

Profitable Investments. The Philadelphia North American gives some excellent advice to those who wish to invest money. It is worth to all who are in funds to heed the counsel. "Though money has been temporarily scarce, capital continues abundant, and the recent tumble in the stock market has brought capitalists to a realizing sense of the unreliable character of many of the securities dealt in. It is greatly to the credit of the Government that its loans, of all the securities daily dealt in, have maintained their integrity of price better than almost anything else. Its Five-Twenty year certificates, the interest on which is promptly paid in gold, has been subjected to, all through the pressure in the money market, at an average of more than two millions per day. And what is not the least gratifying fact in connection with the daily large subscriptions to this popular loan, scarcely any of it is returned to the market for sale. It is taken for investment, and its sale is conducted with confidence in its security. And why should it not be? After two years of the most gigantic war that the world has ever known, experience no difficulty in commanding the necessary money to prosecute it, or in paying regularly the interest in gold as it falls due. If this can be done while the war is being waged, who can anticipate any difficulty in readily accomplishing it when the war shall be ended? What better investment, then, for capital, than the "Five Twenty" Government loan? But if any doubt, let him refer to the statistics furnished by the census tables of the various nations of the world. The facts which they present will prove the most satisfactory mode of dispelling the numberless gloomy apprehensions which are being continually conjured up by those who are disposed to exaggerate the extent of the calamity occasioned by our rebellion. A reference to the state of the most prosperous nations of the old world clearly improves such a position, and shows that the highest condition of national advancement have not been nationally affected by the extended wars in which those nations have been honorably engaged, and that a heavy national indebtedness has not proved an insurmountable evil.

For instance, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands will undoubtedly be considered to represent the highest prosperity that has been attained by any of the European nations. And yet no nations have been called upon to endure longer or more prolonged wars, domestic and foreign, than they. The effect has been, unquestionably, to incur an enormous national indebtedness; but neither their wars nor their indebtedness have had the effect to destroy their elasticity, nor to check the progress of the general prosperity. The result would have been different, probably, if these nations had been taken into decay, instead of being, as they really were, in a state of development; and in this respect their case resembles our own, with enormous advantages in our favor. These nations, while undergoing the trials of war, were oppressed by the evils of an immense exodus of their people, caused by the density of their population, the impossibility to provide occupation for them, the low price of labor, and the scarcity of territory. Compared with our own country, they possessed slight room for future development; they were settled in every part, and no vast territory lay invitingly open to encourage enterprise and settlement.

Their great problem has ever been what to do with their surplus population, which, in its turn, has sought new fields for adventure and self-support in countries like our own, where an illimitable territory waits to be developed, and whose inexhaustible resources invite industry and energy. The encouragement to be derived from these facts and comparisons of circumstances is very great, and to the mind of any dispassionate reasoner is conclusive that the course of this great country is onward and upward, and that its credit will live unimpaired to the end.

Whence Came the Right?
Where did President Lincoln derive the power to order the enlistment of the negro slaves in Maryland, which is now proclaimed to be a loyal State? Where does he get the authority to pay three hundred dollars for each enlisted slave, out of the public funds? Moreover, who invested him with the right to decide who is or who is not loyal? Congress—not even that Congress which was so wicked as to enact that his unconstitutional decrees should be the law of the land—delegated to him so much power. The broad, convenient plea of military necessity covers these great outrages, as it has done many others before. Truly, Mr. Lincoln is mightier than the Czar.—[N. Y. News.

The emancipation of the Serfs in Russia is said to be no sham, but a great and notable reality, by which nearly forty millions of the people are raised from a condition closely akin to slavery, to the level of free men of other civilized states.—[American.

This, it seems, is what the present Administration is trying to do in this country.—Russia frees the Serfs and enslaves the Poles. Lincoln and his co-workers, are endeavoring to free the negroes and enslave the whites.—[Butler Herald.

On the Late Washington Wedding.
The match was a regular grasshopper match. That could not by law be stayed; His offer a legal tender was, And she was the tender maid (made.)

The statistics of the United Moravian Church, show that the total communicants in the three provinces is 13,321, and the whole number of souls 21,253. The Continental (European) provinces have 77,416 souls; the Foreign Missions have 77,416 converts; there are therefore, in all, under the religious instruction of the United Fraternity, 177,000 persons.

