was but a small sum, still in the aggregate it amounted to eight hundred dollars, as I was told by one of their number.—Surely this was praiseworthy.

I have just heard from the Bradford Argus, a fact that I think it becomes known at the capitol of the nation, will materially effect our government if not change its whole course. It is most sincerely to be hoped that the astounding information will not be communicated to Mr. Lincoln. The editor announces to his numerous readers, that he has not read the Message. This could have been borne by the President had he not added that, "we deem it hardly worth while to read Mr. Lincoln's Message."

If the poor man in the White House should hear this, how could he ever have the heart to write another. Only think of it, the editor of the Argus not deeming it worth while to read a document that was prepared for his special reading, and then to spread that fact before all of the readers of that widely circulated paper. How can the President bear such neglect from the literati of his nation? Should not some of his friends buy up and destroy all the issues of the Argus which contain this announcement, lest the fact get to him and he be ruined by such cruel neglect.

The President of the United States having disapproved of that portion of Gen. Dix's recent order which instructs all military authorities on the frontier, in certain cases, to cross the boundary line between the United States and Canada, Gen. Dix, on Saturday, issued an order revoking those instructions, and directing, in case of future marauding expeditions into our territory from Canada, that the military commander on the frontier report to his headquarters in this city for orders.

The dispatches of Gen. Canby, so far as is proper for publication, and the extracts from the Richmond papers giving Hood's official report of the battle and our success in South-Western Virginia and in Georgia, are subjoined.

DIRECT FROM GEN. SHERMAN—HIS TRIUMPHANT MARCH—FORT McALLISTER CAPTURED—SAVANNAH INVESTED!

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—9 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. A. Dix, New-York: An official dispatch from Gen. Sherman was received to-day, dated near midnight, Dec. 13th, on the point of Dandellon, Ossa-baw Sound. It was written before Gen. Foster had reached him. He reports, besides some military details of future operations (which are omitted), the following interesting particulars of his operations:

On Board DANDELON, Ossa-baw SOUND, Dec. 13—11:50 p. m.

"To-day at 5 p. m. Gen. Hazard's Division of the Fifteenth Corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores, and pushing down to this gunboat to communicate with the fleet. Before opening communication, we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah, and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah River, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee at King's Bridge. The army is in splendid order, and equal to anything. The weather has been fine and supplies were abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas."

We reached Savannah three days ago, but, owing to Fort McAllister, could not communicate; but now we have McAllister we can go ahead. We have already captured two boats on the Savannah River, and prevented their gunboats from coming down.

I estimate the population of Savannah at 25,000 and the garrison at 15,000. Gen. Hazard commands 11,000 men, but we have not lost a wagon on the trip, and have gathered in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in far better condition than when we started.

My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules and horses.—We have utterly destroyed over two hundred miles of rails, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. The quick work made by McAllister, and the opening of communication with our fleet, and the consequent independence for supplies, dissipating all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army.

I regard Savannah as already gained.

W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

SENATE, Dec. 13.—Mr. Sumner reported a bill authorizing the President to transfer one of our gunboats to the Republic of Liberia, that Government to pay for it in ten annual installments. Mr. Sherman reported a bill to construct six rebate cutters for the lakes. After some debate and the reading of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, the bill was passed.

Mr. Sumner proposed a joint resolution concerning the wives and children of all colored soldiers. Referred to the Military Committee. That part of the President's message speaking of foreign immigration was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The Bankruptcy Bill was received from the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee. The credentials of Senator Anthony of Rhode Island were presented. He is elected for six years from the 4th of March next. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE, Dec. 12.—Mr. Eliot offered a resolution which was referred to the Judiciary Committee, declaring that the State of Louisiana may resume political relations with the Federal Government. Mr. Cole introduced a bill granting public lands to certain railroad companies in California. He also introduced a bill to establish a Department of Mines, to collect and diffuse useful information on that subject. Laid over. The papers of the Louisiana Members, before referred to the Judiciary Committee, were sent to the Committee on Rebellious State. A resolution by Mr. Chandler was adopted, to inquire into the expediency of reducing the tax on coal.—The House then took up the bill for a Navy Yard at New-London. After some delay the whole subject was laid on the table. The House then took up Mr. Ward's resolution of last Session, proposing to repeal the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty, and to appoint Commissioners to make a new treaty. Mr. Morrill moved a substi-

tute omitting all reference to a new treaty, simply giving notice of our intention to terminate the agreement. In this form the joint resolution passed, 85 to 51. Adjourned.

