The Press.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1865.

PEACE.

(From the Washington Chronicle.)

It is a fact that, whenever occasion offers, the two armies, Union and Confederate, fraternize with peculiar enthusiasm. Why is this? Is it not because they are of the same blood? Is it not because they have fought on the same battle-fields? *And is not this manifestation an exhibition of their mutual devotion to the old flag?* Thus we find in the Richmond *Sentinel*, of the 31st of January, that "when Messrs. STEPHENS, HUNTER, and CAMPBELL passed through our lines on the way to Washington, the shouting along the lines was prolonged and enthusiastic." And again: "Once before the acclamations of the army were united. When they lay confronted at Fredericksburg a fine military band played, in succession, 'Yankee Doodle,' 'Dixie,' and other national airs. These were appropriately responded to by the two armies alternately; but when the band struck up 'Home, Sweet Home,' the opposing camps forgot their hostilities, and united in vociferous tribute to the common sentiment." And what is this common sentiment? It is a common sentiment of remembrance and veneration for the glorious past. It is a common sentiment to be respected in this significant hour. Yesterday it was announced that the President of the United States had started for Fortress Monroe. The mere rumor caused a thrill in every loyal American heart. It suggested that, in his sovereign capacity, he had gone there for the purpose of concluding peace with the Confederate authorities; that Mr. SEWARD had proceeded to consult with these authorities was sufficiently known. We have been overwhelmed with telegrams and letters from friends who are anxious to know whether these efforts to secure peace between the established Government of the United States and the unfortunate and misguided people assailing it, have any foundation. *In reply, we have to say that we hope these efforts, whether coming from private individuals or public persons, may succeed.* FOR OUR OWN PART, SLAVERY BEING PRACTICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY ABOLISHED, WE ARE READY TO CONCEDE EVERYTHING ELSE TO RECALL OUR ERRING BRETHREN. On the subject of confiscation, who does not know that many of the leading Republicans in Congress objected to the law, which has been partially and ineffectively enforced? Who does not know that those who have purchased under this law in the city of Washington and elsewhere admit that they have acquired a title, at once give up a law, for the sake of perpetual peace, which all nations in times of war have regarded as temporary? Next comes the Amnesty Proclamation, with all its exceptions as to great offenders. Why not make this general without exception? *Are we afraid of them?* Do we fear their reappearance at the Federal capital? Are we of the free North, every State of which is committed and sworn against slavery—with West Virginia, Maryland, Nevada, and the incoming free Territories—are we afraid to admit any of our countrymen, submitting to the Constitution and obeying the laws, to all the privileges of the American Union? If we are, we are unworthy of the destiny which has been transmitted to us by our fathers and theirs. Or shall we send the rapidly-demoralizing rebel army into Mexico? Shall we allow it to reinforce the minion of LOUIS NAPOLEON, MAXIMILIAN? Shall we hold the position of France after the Revolution, when her expatriated nobility plotted the great conspiracies which undermined the First Consul and contributed to his terrible and final overthrow? Shall we allow the desperate men who may be expelled from the United States, in the event of a sudden peace, to intrigue against the country they once dearly loved, or shall we take them back to meet the free people of the free States of America? Whatever MR. LINCOLN's policy is, whether he is at Fortress Monroe or in the city of Washington, we believe he possesses the sublime attribute of rewarding the friends of the Union, and forgiving all the enemies of the Union who are ready to return to the old flag.

Rival Navies—American and European. Lord CLARENCE PAGET, Parliamentary Secretary of the British Admiralty, himself a naval officer who has seen a great deal of service, is undoubtedly one of the ablest and most practical men in the Palmerston Administration. Although only fifty-three years old, he served in the battle of Navarino, in October, 1827. He commanded the-Princess Royal, of ninety-one guns, in the expedition to the Baltic, in 1854. His administrative power is confessedly great, and it is scarcely too much to say that the Duke of Somerset, nominal head of the Admiralty, is merely a sort of ornamental figure-head to the Navy Department—the Secretary doing the work of head and hand. A short time ago, following what has become a general practice among British publicists, during the period when Parliament is not in session, Lord CLARENCE PAGET made a long speech to his constituents. He represents the borough of Sandwich, a small port in Kent, under the influence of the Government of the day and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. As Lord PALMERSTON is Lord Warden, it may be truly imagined that the Government candidates are always elected. Still, as Sandwich has a constituency, however small, it is entitled to the usual speech from its leading member, who, at all events, must be well assured that it is not to them alone, but to the country at large, that he speaks, through the newspapers which report him.