A pig nearly devoured a young child who had strayed into a field near the school, and, after eating there, The child died from the sympathy.



The Messenger.
WATKINSBURG, VA.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9, 1863.

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1864.
GEN. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN.
(Subject to the Decision of the Democratic National Convention.)

"While the army is fighting, you as citizens see that the war is prosecuted for the preservation of the Union and the Constitution, and of your nationality and your rights as citizens."
—GEO. B. McCLELLAN.

To Our Patrons.
The coming Court week will afford a good opportunity for those indebted to us to make payment. We are in need of pecuniary help. A little from each one will relieve us from present embarrassments, and will not distress the pockets of our creditors.

Editorial Life.
The trials, cares and vexations of a newspaper editor are known only to the poor devil whose misfortune it is to fill the position. Having to cater to the tastes of thousands of people, all of different notions as to what constitutes a readable paper, complaints come up to him from all quarters. Some want more news,—others more politics,—others more poetry and a heart-breaking love story every week,—others more agricultural matter,—others tulle reports of the markets, including the prices that pigs, poultry and bullocks bring in all the cities between the two oceans,—and others want—well, the good Lord only knows what, for they don't seem to know themselves. Some praise, but many blame, and keep up an incessant growling and fault-finding. The Editor is too "weak at the knees," or "too radical," or too much for "war," too much for "peace," or too this or too that. So it goes from week to week, and he has scarcely a patron who don't think he could make an infinitely better and more interesting paper. From our heart we wish these grumblers could "take a turn" at the pen and scribble awhile. If their experience, however brief, of the "ease with which the thing is done," didn't clip the wings of their conceit, nothing would. Besides being a most perplexing business, it is a comparatively thankless one. Perhaps no class of men are paid less for wear and tear of body and mind than political Editors; and after toiling and worrying for country and party till old age overtakes them, they are turned out, like broken-down stage horses, to die and rot, "thrust finally in the earth to be forgotten." A life of kicks, and cuffs, and curses, and an old age of poverty, are the almost invariable rewards of his labor and brain-cudgelling. In ninety-nine instances out of a hundred, mercenary place-hunters and time-serving demagogues reap the harvest which springs from the seed of his planting. If they can use him to subserve their ambitious and self-seeking ends, they do so, and they do it as long as they can, and when they attain their objects, are alike careless of his fate and interest. He is an "excellent good fellow" as long as he can serve them; but the day he denies or falls them, is the day of his doom, so far as they are concerned. The ingratitude of office-hunting politicians has passed into a proverb, and is a not less distinguishing characteristic of the venal crew than their unscrupulousness and chicanery. But for the kind consideration of a large class of his readers who remember him in a substantial way, give him encouraging words, and show some just and intelligent appreciation of his labors, embarrassments, perplexities and annoyances, the newspaper Editor would find his post untenable, and his tasks and cares intolerable. This class of his patrons constitute his support and reliance, and without them he would about as soon be a "dog and bay the moon" as a country Editor.

It is all-important to the successful termination of the present war that it should be prosecuted for the single purpose of restoring the Union. That is all the Conservative man want or ask, and that they have insisted on from the beginning and will to the end.—They ask it because it is right, and because it is indispensable to harmony of sentiment and action here at the North. If a contemptible faction of fanatical politicians, like the radical Abolitionists, are to have full swing, and to mould and direct the entire war policy of the Administration, it is but natural that it should breed dissensions and result in disaster. These have been the legitimate and bitter fruits of the control these anti-slavery zealots have obtained of the Federal authorities, and will continue to embarrass a cause which would otherwise have the hearty support of every class and party. It is to be hoped the Administration will yet open its eyes to the folly of listening to the counsels of these real enemies of the country.

Judge Agnew took his rest on the Supreme Bench on the 1st Monday of this month.

Jefferson Davis said at the beginning of the war, "All the Southern blood that will be shed in this war, I can hold in the hollow of my hand." Jefferson was badly mistaken.