SENATE, Dec. 14.—Resolution of thanks to Capt. Winslow and Lieut. Cushing were adopted. Mr. Wilson reported back the joint resolution to make free the wives and children of colored soldiers. A bill for a special session of the United States District Court of Indiana was passed. Mr. Chadler proposed resolutions, referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee, concerning the discharge of the St. Albans raiders. Mr. Doolittle's tax resolutions were discussed at length, and finally referred to the Finance Committee. The unfinished business of last session was referred to the appropriate committees. The House resolution for the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee. Adjourned.

HOUSE, Dec. 14.—A bill was passed to allow any alien to become a citizen (if 21 years old) on proving one year's residence, if he has served in the army or navy and been honorably discharged. The Diplomatic and Loyalist Pension Appropriation Bills were reported and sent to the Committee of the Whole. The Foreign Affairs Committee was requested to report what measures are necessary to protect our frontier from such outrages as that at St. Albans. Mr. Schenck reported a bill to drop from the army rolls all unemployed generals. It was passed, 98 to 38. The resolution to appoint Commissioners to report as to the best mode of raising revenue by taxation, was tabled, 68 to 66. The remainder of the session was used up by Mr. Brooks in a speech on war and peace. Adjourned.

Another expedition, which went out from Vicksburg recently under Maj. Gen. Dana, was successful. The enemy was found in force; but this did not prevent Gen. Dana's men from accomplishing the work they started out to do. They thoroughly destroyed the long bridge over Black River, the Mississippi Central Railroad for thirty miles above the stream, two thousand five hundred bales of Rebel cotton and about three hundred thousand dollars worth of other Rebel government property, and returned to Vicksburg with the loss of only five killed and forty wounded and missing.

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICIAL.

The official vote of this State for President is now returned, and taking the highest vote for Lincoln and Johnson, shows a scattering vote of 20,081. There were a few scattering votes for Electors, in consequence of the misprint of a portion of the Union tickets, but not enough to affect any results. Aaron Mill received 2,631 votes by mistake. He was on the Union Electoral ticket originally, but died during the summer and Wm. Taylor was substituted. Mr. Taylor's majority is therefore 2,600 less than the other Union Electors, but he has still enough and to spare. The following is the official vote by counties:

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Vote Count. Includes Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Carbon, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Forest, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Lycoming, M'Kean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming, York.

The total vote of 1860 was as follows, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Total Vote. Includes Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, John Bell.

FOR SALE.—The undersigned wishes to sell his dwelling house and lot on 3d street, near West C. L. Ward's. The property has on it a large and very profitable business, a good well of water and cistern, a very small cellar, and some fine fruit and vegetable trees. DANIEL HARKINS, Towanda, Dec. 19, 1864.

PROPOSALS will be received at the office of G. D. Montague, for furnishing the Borough of Towanda 20,000 feet of 1 1/2 inch oak plank, not exceeding 6 inches in width. Also 4,000 feet of 2 inch oak plank, not exceeding 4 inches in width. To be delivered by the 1st day of May next. Towanda, Dec. 19, 1864.

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The total vote of 1860 was as follows, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Total Vote. Includes Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, John Bell.

FOR SALE.—The undersigned wishes to sell his dwelling house and lot on 3d street, near West C. L. Ward's. The property has on it a large and very profitable business, a good well of water and cistern, a very small cellar, and some fine fruit and vegetable trees. DANIEL HARKINS, Towanda, Dec. 19, 1864.

PROPOSALS will be received at the office of G. D. Montague, for furnishing the Borough of Towanda 20,000 feet of 1 1/2 inch oak plank, not exceeding 6 inches in width. Also 4,000 feet of 2 inch oak plank, not exceeding 4 inches in width. To be delivered by the 1st day of May next. Towanda, Dec. 19, 1864.

HOUSE, Dec. 12.—Mr. Eliot offered a resolution which was referred to the Judiciary Committee, declaring that the State of Louisiana may resume political relations with the Federal Government. Mr. Cole introduced a bill granting public lands to certain railroad companies in California. He also introduced a bill to establish a Department of Mines, to collect and diffuse useful information on that subject. Laid over. The papers of the Louisiana Members, before referred to the Judiciary Committee, were sent to the Committee on Rebellious State. A resolution by Mr. Chandler was adopted, to inquire into the expediency of reducing the tax on coal.—The House then took up the bill for a Navy Yard at New-London. After some delay the whole subject was laid