On the occasion referred to Lord PAGET touched upon two highly important topics: the sailing powers of European iron-clads and the efficiency of the American navy. He glanced at our Monitors and fifteen-inch-bore guns (so much superior to those made by ARMSTRONG and WHITWORTH), but his observations principally referred to the other two subjects. He had the candor to own that, as yet, England and France had not been successful in producing iron-armored vessels with good sea-going capabilities. The Warrior, the Sovereign, and the Black Prince, each of which had the fairest trial in blue-water, performed much beneath expectation, but better than the great French iron-clads, which cannot use their batteries except when the sea is smooth, as they roll dreadfully, even dangerously, in rough weather. They are unwieldy, they are built on poor models, and they steer badly. A couple of our monitors would dispose of half a dozen of them, if ever they crossed the Atlantic.

The present condition of the United States navy elicited the highest compliments from the Secretary of the British Admiralty. The fact that in March, 1861, our navy consisted of only forty-six vessels, and that in December, 1864, it consisted of 671 vessels, with aggregate tonnage of 510,000 tons, and 4,610 guns, was not ignored by Lord CLARENCE. On the contrary, he showed himself thoroughly informed on the subject, for he remarked that if our vessels of war had fewer guns than the British navy, they were generally of greater calibre, and placed in vessels competent to take part in warfare, which the unfortunate "wooden walls" are unfit for. He submitted that a gun which could discharge a ball weighing 450 pounds is worth more than six 68-pounders in the British navy. He expressed his admiration at the ability and perseverance exhibited by our Navy Department, whereby, in less than four years, and under circumstances of the most unusual and embarrassing difficulty, an American navy had been created. Finally, he drew the deduction from this creative ability of ours, significant, also, of vast national resources, that the popular demand by British reformers for a reduction in the naval expenses of England ought not and could not safely be complied with. In a word, he confessed that England had every reason to be alarmed at the increased and increasing naval power of the United States.

Following the idea of this gentleman, the *Daily News*, the fairest and friendliest of the English London journals, devotes some space to elucidate the difference of cost between the naval expenditure in England and the United States. It "points a moral" from what we have done in four years' war—whereby our Admiralty has converted a fourth-class into a first-class naval Power. It says:

"The total amount expended *in the four years* is only about fifty-five millions sterling. In the mere maintenance of a fleet actually existing we have in the same period spent about forty-five millions. Undoubtedly there is a lesson in these figures. It may well startle us to find a first-class naval Power spring into existence at so short a notice, but it is still more calculated to make us ponder when we find that the fleet has been built, manned, maintained on a war footing, occupied in blockading a coast as long as that from Gibraltar to the North Cape, employed in the capture of several strongly fortified ports on the enemy's seaboard, and in carrying on at the same time a war in an inland navigation of many thousand miles, and that all this, subject to the immense disadvantage of compulsory haste, of dislocated commerce, under depreciated currency, has been done for only ten millions more than our own Admiralty have in the same period spent in keeping up a mere peace establishment."

This is plain speaking. To *maintain* the British during the last four years, has cost nearly as much as to *create* the American fleet. In proportion as our naval ability is augmented, it is clear that France and England fall off. England has been deposed from the long-boasted sovereignty of the seas, and it requires no prophet to anticipate by what Power the sceptre shall be held. It is well for the world that with our ample means we are neither ambitious nor aggressive.

A HISTORICAL PICTURE.—A fine picture, which will be of great interest to Pennsylvanians, is now nearly completed, and will soon be published. It is an Isometrical Drawing of the Battle-field of Gettysburg, prepared by Col. J. B. Batchelder, who has been devoting great industry for a long period of time to the undertaking. He has sketched every acre of ground with the utmost fidelity, adding every feature with exactness. The position of every regiment on the field has been laid down and verified by information derived from the commanding officers. This drawing is said to be the first of the kind ever published in this country, and it is considered to have many advantages over a bird's-eye view, distance in nowise diminishing the size of the objects. Generals Meade, Hancock, Doubleday, Howard, and other commanding officers who participated in the battle, have expressed their commendation of Colonel Batchelder's view, as have also Professors Jacobs, Smucker, and others, of Gettysburg. The picture, it is announced, will be ready for delivery to subscribers in about a month from the present time.

PORTRAIT OF GENERAL SHERMAN.—Mr. J. C. Buttre, of New York, has engraved and published a very good portrait of the hero of Atlanta and Savannah, from a photograph by Mr. Anthony, kindly supplied by the original himself. A beautiful and picturesque border, designed by W. Schaubert, adds to the interest of this fine portrait, for it gives views of Buzzard's Roost, Kenesaw Mountain, and the struggle for Atlanta. The size is 19 by 24 inches, and the price is only a dollar. Mr. Skelley, 908 Arch street, is agent for the sale here.

MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 3.—The State Senate passed a resolution yesterday, almost unanimously, directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of calling another State Convention, to revise the Constitution and to make a fundamental law, embodying only general principles, applicable to all times and conditions. The resolution was prefaced with a preamble declaring that the present Convention does not appear to answer the expectations of the loyal people of the State, and that the delegates are wasting their time in fruitless debates and are considering questions for which the public mind is not prepared. The Convention yesterday and to-day was mainly occupied in discussing a motion to strike out the words *white male* in the section of the Constitution detailing the qualifications of voters.

A VALUABLE SACK OF FLOUR.—The famous Sanitary sack of flour, belonging to Mr. Gridley, which was sold and resold in Nevada and California till it reached $165,000, for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission, changed hands twenty-one times at a public auction at the Merchants' Exchange to-day, realizing $3,775 in behalf of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home. The sale will be continued to-morrow, after which the sack will be taken to New York.

REBEL GENERALS GETTING LOYAL.—The Paducah correspondent of the *Democrat* says: The rebel General Chalmers, in a speech made at Corinth in the early part of January, accused General Hood of selling him out. He expressed the opinion that the Confederacy had gone under, and told his men they could do as they pleased; he should have nothing more to do with them, but should quit and try to save the remainder of his property.

It is also stated that the rebel General Morrow sent a message to a personal friend in the army, stating that he had lost all faith in the rebel leaders and wished to surrender himself to the first commander. He is now waiting near Corinth to ascertain what terms will be granted to an officer of his rank voluntarily returning to his allegiance.

NEW ORLEANS.

CAIRO, Feb. 3.—The steamship Henry Ames brings New Orleans dates to the 28th ult.

Admiral Lee and staff had arrived at New Orleans on the flag-ship Black Hawk.

The cotton market was less active; sales of 150 bales at 70c.; good ordinary 73½c.; strict middling 80c. The receipts for the week ending on the 28th were 2,727 bales, and the exports 359 bales. The stock on hand, including on shipboard, amounted to 5,474 bales. Sugars sold at 22¾@22¾c. Molasses $1.05@1.20. Cotton freights to New York 3c.

CANADA.

DELIVERY OF BURLINGH, THE RAIDER, TO THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES.

SUSPENSION BRIDGE, Feb. 3.—Burleigh, the Lake Erie raider, was delivered over to the United States Provost Marshal, at Suspension Bridge, New York, this morning, at 4 o'clock.

THE ALIEN BILL PASSED.

QUEBEC, Feb. 3.—The alien bill was read a third time to-day, and passed the lower House last night, by a vote of 107 yeas to 7 nays.

ACCIDENTS.

FIRE IN NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—A fire in North Adams, Mass., to-day, destroyed Smith's block, the Arcade block, and several wooden buildings. The *News* and telegraph office were destroyed. Several persons were injured. The loss is not stated.

EXPLOSION AT WEYMOUTH, MASS.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—In Weymouth, Mass., yesterday, an explosion took place in the pyrotechnic manufactory of E. S. Hunt, by which three young women were killed and one badly injured.

Legal Proceedings in the Burnside Hill-road Case.

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Notice of a motion has been given for an injunction and the appointment of a receiver in the case of Julius Wadsworth and a minority of the shareholders in the old Galena Railroad vs. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company. The motion is for Monday next.

Movements of Transatlantic Steamers.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—The steamship Africa, from Halifax, arrived at 7 o'clock to-night.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 3.—The steamship Canada sailed at 3.45 P. M. to-day for Liverpool.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

New York, Massachusetts, and West Virginia Ratify the Amendment.

WEST VIRGINIA.

WHEELING, Va., Feb. 3.—The constitutional amendment abolishing slavery in the United States was unanimously ratified by both branches of the West Virginia Legislature to-day.

NEW YORK.

ALBANY, Feb. 3.—The Assembly to-day ratified the amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—Both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature this afternoon unanimously passed the bill ratifying the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery.

MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 3.—The Senate of Maryland to-day passed the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, concurring in the action of the House, as already reported.

CAPTURE OF A PORTION OF MOSEBY'S GANG.

THEIR WRETCHED CONDITION—RAGGED AND FROST-BITTEN.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—A special Baltimore despatch to the *Tribune* says: "The 8 o'clock train last evening from Harper's Ferry brought up one hundred and ten rebel prisoners, who landed at the Relay, and thence went by a special train to Washington. They belonged to Moseby's gang, and were captured during the recent raid upon our lines in the Shenandoah Valley. While General Sheridan was absent on a reconnoissance, they thought to catch our men napping. All of these prisoners were in a wretched condition, and nearly a dozen were so terribly frost-bitten about the feet and legs that they could hardly walk. These 'Johnnies' say they are sick of the war, and are glad to get out of it."