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The New York Herald warns the public to prepare for a financial revision, and not to be deluded by tricks of speculators. It advises to buy no more stocks, and sell out as fast as possible. Generals Grant and Meade will mow down both the bulls and the rebellion.

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And a position of honor for adding that the "war power" for morals are likely to be improved by the "Republican" impertinences of vicious examples.

The Democratic Creed.
The Clearfield Republican says: "Whether slavery is right or wrong, of divine or evil origin, the Democratic party have ever held, as they now hold, that we of the North have no right to meddle with it in the States where it exists. There never was any controversy on this point between the old Whig and Democratic parties, nor between the Democratic and Republican parties until the latter was baptized into the Abolition church by the present Jacobin Administration. No Democrat of the free States cares whether slavery lives or dies. All they ask is for each State to be left free to manage this, with their other domestic institutions, in their own way, as secretly guaranteed to them by the Constitution; and for the general government to keep this covenant in good faith 'in times of war,' as Webster said, 'in times of peace, and at all times.'"

Civil War Averted.
The Albany Evening Journal, an Abolition paper, says "the danger of civil war in the North is averted in the late elections."—"The meaning of which is, had the Democrats succeeded by the ballot, the administration and its minions would have made the attempt to put them down by the bayonet, thereby inaugurating civil war, rather than to yield up the political power which they possess. We ask Democrats and all moderate men to reflect upon this.

Where Millard Fillmore Stands.
The Louisville Journal, alluding to the fact of ex-President Fillmore, Judge N. K. Hall and Washington Hunt support the Democratic party, says: "Wherever in the conflict their snow-white plumes are seen, the Old Line Whigs of the Empire State will rally, followed by the sympathies of their loyal brethren in all parts of the Republic."

The Radicals Baste in Missouri.
The action of the Senate of Missouri to hold the proposition of the Radicals to amend an election for a new Constitutional Convention is defeated, so far as the present Legislature is concerned. A motion last week to suspend the rules for the second reading of the bill that had been presented in the Senate, not only did not receive the requisite two-thirds vote, but failed to get a majority. The Radical leaders are checkmated at every step.

A rebel is one who revolts against the Constitution and the laws of his country.—The man who says the Union as it was shall not be restored if he can prevent it, and the Constitution as it is shall not be preserved, and the laws as they stand shall not be enforced, is a rebel and a traitor. We care not whether his name is Howell Cobb or Chas. Sumner, Jeff Davis or Thad Stevens, whether he lives in Washington or in Richmond.—[Allentown Democrat.

Every sensible man and true patriot will accept the definition of the Democrat.

In the late elections the Democrats polled 1,488,000 votes; about 100,000 more than they polled for President in 1860. This is done in spite of all intimidation and every adverse circumstance. One million and a half! These, according to the Republicans, are all sympathizers with the rebellion. If they tell the truth, it is a sorry showing for the government; if it be a lie, as they know it is, it is a still more sorry showing for all the morality.

The property of the late Senator Douglas, at Chicago, known as Cottage Grove, was sold on Saturday last, on a mortgage foreclosure. The estate sold embraced about 60 acres, on which there was an indebtedness, principal and interest, of \$83,963. The prices realized fell far short of the real value, the bulk of the property being bought in by the mortgagee.

A Democratic contemporary complains that whenever an Abolition traitor comes to his place to make a speech he invariably begins by informing the audience that he has been a Democrat. We suppose the scoundrel does that to make it appear that sometime in his life he has been in good company.—Though he dies, he is not destitute of an ambition to appear respectable.

The motto of the Democracy is, "The Union must and shall be restored." The motto of the Republicans is, "The Union cannot and shall not be restored." Democrats say that it is patriotism to try to save the Union. Vice-President Hamlin says it is "demagoguism to want the Union back."

The Radical papers exult over the defeat of "Tuttle, the Copperhead," who was the Democratic candidate for Governor in Iowa. As Mr. Tuttle is a Brigadier General under Grant, winning victories for the Union, the justice of this epithet is not apparent. In plain language, its use in such a connection is infamous.

