ASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, December 3d.

☞ The first regular session of the Thirty-seventh Congress commenced at noon yesterday. In the Senate thirty-seven Senators answered to their names. Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, gave notice that he would to-day introduce a bill to confiscate the property of Rebels, and give freedom to persons in slave States. Mr. Wilkinson of Minnesota, gave notice of a bill to abolish the distinction between the regular and volunteer soldiers.

In the House one hundred and fourteen members answered to their names. A joint resolution, tendering the thanks of Congress to Captain Wilkes, for his arrest of the rebel Emissaries Mason and Slidell, was adopted. A resolution expelling John W. Reed, the member of the Fifth district of Missouri, and now serving in the Rebel army, was adopted. Resolutions requesting the President to order that Messrs. Slidell and Mason be treated in the same manner as Col. Corcoran and Col. Wood previously adopted. The Secretary of War was requested to communicate what measures have been taken to ascertain who is responsible for the disaster at Bull's Bluff. Mr. Eliot of Massachusetts, offered a resolution declaring that in prosecuting the war the President of the United States, as the Commander-in-Chief of our army, and the officers in command under him, have the right to emancipate all persons held as slaves in any military district in a state of insurrection against the national government, and that we respectfully advise that such orders of emancipation be issued whenever the same will avail to weaken the power of the rebels in arms, or to strengthen the military power of the loyal forces. A motion to lay the resolution on the table was lost by a vote of 56 to 76. The 76 votes for abolitionizing were all cast by "Republicans;" the yeas were Democrats 31, Republicans 13, Unionists 11. The border Union men all voted to table.

Mr. Roscoe L. Conkling, of New York, proposed an amendment so as to make the resolution apply to the slaves of disloyal citizens. This was accepted by Mr. Eliot, and the subject was then laid aside till Thursday next. Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, offered a preamble and bill declaring that there can be no permanent peace or Union in the republic so long as slavery exists within it; that slavery is an essential means of prolonging the war; that according to the law of nations it is right to liberate the slaves of an enemy to weaken his power; that the President be requested to declare free, and to direct all our generals and officers in command to order freedom to all the slaves who shall leave their masters or shall aid in quelling the rebellion, and that the United States pledge the faith of the nation to make full and fair compensation to all loyal citizens who are or shall remain active in supporting the Union for all damage they may sustain by virtue of this resolution. This resolution lies over.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In the midst of unprecedented political troubles we have cause of great gratitude to God for our unusual good health and most abundant harvests.

You will not be surprised to learn that, in the peculiar exigencies of the times, our intercourse with foreign nations has been attended with profound solicitude, chiefly turning upon our own domestic affairs.

A disloyal portion of the American people have, during the whole year, been engaged in an attempt to divide and destroy the Union. A nation which endures factious domestic divisions is exposed to disrespect from abroad, and one party, if not both, is sure, sooner or later, to invoke foreign intervention. Nations thus tempted to interfere are not always able to resist the counsels of seeming expediency and ungenerous ambition, although measures adopted under such influences seldom fail to be unfortunate and injurious to those adopting them. The disloyal citizens of the United States who have offered the ruin of our country in return for the aid and comfort which they have invoked abroad, have received less patronage and encouragement than they probably expected. If it were just to suppose, as the insurgents have seemed to assume, that foreign nations in this case, discarding all moral, social, and treaty obligations, would act solely and selfishly for the most speedy restoration of commerce, including, especially, the acquisition of cotton, those nations appear, as yet, not to have seen their way to their object more directly or clearly through the destruction than through the preservation of the Union. If we could dare to believe that foreign nations are actuated by no higher motive than this I am quite sure a second argument could be made to show them that they can reach their aim more readily and easily by aiding to crush the rebellion than by giving encouragement to it.

The principal lever relied on by the insurgents for exciting foreign nations to hostility against us is the embarrassment of commerce. Those nations, however, not improbably saw from the first that it was the Union which made as well our foreign as our domestic commerce. They can scarcely have failed to perceive that the effort for disunion produces the existing difficulty, and that one strong nation promises more durable peace, and a more extensive, valuable, and reliable commerce, than can the same nation broken into hostile fragments.

It is not my purpose to review our discussions with foreign States, because, whatever might be their wishes or disposition, the integrity of our country and the stability of our government, mainly depends, not upon them, but on the loyalty, virtue, patriotism and intelligence of the American people. The correspondence itself, with the usual reservations, is herewith submitted. I venture to hope it will appear that we have practiced prudence, and liberality towards foreign powers, averting causes of irritation, and, with firmness, maintaining our own rights and honor. Since, however, it is apparent that here, as in every other State, foreign dangers necessarily attend domestic difficulties, I recommend that adequate and ample measures be adopted for maintaining the public defences on every side, while, under this general recommendation, provision for defending our coast line readily occurs to the mind. I also, in the same connection, ask the attention of Congress to our great lakes and rivers.—It is believed that some fortifications and depots of arms and munitions with harbor and navigation improvements at well-selected points upon these, would be of great importance to the national defence and preservation.