KENTUCKY.

MORE DEPREDATIONS OF GUERILLAS.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 3.—Twenty-six guerillas dashed into Midway last evening, and burned the railroad depot and its contents, the telegraph office, instruments, &c. While the depot was burning they robbed the stores and everybody they met, of watches and money, and then marched north on Versailles pike at full speed. It is reported that this gang was led by Quantrell, Sue Munday, and Magruder, and that they had just previously been driven away from Georgetown by the Federal forces.

NEBRASKA.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 3.—A despatch from Omaha states that a large number of Indians have been hovering around Julesburg for several days, but the garrison was too small to attack them. On Sunday they attacked the fort, burned the telegraph office and stage company's warehouse, containing a large amount of corn, hay, and provisions.

The entire station, consisting of several buildings, was reduced to ashes. A considerable amount of telegraph supplies were destroyed, and an entire train captured, west of Fort Laramie, within a week, by the Cheyennes.

The telegraph being down, the result of the attack on the fort at Julesburg is not yet known.

PEACE.

NEGOTIATION ON THE SHIP JAMES.

Interview between the President and the Rebel Commissioners.

The news of the finale to which all the peace rumors of the past few days have been tending came yesterday. A despatch from Fortress Monroe, dated February 2d, says:

"ALEXANDER H. Stephens, and several others of the rebel peace commissioners, arrived here this afternoon from City Point, in Gen. Grant's special despatch steamer, Mr. Martin, Secretary Seward was here in the steamer River Queen, awaiting their arrival. Immediately upon which both vessels proceeded to an anchorage in the stream side by side, and at this writing, five and a quarter o'clock, as the Louisiana leaves for Baltimore, are still out in the stream."

A Washington despatch, dated yesterday, says that the President and Secretary Seward were then in conference with the rebel commissioners in the stream, confirming the above.

There is in this meeting in the middle of the stream, over and around which the tide of battle has so often rolled, a strange coincidence and a remarkable omen. On the 25th of June, 1807, Napoleon met the Emperors of Russia and Prussia on a raft in the middle of the river Niemen, a short distance below the town of that name, and there concluded the treaty of Tilsit. This treaty put an end to a long, fierce, and bloody war, that had swallowed up gigantic hecatombs of victims. Who knows but that this meeting in the middle of the James may be crowned with the same glorious and blessed results as the memorable meeting in the middle of the Niemen!

Seven States have already ratified the amendment to the Constitution passed by Congress. Yesterday our own Legislature adopted it, and to our State may be added New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Michigan.

WASHINGTON.

ATTORNEYS' FEES PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT.

It appears from an official report of the War Department that the amount of attorneys' fees paid since June last is $23,600, of which $5,000 was paid from the habeas corpus appropriation, and the remainder from the contingencies of the army. $1,000 for the defence of D. J. Pulitzing, marshal for the Southern district of Illinois; to Browning and Bushnell $5,000; to Grimshaw and Williams $500; to John Blackburn $500; to Ewing and Hunter $1,500, in the Edson B. Olds case against Governor Tod; $500 to Thomas S. Alexander, for the defence of General Cameron; $500 to B. F. Hoffman and Henry E. Peage, in the case of Governor Dennison vs. Tod; $500 to H. H. Hunter, in the case of Olds; Edward Pierpont, in the Kohnstam case, received $5,250; John P. Hale $2,000, and John A. Bingham $2,000 in the Hammond case.

REBEL PRISONERS IN WASHINGTON.

Fifty-three rebel officers, captured by SHERMAN, have arrived here from Savannah. They include General G. P. HARRISON, a large number of colonels, majors, &c., and some naval officers. All have been committed to the Old Capitol jail.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS—Second Session.

SENATE.

The House bill for the construction of a ship canal around Niagara Falls was received from the House and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

GRATUITY TO REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

The House bill to pay to the surviving soldiers of the Revolution a gratuity of three hundred dollars each, was read twice and referred to the Committee on Pensions.

THE AMENDMENT TO THE ENROLMENT.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, I move to take up the Senate bill in relation to the enrolment act.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, I move to lay it off that bill will interfere with the unfinished business, which is the joint resolution to exclude the electoral votes of certain States.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts. No, it will not. We can get through with this very easily. The draft cannot come off this month, and it is very important to pass this bill, that it may be made useful to encourage enlistments.

The bill was then taken up.

Mr. HENDRICKS, of Indiana, appealed to Mr. Wilson to postpone the bill to enable Congress to do what is agreed, to and the bill made the special order for to-morrow, at one o'clock.

THE OHIO RIVER BRIDGE.

On motion of Mr. POWELL, of Kentucky, the bill to bridge the Ohio river at Louisville was made the special order for Monday, at one o'clock.

Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported a bill to bridge the Ohio river, at Cincinnati, which was made the special order on Monday next, at one o'clock.

THE PAY OF ARMY CHAPLAINS.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, introduced a bill to increase the pay of army chaplains, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

NAVAL DETECTIVES.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, called up the resolution, offered by him a few days since, calling upon the Secretary of the Navy for information as to the employment of detectives, and whether any instructions were ever issued detailing naval officers to inquire into the matters of any member of Congress, etc., which was passed.

A CLASHING OF WISHES.

Mr. HENDERSON, of Missouri, wished to call up the bill to reimburse Missouri for the expenses incurred in driving out the rebels of that State.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, insisted upon the consideration of his resolution to exclude the electoral votes of certain States in rebellion.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, moved that the unfinished business of yesterday be postponed to the Military Academy bill, and appoint a committee of conference to meet a similar committee from the House, if agreed.

EXCLUSION OF REBEL STATES FROM THE ELECTORAL VOTE.

The joint resolution to exclude the electoral votes of certain States in rebellion was taken up.

The question recurred on Mr. Ten Eyck's motion to strike out the word "Louisiana," so as to exempt that State from the provisions of the resolution.

THE ELECTION IN LOUISIANA.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, took the floor in advance of the question on the amendment. Legal that there had been a fair election in Louisiana.

Mr. WADE. Was it legal that they ordered that election?

Mr. DOOLITTLE. General Banks issued an order inviting the people to go into an election.

Mr. WADE. The committee had held several days, and yet you come and ask to commend?

Mr. DOOLITTLE said he would satisfy the Senator from Ohio on the subject before he got through. He was then interrupted by

Mr. POWELL, who inquired if the military authorities in Louisiana had not issued orders prescribing the qualifications of voters in the state.

Mr. DOOLITTLE replied that the Constitution of the State of Louisiana was adopted on a rule prescribing the qualification of voters, except that the military authorities issued an order allowing the citizens of Louisiana in the United States army and navy to vote. There were only eight hundred and eighty-four votes out of eleven thousand four hundred and fourteen votes cast, and a separate ballot-box was made of those votes.

Mr. Doolittle quoted from General Banks' letter to show that the election in Louisiana was not controlled by Federal office-holders, and that out of the entire vote cast, all the voters but about five hundred were citizens of the State before the war began. He then adverted to the fact that the highest vote ever cast in Louisiana was fifty-one thousand. Of these forty thousand had taken the oath of allegiance, and eleven thousand out of them only equal to the difference between the highest vote and the number that resisted or were conscripted into the rebel army. In reply to the animadversions by Mr. Wade yesterday upon the President's proclamation, Mr. Doolittle said that every person in that State who had been some form of government in these States. If with all, at the point of the bayonet, a State government and take possession of it by military power, some form of government must be established—military, of course. In the first instance the civil government is displaced by the military power. *Inter arma silens leges* is an old maxim. When the people begin to make a fair effort to their loyalty to the Government which thus assumes by military power to put down a insurrection, an attempt may be made to surrender the military power, and to re-establish the civil administration, by the people themselves.

For a time the form of government may be of a certain mixed character, both of the civil and the military power, each leaning upon the other. As the thing progresses and grows still further, the military power can be more and more withdrawn, and still greater trust and authority can be given to the civil administration and the civil officers of the Government. Now, sir, such is the actual state of the case in relation to Louisiana? When we first captured New Orleans, and by our forces took possession of the river and held it, and joining, there could be no government but that of a military character. But, after an experience of one or two years, the people become so well satisfied of the great mistake of going into rebellion against the Government of the United States that they are ready to submit to its authority and jurisdiction that they began to come back to their allegiance to the Government, and were willing to join in the organization of the civil government and resume their relations to the Government of the United States, and accordingly we find that, when asked to do so, eleven thousand four hundred of the loyal citizens of that State join in the organization of a new Constitution, which is submitted to the people and adopted by them, and a Legislature of Louisiana and other officers are chosen by virtue of it, and the whole machinery of civil administration is put in full operation in that State. By virtue of the authority of that Constitution, they now have elected their own Governor and Legislature; they are making municipal laws and regulations for themselves, and their courts are sitting every day in judgment upon the rights of individuals, under the authority of the new Constitution. All the relations of life are being regulated under the authority of this new Constitution. I tell my friend from Ohio (Mr. Wade), that nearly ninety thousand slaves have had their fetters knocked from their limbs, which were not touched by the emancipation proclamation, and their freedom is given by that very Constitution which he would undertake to trample under his feet as a military usurpation, and which he would undertake to set up in the face of this country, when Louisiana presents herself in this attitude as a free State, knocking off the fetters from ninety thousand slaves, which the emancipation proclamation did not reach, and who were expected in it? Can he stand before this country, and deny to Louisiana her right to representation here, her right to be known as one of the free States of this Union in voting upon the constitutional amendment which we have submitted to the States for their ratification?