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What the War Power is.
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Taking the Clock to Pieces.
Artemus Ward relates that once, when hard pressed for something to eat, and without a cent in his pocket, he stopped at a farm house, and, pretending to understand clock mending, took the farmer's clock to pieces, ate his dinner, and then, not knowing how to put it together again, complained of dizziness, took a walk into the open air, and forgot to return. In continuation of his narrative, he says:—"Those politicians who want to work to take the Union clock to pieces to get their dinners, never meant to put it together again. They have stolen their dinner, but they will not restore the clock."

How true this is. The miserable bunglers have taken the Union clock to pieces, and now, if they would, could not put it together again in as good running order as they found it. But they do not even wish to do it—they make no effort. They were in a hurry to work the mischief—they are in none to try to repair it. It was easy work to take out the pins and screws and separate the parts.—Two years ago, says the Buffalo Courier, the politicians North and South had a jubilant time together at the old clock. They could not do their infernal work quickly enough.—"Without a little blood-letting," said Zack Chandler, of Michigan, "this Union will not, in my estimation, be worth a curse." "Let the Union slide," said others of the black-hearted gang. And those who foresaw the consequences of their perfidious efforts were "weak, womanly Union-savers," of whom Massachusetts Wilson said scoldingly: "This sitting up with the Union does not pay expenses." And so, piece by piece, wheel by wheel, they took the Union clock to pieces.

The Southern rebels who took part in the operations have made nothing by it, but the Northern disunionists, including office-holders of all grades, civil and military, contractors, &c., &c., are now "dining" gluttonously at the nation's expense. And the country has the broken, disjointed "clock" upon its hands which the radical quacks in clock-mending never meant, and never meant to put together again. And, strange as it may seem, the only "loyal" and "unconditional Union" men now in the country are the bogus clock-menders.—[Harrisburg Union.

No Hope for a Restoration of the Union, under Abolition Rule.
The platform of the Union men of Louisiana, who are endeavoring to restore that State to her old position in the Union, is neither the ordinance of secession, nor the rebellion of the people, nor the military state of things which now exists, has in the least changed the status of Louisiana as a sovereign State, but that, when relieved from the military power she will again move in her accustomed orbit, with her constitutional and political rights untouched and her laws unchanged. This, it will be at once perceived, is in direct antagonism to the "State suicide" doctrine, and neither the President nor Congress can much longer avoid committing themselves to the one policy or the other.—As this is the democratic theory, we have little hope that Mr. Lincoln will adopt it.—The Washington Chronicle, which assumes to be the organ of Presidential ideas, says of these men: "They are for the 'Constitution,' and affirm that the rebellion did not alter it or invalidate any of its benefits. But this is no loyalty to the Union and the country. It is Copperheadism of the Wood-Valley stamp."

Loyalty to the Constitution and the Union is not here for the first time defined to be "copperheadism," and such copperheadism any true patriot may well rejoice in. If Louisiana shall not be admitted on these terms, no man hereafter can possibly mistake or misconstrue the objects of the war. We shall know whether we are fighting to suppress the rebellion, or to conquer territory and abolish slavery in a foreign country.—[Banner.

McClellan's Report.
General Meade's report of the operations of the Army of the Potomac, from the time of the superseding of Hooker to the disappearance of the enemy from the soil of Pennsylvania and Maryland, in July, has been published at Washington. Now let the official report of General McClellan, detailing the operations of the same army, against the same adversary, in 1862, see the light, in order that a comparison may be instituted as to the relative merits of the two campaigns. The report belongs to the American people, and to American history. It is withheld from its rightful owners by the Secretary of War for no known reason. Some equivocating excuses have been made for its non-publication—such as the cost of printing so lengthy a document—but all of these excuses are mere fustian. There are many enterprising newspapers and publishing houses that would pay liberally for the use of the report. The Department has not hesitated to place before the public the official record of the battles and military enterprises of other Generals—has not hesitated to disseminate every kind of "testimony" against McClellan—but it refuses to let him be heard in so much of a vindication as the recital of the principal features of his campaigns would embrace.—This may be honorable, just and proper, but at any rate it is provoking to those who have an anxiety to see what Gen. McClellan says.—[St. Louis Republican.

Independent Democrat Elected Mayor of New York.
New York, Dec. 1.—The election to-day has passed off quietly. The following is the vote for Mayor: Real, regular Democrat, 28,981; Real, regular Union, 19,499; Genuine, Independent Democrat, 24,085. Ganther is elected.