I ask attention to the views of the Secretary of War, expressed in his report upon the same general subjects.

I deem it of importance that the loyal regions of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina should be connected with Kentucky and other faithful parts of the Union by railroad. I therefore recommend as a military measure, that Congress provide for the construction of such road as speedily as possible.

Kentucky will no doubt co-operate, and, through her Legislature, make the most judicious selection of a line. The northern terminus must connect with some existing railroad, and whether the route shall be from Lexington or Nicholasville to the Cumberland Gap, or from Lebanon to the Tennessee line in the direction of Knoxville or on some still different line can easily be determined. Kentucky and the general government cooperating, the work can be completed in a very short time, and when done it will be not only of vast present usefulness, but also a valuable, permanent improvement, worth its cost, in all the future.

Some treaties designed chiefly for the interests of commerce, having no grave political importance have been negotiated, and will be submitted to the Senate for their consideration. Although we have failed to induce some of the commercial powers to adopt a desirable melioration of the rigor of maritime war, we have removed all obstructions from the way of this humane reform, except such as are merely of a temporary and accidental occurrence.

I invite your attention to the correspondence between Her Brittanic Majesty's Minister, accredited to this Government, and the Secretary of State, relative to the detention of the British ship Perthshire, in June last, by the United States steamer Massachusetts, for a supposed breach of the blockade. As this detention was occasioned by an obvious misapprehension of the facts, and as justice requires that we should commit no beligerent action founded in strict right as sanctioned by public law, I reccommend that an appropriation be made to satisfy the reasonable demand of the owners of the vessel for her detention.

I repeat the reccommendation of my predecessor in his annual message to Congress in December last, in regard to the disposition of the surplus which will probably remain after satisfying the claims of American citizens against China, pursuant to the awards of the Commissioners under the Act of the 4th of March, 1859.

If however it should not be deemed advisable to carry that reccommendation into effect, I would suggest that authority be given for investing the principal over the proceeds of the surplus referred to in good securities, with a view to the satisfaction of such other just claims of our citizens against China as are not unlikely to arise hereafter in the course of our extensive trade with that Empire.

By the act of the 5th of August last, Congress authorized the President to instruct the commanders of suitable vessels to defend themselves against and to capture pirates. This authority has been exercised in a single instance only.

For the more effective protection of our extensive and valuable commerce in the Eastern seas, especially it seems to me that it would also be advisable to authorize the commanders of sailing vessels to recapture any prize which pirates may make of the United States vessels and their cargoes, and the consular courts established by law, in eastern countries to adjudicate the cases, in the event that this should not be objected to by the local authorities.

If any good reason exists why we should remain longer in withholding our recognition of the independence and sovereignty of Hayti and Liberia, I am unable to discern it. Unwilling, however to inaugurate a novel policy in regard to them without the approbation of Congress I submit for your consideration the expediency of an appropriation for maintaining a Charge d'Affaires near each of those new States. It does not admit of doubt that important commercial advantages might be secured by favorable treaties with them.

The operations of the Treasury during the period which has elapsed since your adjournment have been conducted with signal success. The patriotism of the people has placed at the disposal of the Government the large means demanded by the public exigencies. Much of the National loan has been taken by citizens of the industrial classes whose confidence in their country's faith, and zeal for their country's deliverance from its present peril, have induced them to contribute to the support of the Government the whole of their limited acquisitions. This fact imposes peculiar obligations to economy in disbursement, and energy in action.—Estimates for the remaining three quarters of the year and for the financial year of 1863, together with his views of the ways and means for meeting the demands contemplated by them will be submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury. It is gratifying to know that the expenses made necessary by the rebellion are not beyond the resources of the loyal people, and to believe that the same patriotism which has thus far sustained the Government will continue to sustain it till peace and union shall again bless the land. I respectfully refer to the report of the Secretary of War for information respecting the numerical strength of the army and for recommendations having in view an increase of its efficiency and the well being of the various branches of the service entrusted to his care. It is gratifying to know that the patriotism of the people has proved equal to the occasion, and that the number of troops tendered greatly exceeds the force which Congress authorized me to call into the field. I refer with pleasure to these portions of his reports which make allusion to the creditable degree of discipline attained by our troops, and to the excellent sanitary condition of the entire army. The recommendation of the Secretary for an organization of the militia upon a uniform basis, is a subject of vital importance to the future safety of the country, and is commended to the serious attention of Congress. The large addition to the regular army in connection with the defection that has so considerably diminished the number of its officers gives particular importance to his recommendation for increasing the corps of cadets to the greatest capacity of the Military Academy. By mere omission I presume Congress has failed to provide chaplains for the Hospitals occupied by the Volunteers.