Mr. WADE. Will the Senator allow me for a moment—

Mr. DOOLITTLE. If he will make his remarks very brief I will yield.

Mr. WADE. Then I say anything.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. That's better still. (Laughter.)

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I can very well understand why the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Powell) is opposed to recognizing this free Constitution of Louisiana. This free Constitution of Louisiana forever abolishes slaves. But I did not expect that the Senator from Ohio would object to it for that reason among others. I expected that Senator from Ohio and the friends of freedom on this floor would take the free States by the hand, as they stand side by side with them, selves here, and welcome them into the family of free States. I did not expect this from the Senator from Kentucky. He is only consistent in this, for he is opposed to emancipation. He is opposed to the adoption of the free Constitution of Louisiana—opposed to allowing Louisiana to vote on the constitutional amendment, which we have just submitted to the States, and whose vote is necessary to its ratification.

It requires, as I am informed, twenty-seven votes of the Legislatures of twenty-seven different States—to ratify the constitutional amendment, and by no conceivable process of reasoning can it be made to appear that they are to be obtained unless you allow the Legislature of Louisiana to vote upon it. Now, I ask the Senate here notice on that subject. Is the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Wade) prepared to prevent that? Go tell it to the free States that we have abolished slavery in the floor of the Senate, the Senator from Ohio, who has been called upon to defend the cause of freedom, now takes a position side by side with the Senator from Kentucky, to denounce as a military usurpation and a miserable fraud the adoption of a free Constitution by the people of Louisiana.

Mr. Doolittle continued further, that what is contained in the President's proclamation about one-tenth of the people of a State forming a civil government was only a statement of what had actually occurred in Tennessee were not states of this Union, how could Mr. Johnson be declared the Vice President of the United States?

Mr. SUMNER called Mr. Doolittle's attention to the fact that the President was not required to be a citizen of a particular State, but only of the United States.

Mr. SHERMAN explained that the question before the Senate was not whether Louisiana was a State in the Union, but whether it was not a State in fact, a State as Ohio. He would be in favor of admitting the Congressional delegation from that State if it was shown that they were elected according to law, but he did not think the electoral vote of any State not represented in Congress should be counted in the joint convention.

Mr. HARRIS, of New York, said that, at the proper time, he would move an amendment which he thought covered the whole subject. It was not in order now, but he would read it, and offer it when it was in order. It declared that:

Whereas, Certain States, Tennessee and Louisiana among others, had been in a state of rebellion against the Government;

And whereas, The President had issued a proclamation authorizing the loyal citizens of such States to form these States;

And whereas, The loyal inhabitants of these States had chosen Presidential electors at the late election, in pursuance of the requirements of the Constitution of the United States;

And whereas, Doubts exist as to the validity of the said elections;

And whereas, It is well understood that the result of the said election in Tennessee and Louisiana will not affect the issue, if it be decided in the affirmative the question of the validity of the election in Tennessee and Louisiana, and that in counting the vote in joint convention the votes of these States will be entitled to count the votes, and as it would be with them, the said votes to be counted or not, as the case may be.

Mr. POWELL, of Kentucky, spoke against the civil government of Louisiana, the President's amnesty proclamation, etc. He replied to some remarks from Mr. Doolittle, he said Herod the King once ordered the slaughter of every first-born child.

Mr. COWAN, of Pennsylvania. Will my friend allow me to correct him?

Mr. POWELL. Certainly.

Mr. COWAN. My reading of the Scriptures is to the effect that Herod commanded the slaughter of children under two years old, and not of the first born (laughter).

Mr. POWELL. Well, I don't know about that, but I think I am right. (Laughter.) But my friend the reporter will correct it, and he will put it down as it is in text. (Laughter.)

The question on Mr. Ten Eyck's amendment to strike out "Louisiana" was taken and decided in the negative, by the following vote:

YEAS.			
Cowan,	Harris,	Pomeroy,	
Dixon,	Howell,	Ramsay,	
Doolittle,	Lane (Ind.),	Ten Eyck,	
Foster,	Lane (Kansas),	Wade,	
Harlan,	Nesmith.	Willey—15.	
NAYS.			
Brown,	Henderson,	Sprague,	
Buckalew,	Howard,	Stewart,	
Clark,	Johnson,	Sumner,	
Collamer,	Morgan,	Thomson,	
Conness,	Morrill,	Wade,	
Davis,	Powell,	Wilkinson,	
Foster,	Saulsbury,	Wright—23.	
Henderson,	Sherman,		

So the Senate refused to exempt Louisiana from the list of States whose electoral votes shall not be counted.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, moved to amend the joint resolution by striking out the preamble, which was adopted—yeas 12, nays 20.

Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, offered the amendment as a substitute, declaring that the people of no State declared to be in insurrection shall be qualified to choose Presidential electors until the insurrection shall be suppressed, or until said State shall be represented in Congress.

Mr. HARRIS, of New York, offered as an amendment to Mr Collamer's amendment, the proposition referred to by Mr. Wade in his report, and upon his motion the adoption demanded the yeas and nays—yeas 12, nays 31. So the Senate refused to adopt it. The amendment of Mr. Collamer was then adopted.

Mr. TRUMBULL said it went too far, and was too sweeping. It left it in the power of the President to prevent the casting of the vote of any State by simply declaring the State to be in insurrection. He hoped the Senate would not pass the amendment.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland, hoped Mr. Collamer's substitute would be voted down, and that the resolutions, as reported by Mr. Trumbull, would be adopted.

Mr. COLLAMER explained his proposition.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, said it was his intention to vote for the admission of the Senators from Louisiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas, whenever they presented themselves. If Mr. Collamer's proposition or his amendment would affect this question?

Mr. COLLAMER replied that it would not. He did not believe any law was necessary to enable the States now in rebellion to resume their relations to the Government.

Mr. POMEROY, of Kansas, asked Mr. Collamer if he would receive Senators from States with which commercial intercourse is prohibited.

Mr. COLLAMER replied that he would admit Senators from any State whose civil government had been recognized.

Mr. COWAN, of Pennsylvania, expressed the opinion that the President's proclamation was probably tenable a State of treason in its relations to the Government. The President had issued his proclamation of amnesty in consequence of insurrection in certain States, when that insurrection ceased, the provisions of the proclamation had no further reference to the State of Texas, which had ceased to be a State in rebellion.

Mr. JOHNSON said if the rebels threw down their arms to-morrow they would be in the Union, and we had no right to declare them out of the Union. Now, while in the Union, in a very singular condition, he thinks existed. The President sends a very respectable citizen of Tennessee down to know upon what the insurrection shall cease upon the part of disloyal States. What did he do? He is said to have returned.

While there he was interviewed and asked have rebel authorities. He goes back again in a Government vessel. He reports that he had an interview with the President. What was the result of the interview we do not know, but we can speculate on it. Suppose he has informed the President of the United States that the rebels are willing to lay down their arms and come back into the Union at once; that they are willing to admit that slavery is either actually abolished by the Proclamation, or practically so, and that to the extent that our armies have gone, and that they are willing to leave the decision of the effect of the proclamation over such portion of the slaves as have become into the possession of the military authorities to the courts. Suppose the President has agreed to that. Suppose they are willing further to assent to any constitutional amendment as to slavery that may be agreed upon by the President and the rebels, to carry out war one hour after such terms are complied with. Every man that fled in battle, after such terms, to return on these conditions, would be murdered wilfully.

After some further remarks by Mr. Johnson, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and resumed the appropriation bill.

A PROPOSED BOARD OF ADMIRALTY.

Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, spoke in favor of his amendment, proposing the establishment of a Board of Admiralty. We had international terms of equality and have accounts with other nations to adjust when this war is over, and because we should be prepared to add to the strength of our vessels and guns, nor persuaded by newspaper articles into the belief that we are a great sea-faring and sea-fighting people, because we have blown judgment, nor hastily drawn, but was prepared after deliberation and consultation with the first officers of the navy.

Mr. SPAULDING, of Ohio, in response to a remark, said the Committee on Naval Affairs had considered a bill to establish a Board of Admiralty, but had concluded to report unfavorably.

Mr. DAVIS, resumed, said that when he saw a purpose to smother that bill he moved his amendment. The navy department was a bureau of the Navy Department. For years, been made under the auspices of the Secretary of the Navy and his irresponsible assistant secretary, who is called the actual Secretary of the Navy. The result is, we are taught to believe we are a great naval Power.

OUR NAVAL FORCE—THE RECORD OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Mr. DAVIS proceeded to examine our naval force. While it was officially stated that we have six hundred and seventy-one vessels, and two thousand three hundred and twenty-five guns, he believed that if we have only one hundred and thirty-two vessels and one thousand and sixty-nine guns to effectually engage with any foreign naval Power if war were declared tomorrow. He condemned the double-enders, the machinery of which he was informed, was found to be useless of other vessels in a contest with a first-class Power. He was a member of Congress, he adhered to the idea of the unity of the Executive, surrounding him with responsible advisers, without whose concurrence no law, no appointment, no appropriation. And this board, he proposed, shall be headed by Vice Admiral Farragut. Such a board has been thought in existence, we should have been saved from the mortification of seeing our flag in the cotton. He concluded remarks he said: In the contest of the Monitor and the Merrimac it was a drawn battle. Nobody was whipped. Forty-two millions assuming naval officers and directing the opinion of professional men, the Department, taking the model of the Monitor, a cheese-box with two guns, has expended thirteen millions of dollars on that type of vessel. The Department had smoothed over its failure in contracts, and had wasted the public money in its wasteful experiment.