This subject was brought to my notice and I was induced to draw up the form of a letter, one copy of which, properly addressed, has been delivered to each of the persons; and at the dates respectfully named and stated in a schedule containing also the form of the letter marked A. and hereunto transmitted. These gentlemen, I understand, entered upon the duties designated at the times respectively stated in the schedule, and have labored faithfully therein ever since. I therefore recommend that they be compensated at the same rate as chaplains in the army.

I further suggest that general provisions be made for Chaplains to serve at Hospitals, as well as with regiments,

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents in detail the operations of that branch of the service, the activity and energy which have characterized its administration, and the results of measures to increase its efficiency and power. Such have been the additions, by construction and purchase, that it may almost be said, a Navy has been created and brought into service, since our difficulties commenced.

Besides blockading our extensive coast squadrons larger than ever before assembled under our flag have been put afloat, and performed deeds which have increased our naval renown. I would invite special attention to the recommendation of the Secretary for a more perfect organization of the Navy, by introducing additional grades in the service. The present organization is defective and unsatisfactory, and the suggestions submitted by the Department will, it is believed, if adopted, obviate the difficulties alluded to, promote harmony and increase the efficiency of the Navy.

There are three vacancies on the Bench of the Supreme Court, two by the decease of Justices Daniel and McLean, and one by the resignation of Justice Campbell. I have so far forborne making nominations to fill the vacancies for reasons which I will now state. Two of the outgoing Judges resided within the States now overrun by revolt, so that if successors were appointed in the same localities they could not now serve upon their circuits, and many of the most competent men there probably would not take the personal hazard of accepting to serve, even here upon the Supreme Bench.

I have been unwilling to throw all the appointments Northward, thus disabling myself from doing justice to the South on the return of peace, although I may remark that to transfer to the North one which has heretofore been in the South would not, with reference to territory and population, be unjust.

During the long and brilliant judicial career of Judge McLean, his circuit grew into an empire altogether too large for any one Judge to give the courts therein more than a nominal attendance, rising in population from one million four hundred and seventy thousand and eighteen in 1830 to six millions one hundred and fifty one thousand four hundred and five in 1860. Besides this, the country generally has outgrown our present Judicial system.

I respectfully recommend to the consideration of Congress the present condition of the statute laws, with the hope that Congress will be able to find an easy remedy for many of the inconveniences and evils which constantly embarrass those engaged in the practical administration of them.

Since the organization of the Government, Congress has enacted some five thousand acts and joint resolutions, which fill more than ten thousand closely printed pages, and are scattered through many volumes. Many of these acts have been drawn in haste and without sufficient caution, so that their provisions are often obscure in themselves, or in conflict with each other, or at least so doubtful as to render it very difficult for even the best informed persons to ascertain precisely what the statute law really is.

It seems to me very important that the statute laws should be made as plain and intelligent as possible, and be reduced to as small a compass as may consist with the fulness and precision of the will of the Legislature, and the perspecuity of its language. These well done, would, I think, greatly facilitate the labors of those whose duty it is to asisst in the administration of the laws and would be a lasting benefit to the people, by placing before them in a more accessible and intelligible form the laws which so deeply concern their interests and their duties. I am informed by some whose opinions I respect that all the acts of Congress now in force, and of a permanent and general nature, might be revised and rewritten so as to be embraced in one volume, or at least two volums of ordinary and convenient size; and I respectfully recommend to Congress to consider the subject, and if my suggestion be approved, to devise such plan as as to their wisdom shall seem most proper for the attainment of the end proposed.

One of the unavoidable consequences of the present insurrection is the entire suppression in many places of all ordinary means of administering civil justice by the officers and in the forms of existing law. This is the case in whole or in part in all the insurgent States, and as our armies advance upon and take possession of parts of those States, the practical evil becomes more apparent. There are no courts, nor officers to whom the citizens of other States may apply for the enforcement of their lawful claims against citizens of the insurgent States, and there is a vast amount of debt constituting such claims. Some have estimated it as $200,000,000, due in large part from insurgents, in open rebellion, to loyal citizens who are even now making great sacrifices in the discharge of their patriotic duty to support the Government under these circumstances, I have been urgently solicited to establish by millitary power, courts to administer summary justice in such cases. I have thus far declined to do it, not because I had any doubt that the end proposed, the collection of the debts was just and right in itself, but because I have been unwilling to go beyond the pressure of necessity in the unusal exercise of power. But the powers of Congress I suppose are equal to the abomalous occasion, and therefore I refer the whole matter to Congress with the hope that a plan may be devised for the administration of justice in all such parts of the insurgent States and Territories as may be under control of the Government, whether by a voluntary return to allegiance and order, or by the power of our arms; this however, not to be a permanent institution, but a temporary substitute, and to cease as soon as the ordinary courts can be reestablished in peace.

It is important that some more convenient means should be provided, if possible, for the adjustment of claims against the Government, especially in view of their increased number by reason of the war.

It is as much the duty of Government to render prompt justice against itself in favor of citizens as it is to administer the same between private individuals.

The investigation and adjudication of claims in their nature belong to the judicial department, besides it is apparent that the attention of congress will be more than usually engaged for some time to come with great national questions.

It was intended by the organization of the Court of Claims mainly to remove this branch of business from the halls of Congress; but when the Court has proved to be an effective and valuable means of investigation, it in a great degree fails to effect the object of its creation for want of power to make its judgments final.

Fully aware of the delicacy, not to say the danger of the subject, I commend to your careful consideration whether this power of making judgments final may not properly be given to the Court, reserving the right of appeal on questions of law to the Supreme Court with such other provisions as experience may have shown to be necessary.

I ask attention to the Report of the Postmaster General, the following being a summary statement of the condition of the Department:

The revenue from all sources during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1861, including the annual permanent appropiation of seven hundred thousand dollars for the transportation of free mail matter, was nine million forty nine thousand two hundred and ninety-six dollars and forty cents, being about two per cent less than the revenue for eighteen hundred and sixty. The expenditures were thirteen millions six hundred and six thousand seven hundred and fifty nine dollars and eleven cents, showing a decrease of more than eight per cents as compared with those of the previous year, and leaving as excess of expenditures over the revenue for the last fiscal year of over five hundred and fifty seves thousand four hundred and sixty two dollars and seventy one cents. The gross revenue for the year ending June 30, 1863, is estimated at an increase of four per cent, on that of 1861; making eight millions six hundred and eighty three thousand dollars, to which should be added the earnings of the department in carrying free matter, viz: seven hundred thousand dollars—making nine million three hundred and eighty-three thousand dollars. The total expenditures for 1863 are estimated at twelve millions five hundred and twenty eight thousand dollars, leaving an estimated deficiency of three (3) millions one hundred and forty five (145) thousand dollars to be supplied from the Treasury, in addition to the permanent appropriation.

The present insurrection shows, I think, that the extension of this district across the Potomac River at the time of establishing the Capital here was eminently wise, and consequently that the relinquishment of that portion of it which lies within the State of Virginia was unwise, and dangerous. I submit for your consideration the expediency of regaining that part of the District, and the restoration of the original boundaries thereof, through negotiations with the State of Virginia.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, with the accompanying documents, exhibit the condition of the several branches of the public service pertaining to that department. The depressing influence of the insurrection have been especially felt in the operations of patent and land offices. The cash receipts from the sales of public lands the past year have exceeded the expenses of our land system only about $200,000. The sales have been entirely suspended in the Southern States, while the interruption to the business of the country and the diversion of large numbers of men from labor to military service, have obstructed settlements in the new States and territories of the North West.

The receipts in the Patent Office have declined in nine months about $100,000, rendering a large reduction of the force employed necessary to make it self-sustaining.

The demand upon the Pension Office will be largely increased by the insurrection. Numerous applications for pensions, based upon the casualties of the existing war, have been already made. There is reason to believe that many who are now on the pension roll and in the receipt of the bounty of the Government, are in the ranks of the insurgent army or giving them aid and comfort. The Sec. of Interior has directed a suspension of payment of pensions of such persons upon proof of disloyalty. I recommend that Congress authorize that officer to cause the names of such persons to be stricken from the roll.

The relations of the Gov. with Indian tribes, have been generally disturbed by the insurrection, especially in the Southern Superintendency, and in that of New Mexico. The Indian country South of Kansas, is in possession of the insurgents from Texas and Arkansas. The agents of the U.S. appointed since the 4th of March, have been unable to reach their posts, while most of those who were in office before that time have espoused the insurrection cause, and assume to exercise the powers of agents by virtue of the commission from insurrectionists. It has been stated in the public press that a portion, of these Indians have been organized as a military force and are attached to the army of the insurgents. Although the Govt has no official information upon the subject, letters have been written to the Com. of Indian Affairs by several prominent chiefs, giving assurance of their loyalty to the U. S. and expressing a wish for the presence of the Federal troops to protect them. It is believed that on the repossession of the country by the federal forces the Indians will readily cease hostile demonstrations and resume their former relations to the govt.

Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, but a clerkship only assigned to it in the govt. While it is fortunate that this great interest is so independent in its nature as not to have demanded and extorted more from the govt, more cannot be given voluntarily with general advantage. Annual reports exhibiting the condition of our agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, would present much information of great practical value to the country. While I make no suggestions as to details, I venture to suggest that an agricultural and statistical bureau might be profitably organized.