Mr. RICE, of Massachusetts, said the gentleman was most unfortunate in the amendment he had submitted to this bill, which was nothing more nor less than that this Congress and the Navy Department shall throw away all the teachings of experience at home and abroad, and by taking a retrograde step, place our navy where nearly a century ago it was. The Committee on Naval Affairs several days ago asked leave to report a bill and have it printed, accompanied by a mass of documentary evidence on the subjects referred to by the gentleman, but the House refused the request. The committee had held several meetings and examined all the facts and statements with a view to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to take the true from the absolutely false. He then proceeded to state the reasons why the committee had concluded to report against a Board of Admiralty, quoting British authority to show that such a board in that country was not only unpopular among the people, but was irresponsible, uncertain, and inefficient to provide for all the exigencies of war. Speakers in Parliament had condemned the measure in magnificent language, and had condemned it as a utter failure. In France a better system is followed, and there there is the element of responsibility.

Mr. Rice alluded to the present form of organization of the Navy Department, by which the chief of a bureau is directly responsible to the head of the Department, who is not hampered by the difficult action of a board of admiralty. The same proposal for the adoption of a board had been tried here over and over again, and had been cast aside because it had proved inefficient, irresponsible, and uncertain. The gentleman had a double purpose, for he had discussed but for a short time his proposition, and had spent at least an hour in discussing the faults and failures of the navy.

Mr. Rice said it was not necessary to remind the House that when the rebellion broke out the insurgents had possession of the country from the Chesapeake to the Rio Grande, and that they had the navy yard, stores, yards, one of them, the Norfolk, the most important of all, at the time, with numerous ships, besides more than two thousand pieces of heavy ordnance. The entire navy at it at time consisted of forty-six vessels, one half of them out of service, and only twenty-three fit for service—nearly all of the latter being on squadron service abroad, and only four of them being at hand for home service.

He then proceeded to show that the Secretary of the Navy, recognizing the necessity of the case, had offered the most effective vessels to meet the instant requirements of the war. Starting with four vessels only at the commencement of the war, the number was increased in nine months to 26; the next year to between 200 and 300; the year following to 600; and at the end of the fourth year to 671. The vessels built were not built on one plan and size, but from time to time, as the gentleman had stated, but for different branches of the naval service. Commissions had been sent abroad from time to time, and other means taken to ascertain the best way of capturing certain points, and to use as to the construction of vessels and machinery. He said the history of the world does not show such a gigantic performance in constructing a navy as is exhibited in our country. We have effected reforms in ships and ordnance, and by the embodiment of the American idea in building monitor vessels different from those found in any other part of the globe, we had achieved the most brilliant of victories in the navy. He replied at length to Mr. Davis' strictures on the navy.

Three hours and a half were consumed by Mr. Davis and Mr. Rice by their speeches, when the committee rose and the House adjourned.

THE DRAFT.

GOVERNOR CURTIN'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.

Protest Against the State Credit as Fixed by Provost Marshal General Fry.

Three-years Service or One-year Service, Visionary Elements in a Calculation of the Quota.

The Draft Laws, Founded on Reason, totally Disregarded by the Draft Officials.

FACTS, FIGURES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND ARGUMENTS.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
HARRISBURG, Jan. 26, 1865.

To the President:

SIR: The act of the 3d of March, 1863, commonly called the enrolment act, provided (section 4) that, for the purposes of the act, each Congressional district of the respective States should form a district, and (section 11) that all persons enrolled should be subject to be called into the military service of the United States, and to continue in service during the present rebellion, not, however, exceeding the term of three years; and further, (section 12), that in assigning to the districts the number of men to be furnished therefrom, the President should take into consideration the number of volunteers and militia by and from the several States in which said districts were situated, and the period of their service since the commencement of the rebellion, and should so make said assignments as to equalize the numbers among the districts of the several States, considering and allowing for the numbers already furnished as aforesaid, and the time of their service. The time of actual service which by this act you were directed to consider and allow for, could not, without impracticable labor, (or, indeed, at all), be fixed with exactitude for each district, but it could easily have been so approximated by averages that little, if any, practical injustice would have been done. The comm