The execution of the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade has been confided to the Department of Interior. It is a subject of congratulation that the efforts which have been made for the suppression of this inhuman traffic have been recently attended with unusual success. Five vessels having fitted out for the slave trade have been seized and condemned. Two mates engaged in the trade and one person in equipping a vessel as a slaver has been convicted and subjected to the penalty of fine and imprisonment, and one captain taken up a cargo of Africans on board his vessel has been convicted of the highest grade of offense under our laws, the punishment of which is death.

The territories of Colorado, Dacota, and Nevada, created by the last Congress have been organized, and civil administration has been inaugurated therein under auspices especially gratifying when it is considered that the seeds of treason was found existing in some of these new countries when the federal officers arrived there.—The abundant material resources of these territories, with the security and protection afforded by organized govts, will doubtless invite to them a large immigration when peace shall restore the business of the country to its accustomed channels. I submit the usual form of the legislature of Colorado, which evidence the patriotic spirit of the people of that territory. So far the authority of it has been upheld in all the territories, as it is hoped it will be in future. I commend their interests and defense to the enlightened and generous care of Congress.

I recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress the interests of the District of Columbia. The insurrection has been the cause of much suffering and sacrifice to its inhabitants, and as they have no representative in Congress, that body should not overlook their just claims upon the Government.

At your late session a joint resolution was adopted authorizing the President to take measures for facilitating a proper representation of the industrial interests of the U S at the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, to be holden at London in 1862. I regret to say I have been unable to give personal attention to this subject; a matter at once so interesting in itself, and so extensively and intricately connected with the material prosperity of the world. That the Secys of State and Interior, a plan or system has been devised and partly matured, which will be laid before you.

Under and by virtue of the act of Congress, entitled an act to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes, approved Aug 6, 1861, the legal claims of certain persons to the labor and services of certain other persons have become forfeited, and numbers of the latter, thus liberated, are already dependent on the U S, and must be provided for in some way. Doubtless, it is not impossible that some of the States will pass similar enactments for their own benefit respectively, and by the operation of which persons of the same class will be thrown upon them for disposal. In such case, I recommend that Congress provide for accepting such persons from such States according to some mode of valuation in lieu pro tanto of direct taxes, or upon some other plan to be agreed upon with such States respectively that such persons, on such acceptance by the General Govt, be forever emancipated and free; and that in any event steps be taken for colonizing both classes, or the one first mentioned if the other shall not be brought into existence, at some place or places in a climate congenial to them. It might be well to consider, too, whether the free colored people already in the U could not, so far as individuals may desire, be included in such colonization. To carry out the plan of colonization may involve the acquiring of territory, and the appropriation of money beyond that to be expended in the territorial acquisition. Having practised the acquisition of territory for nearly 60 years, the question of constitutional power to do so is no longer an open one with us. The power was first questioned by Jefferson, who, however, in the purchase of Louisiana, yielded his scruples on the plea of a great expediency. If it be said that the only legitimate object of acquiring territory is to furnish homes for white men, this measure effects that object, for the emigration of colored men, leaves additional room for white men remaining or coming here. Jefferson, moreover, placed the importance of procuring Louisiana more on political and commercial ground, than on providing room for population. On this whole proposition including the appropriation of money with the acquisition of territory, does not the expediency amount to absolute necessity that without which the Govt cannot be perpetuated if this war continues?

In considering the policy to be adopted for suppressing the insurrection, I have been anxious and careful that the inevitable conflict for this purpose shall not degenerate into a violent and remorseless revolutionary struggle. I have therefore, in every case thought it proper to keep the integrity of the Union prominent as the primary object of the contest on our part, leaving all questions which are not of vital military importance to the more deliberate action of the Legislature. In the exercise of my best discretion I have adhered to the blockade of the ports held by the insurgents instead of putting in force by proclamation the law of Congress enacted at the late session, for closing these ports. So also obeying the dictates of prudence, as well as the obligations of law, instead of transcending, I have adhered to the act Congress to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes. If a new law upon the same subject shall be proposed, its propriety will be duly considered. The Union *must* be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. We should not be in haste to determine that radical and extreme measures, which may reach the loyal as well as the disloyal, are indispensable

The Inaugural address at the beginning of the Administration and the Message to Congress at the late special session, were both mainly devoted to the domestic controversy out of which the insurrection and consequent war have sprung. Nothing now occurs to add to our substance from the principles of general purposes stated and expressed in those documents. The last ray of hope for preserving the Union peaceably, expired at the assault upon Fort Sumter, and a general review of what has occurred since may not be unprofitable. What was painfully uncertain then is much better defined and more distinct now, and the progress of events is plainly in the right direction. The insurgents confidently claimed a strong support from North of Mason and Dixon's line, and the friends of the Union were not free from apprehension on the point. This however, was soon settled definitely, and on the right side. South of the line, noble little Delaware led off right from the first. Maryland was made to seem against the Union; our soldiers were assaulted, bridges were burned, and railroads torn up within her limits, and we were many days at one time without the ability to bring a single regiment over her soil to the Capital. Now, her bridges and railroads are repaired and open for the government. She already has seven regiments to the cause of the Union, and more to the enemy and her people, at a regular election, have sustained the Union by a large majority, and a larger aggregate vote than they ever before gave to any candidate on any question. Kentucky, too, for some time in doubt, is now decidedly, and I think unchangably, ranged on the side of the Union. Missouri is comparatively quiet, and I believe cannot again be overrun by the insurrectionists. These three States of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri, neither of which would promise a single soldier at first, have now an aggregate of not less than 40,000 in the field for the Union; while of their citizens, certainly not more than a third of that number, and they of doubtful whereabouts and doubtful existence, are in arms against it. After a somewhat bloody struggle of months, Winter closes on the Union people of Western Virginia, leaving them masters of their own country.

An insurgent force of about 1,500, for months dominating the narrow peninsular region constituting the counties of Accomac and Northampton, and known as the eastern shore of Virginia, together with some contiguous parts of Maryland, have laid down their arms, and the people there have renewed their allegiance to and accepted the protection of the old flag. This leaves no armed insurrection north of the Potomac nor east of the Chesapeake.

Also we have obtained a footing at each of the isolated points on the Southern coast of Hatteras, Port Royal, Tybee Island near Savannah, and Ship Island, and we likewise have some general accounts of popular movements in behalf of the Union in North Carolina and Tennessee. These things demonstrate that the cause of the Union is advancing steadily Southward.

Since your last adjournment, Lieut.-Gen. Scott has retired from the head of the army. During his long life the nation has not been unmindful of his merit; yet on calling to mind how faithfully, ably, and brilliantly he has served the country from a time far back in our history when few of the now living had been born, and thenceforward continually, I cannot but think that we are his debtor. I submit therefore, for your consideration, what further mark of recognition is due to him and ourselves as a grateful people.

With the retirement of Gen. Scott came the Executive duty of appointing in his stead a General-in-Chief of the Army. It is a fortunate circumstance that neither in council nor country was there, so far as I know, any difference of opinion as to the proper person to be selected.

The retiring chief repeatedly expressed his judgment in favor of Gen. McClellan for the position, and in this the nation seemed to give a unanimous concurrence. The designation of Gen McClellan is, therefore, in a considerable degree, the selection of the country as well as the Executive, and hence there is better reason to hope there will be given him the confidence and cordial support thus by fair implication promised and without which he cannot, with so full efficiency serve the country.

It has been said that one bad General is better than two good ones, and the saying is true, if taken to mean no more than that an army is better directed by a single mind, though inferior, than by two superior ones at variance and cross-purposes. In a storm at sea, no one on board can wish the ship to sink, and yet not unfrequently all go down together because too many will direct, and no single mind can be allowed to control. It continues to develop that the insurrection is largely if not exclusively a war upon the first principles of popular government—the rights of the people. Conclusive evidence of this is found in the most grave and maturely-considered public documents, as well as in the general tone of the insurgents. In these documents we find the abridgement of the existing right of suffrage, and the denial to the people of all rights to participate in the selection of public officers, except the legislative body, is advocated with labored arguments to prove that large control of the Government by the people is the source of all political evil. Monarchy itself is sometimes hinted at as a possible refuge from the power of the people. In my present position, I could scarcely be justified were I to omit raising a warning voice against this approach of returning despotism.

It is not needed nor fitting here that a general argument should be made in favor of popular institutions; but there is one point with its connections not so hackneyed as most others, to which I ask a brief attention. It is the effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor in the structure of Government. It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital, that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital somehow by the use of it induces him to labor. This assumed, it is next considered whether it is best that capital shall hire laborers, and thus induce them to work by their own consent, or buy them and drive them to it without their consent. Having proceeded so far, it is naturally concluded that all laborers are either hired laborers or what we call slaves; and further it is assumed that whoever is once a hired laborer is fixed in that condition for life. Now there is no such relation between capital and labor as assumed, nor is there any such thing as a free man being fixed for life in the condition of a hired laborer. Both of these assumptions are false, and all inferences from them are groundless. Labor is prior to, and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and, could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superiot of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration. Capital has its rights, which are as worthy of protection as any other rights. Nor is it denied that there is, and probably always will be, a relation between labor and capital, producing mutual benefits. The error is in assuming that the whole labor of the community exists within that relation. A few men own capital, and that few avoid labor themselves, and with their capital hire, or buy another few to labor for them. A large majority belong to neither class—neither work for others, nor have others work for them.—In most of the Southern States, a majority of the whole people of all colors are neither slaves nor masters while in the Northern a large majority are neither hirers nor hired. Men with their families—wives, sons, and daughters—work for themselves on their farms, in their houses, and in their shops, taking the whole product to themselves, and asking no favors of capital, on the one hand, nor of hired laborers or slaves, on the other. It is not forgotten that a considerable number of persons mingled their own labor with capital—that is, they labor with their own hands, and also buy or hire others to labor for them; but this is only a mixed and not a distinct class. No principle stated is distinguished by the existence of this mixed class.

Again, as has already been said, there is not of necessity any such thing as the free hired laborer being fixed in that condition for life. Many independent men everywhere in these states a few years back in their lives were hired laborers.—The prudent, penniless beginner in the world labors for wages awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools and land for himself, then labors on his own account another while, and at length hires another new beginner to help him. This is the just and generous and prosperous system which opens the way to all, gives hope to all, and consequently energy and progress in the improvement of their condition to all. No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty; none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned. Let them beware of surrendering a political power which they already possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement against such as they, and to fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost.

From the first taking of our national census to the last are seventy years, and we find our population at the end of the period eight times as great as it was at the beginning. The increase of those other things which men deemed desirable, has been even greater. We thus have, at one view, what the popular principle, applied to government, through the machinery of the States and the Union, has produced in a given time; and also what, if firmly maintained, it promises for the future.—There are already among us those who, if the Union be preserved, will live to see it contain 250,000,000. The struggle of to-day is not all together for to-day. It is for a vast future, also.

With a firm reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest for our present troubles, let us proceed in the great task which events have devolved upon us.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, December 3d, 1861.

—Adjutant General Thomas has sent out instructions to General Sherman, in Beaufort, to take possession of all the crops on the island—cotton, corn rice, &c—on military accounts, and to ship the cotton and such other crops as were not wanted for the army, to New York, to be sold there for account of the Government. General Sherman was also directed to use the negro slaves to gather and secure the crops of cotton and corn, and to erect his defences at Port Royal and other points on the island.

—The Washington City Post Office sent out from 4 o'clock P. M., on Monday, until 4 o'clock A. M., Friday, Nov. 26th, two hundred and forty-three thousand five hundred and twenty-six stamped letters; six thousand eight hundred and fifty-three unpaid letters, and over nine thousand newspapers with one cent stamps on them.

—Hon. Robert J. Walker, has addressed a letter to the editor of the National Republican, in favor of Congress immediately making an appropriation for the relief of Ireland in view of the impending famine. He concludes by saying.

"Now, when so many thousand Irishmen are periling their lives on the last battle-field of liberty, in our defence—when so many have already fallen, and others are immured in Rebel dungeons—let us show that we are not ungrateful.—And when the next great conflicts comes—as soon it must—the Shamrock, interlained with the Stars and Stripes, will wave in triumph over a field of victory for liberty and Union."

FAITHFUL MINISTERS OF HEALTH.—In examining the vessels at the various wharves we find among the curiosities o our commerce the brig Miranda, just in from Truxillo with a cargo of Honduras Sarsaparilla for Dr. J.C. Ayer & Co., of Lowell. So particular are this firm as to the article used in compounding their various remedies, that they have this drug, like some others they consume, gathered for them by a skillful agent of their own in the tropic regions of its growth. He informs us there are many species of this plant, but two of which are really valuable in medicine; the qualities of these are also affected by the time of gathering, mode of curing, &c; operations which in that region of unreliable workmen imposes a heavy labor upon him. One of the inert varieties of Sarsaparilla grows wild in our own forests, while several others, nearly worthless, abound in Central and South America. The intelligent agent assured us that the virtues of these drugs had never been fully told, and that the reason of the low esteem in which many hold it is due to the importation of such immense quantities of the worthless varieties. His accounts of his trips to Honduras and his business excursions along the Gulf of Dulce and the rivers of Montagua and Santiago and among the adjacent mountains were of intense interest. We can but commend and honor his employers for the faithfulness and integrity with which they execute their trust as ministers to the public health, and we suspect that this course is at least one of the reasons why their medicines are held in such extraordinary favor throughout the civilized world.—*New York City News.*

☞ The last steamhr from Europe brings the news that

It is reported that a large steamer had left London loaded with munitions of war for the Rebel States.

The Rebel steamer Nashvill, which ran the Charleston blockade, arrived at Southampton on the 21st inst.

On the 16th inst, the Nashville boarded the American ship Harvey Birch, bound from Havre for New York, in ballast, took off Captain Melson and the crew, and then burned the ship to the water's edge.

Board of Relief.—Notice is hereby given, that the Board of Relief, composed of the Associate Judges and County Commissioners, will meet at the Commissioners Office, in Montrose, on Monday, July 1st, 1861, at two o'clock, p. m., and on the first Monday of each month thereafter, to receive applications and make appropriations for the relief of Volunteers and their families, under the provisions of an Act, entitled "An Act to create a Loan and to provide for arming the State, approved May 15, 1861."

By ORDER OF BOARD OF RELIEF.

Mothers, Read This.—The following is an extract from a letter written by the pastor of a Baptist Church to the "Journal and Messenger," Cincinnati, Ohio. Essays volumes in favor of that world-renowned medicine—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. Now we never said a word in favor of any patent medicine in our life, but we feel compelled to say to your readers that this is no humbug—WE HAVE TRIED IT, AND KNOW IT TO BE ALL IT CLAIMS. It is probably one of the most successful medicines of this day, because it is one of the best. Those who have babies cant do better than to lay in a supply. dec23 y

Students intending to attend the Binghamton Commercial College, can hear of something of practical value, by calling at or addressing this office.

$25?] EMPLOYMENT! [$75?

AGENTS WANTED!

We will pay from $25 to $75 per month, and all expenses to active Agents, or give a commission. Particulars sent free. Address ERIE SEWING COMPANY, R. JAMES, General Agent, Milan, Ohio. sept

☞ The Slips in the new brick Presbyterian Church in Montrose, will be sold on Thursday, January 2d, 1862, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. nov28 5w

☞ The Rev. O. A. Warren will preach in Lenox near Charles Titus' on Sunday, Dec. 1st at 10½ o'clock, and at Hojbottom in the evening of the same day.

MARRIAGES.

In Harford, Nov. 24, by Timothy Carpenter, Esq., Mr. Andrew Gow and Mrs. J. M. B. Green, both of Harford.

In Lathrop, Nov. 23, by Rev. A. O. Warren, Mr. Geo. B. Stanton, to Miss Alpha D. Bisby, all of Lathrop.

In New Milford, Nov. 21, by Rev. S. S. Barter, Mr. Geo B. McCollum, and Miss Carrie C. Ward, both of N Milford

DEATHS.

Died Nov. 22d, 1861, Love E., daughter of E. G. & L. Babcock, aged 18 years 5 months and 7 days.

When death comes to the release of the aged, the care-worn, the earth weary, we call him our friend, but when he folds to his icy breast one so young, so beautiful, so beloved, the light and joy of so many hearts, one to whom this world looks lovely, and life is a bright and gladsome thing, we feel that he is, emphatically our worst enemy. But well we knew that that which made our sister so dear to us, is not dead—the soul that spoke through those lustrous eyes, the soul whose sweet attributes made her character so lovely, death had no power to touch. She has only laid off the frail robe of mortality and put on one of those "beautiful robes the angels wear." And in this higher, holier life, is it not in her power to do far more for the spiritual good of those she loves than when with them, a prisoner of clay? Yet we sorrow, and he who wept with Mary and Martha will not chide our grief, but weeps to-day with the broken sisterband. The loveliest flower of the wreath has faded and gone, and upon the rest a blight has fallen. She was the embodiment of her name. Love was the element of her existence; it was the inspiration that made her life so pure and blameless, and her death so eloquent. As we watched this sweet child of God wrestling with the King of Terrors, and caught her looks of triumph, her words of exultant joy while conquering her last foe, we thought—Oh, 'tis worth a long life of suffering and sorrow thus to die! What are all our toils, our struggles and our conflicts here, if but at last we can feel and know that our Savior will lead us safely through the dark volley to the land of the Blest? We saw that loved one throw her arms around her mother's neck, in her death agony, and felt that mother's anguish as she assured her child, how gladly she would bear her sufferings for her, but how unavailing every earthly power to give relief. And we read in the tender, pleading eyes of the dying girl, the thought that even her mother could not go with her across the chill river—then her eyes turned upward with a look so calm, so trusting, we knew she heard amid the surging of the waves; a voice from Heaven, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end!" We felt the presence of the Eternal—our ear of faith caught the rustling of an angel's wing, and we knew death had lost its victory. And as the soul stirring hymn was sung, 'I want to cross over,' we felt that the river of death was dividing, like Jordan of old, and she was crossing slowly but safely, to the "land of promise," "leaning upon the arm of her beloved." But she has left darkness round the fireside, dread silence in her room, and a weight of crushing grief upon the household. And while her own home is made desolate, each feeling that "our pet, our favorite is gone," many homes and many hearts are shrouded in gloom, for

None knew her but to love,
None named her but to praise.

We will cherish her memory, we will imitate her virtues, and, while we grieve over our loss, we will not forget how great her gain. Nor is our grief so selfish that we would wish longer to fetter her pure spirit in a world like this.

No haste to thy beautiful home,
From sorrow and suffering free,
A host of bright angels about "Come"
And the pearly gates open for thee!

E. A. B. M.

Administrator's Notice.

LETTERS of administration to the estate of the late LABNEH J. WALKER, of Gibson having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same will present them to

JOHN SMILEY,
Gibson, Dec. 5th, 1861. Administrator.

Stockholders' Meeting.

THE Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Leslie & Harmony Tur