The True Policy.
We have said from the very commencement of this bloody and exhausting civil war that the sword alone could not conquer such a peace as wise and patriotic men desire.—Peace without a restored Union and fraternal relations would be but a miserable mockery, transitory and delusive. While armed rebellion exists, the sword is necessary as a means to suppress it; but while alone it may suppress it, alone it cannot restore and hold the government as it was before the contest began. It cannot eradicate the bad feelings, the intense hatred engendered by the strife. For that purpose conciliation must be used, and a just line of policy pursued—a policy not of exasperation, but of reconciliation. Without this, all the blood spilled and treasure expended, all the toil and suffering endured, will have been in vain—for by the sword alone no Republican government can be maintained—that must rest upon the fraternal feelings of the people and a just sense of mutual obligations and mutual forbearance.—[Patriot and Union.

Coercion of Soldiers' Votes.
If citizen soldiers could vote without restraint, and under the influences which affect their fellow-citizens, there would be no hesitation about leaving to them the choice of officials in civil life. But they are not allowed to choose their own officers, much less to vote unconstrainedly for civil officers. Here is an example of how the system works in practice:

In Louisville, at the Exchange Barracks, an Ohio regiment was stationed at the time of the Ohio election. The vote of this regiment was 308 for Brough and 2 for Vallandigham. Mr. Farlow, a well known citizen of defiance county, Ohio, was one of the voters for Vallandigham. Read his story:

At the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m., I went to the place appointed for the Ohio soldiers to vote. Royal Taylor, the State agent, officiated. I asked if they had any Democratic tickets. They said they had not. I had a ticket in my pocket, neatly folded, on purpose for the occasion. I handed it to one of the officers. The man who put the tickets into the box had it in his hand the last I saw of it. I started back to the hospital. I got part way back, when an officer caught me and took me back into the office, and said:—"There is another man that voted for Vallandigham." They took us down to the barracks and put us in the guard house. We were summoned to appear before a court-martial about 10 o'clock that night. The charge against me was, voting for Vallandigham. I plead guilty to the charge; I wrote my defense and was then taken back to prison, and have been kept there ever since.

"Thou art the Man."
Jack Hale, in a speech in Manchester, last week, asked, in the voice of the Bull of Bashan—"where is the man who is such a dastardly coward that he will not sacrifice friends, property, and even life itself in the present great struggle with the rebellion?" We answer, as Nathan said to David—"Thou art the man." Years ago, in the Senate, Hale declared that if the conflict ever came, he should be found upon the battle-field, musket in hand; and for twenty years he has labored to bring the country into a state of disunion and civil war. And now that his labors have been successful and his ardent desires realized, he shows himself just the "dastardly coward" he inquires for. He has made no sacrifice of friends, property or life, unless it is of some fourth cousin to his wife; and no sacrifice will be voluntarily made in a war of his own creating. On the contrary, he is making money out of it, as most of the Abolition demagogues are; and as long as he and they can enjoy fat offices and grow rich out of the war, they will not allow it to come to an end. To them, peace would be political ruin, and therefore they urge on the war, oppose all idea of peace, and denounce all as "dastardly cowards" who follow their example in refusing to sacrifice friends, property and life in a war for the abolition of slavery, the destruction of the Union and the ruin of the country.—[New Hampshire Patriot.

The Next Election.
We do not think there is much "ridiculous presumption" in saying that the Democracy mean to control the next Presidential election. With 254,000 untried to start with in Pennsylvania, over 300,000 in New York, 187,000 in Ohio, besides a half million or more certain in the other "loyal" States, it strikes us that the idea is by no means far-fetched or presumptuous. So far from thinking so, without regard to the number of "nocks" that the administration may consign to the halber between this and the next Presidential election, we repeat the declaration that the Democracy mean to control the next Presidential election, and that Mr. Abraham Lincoln's term will expire on the 4th of March, 1865, by limitation of the Constitution and the consent of the people.

If we had any doubt of this, we should feel sadder to-day than we do, being well convinced that the continuance in power of the present administration, or party, must necessarily result in the destruction of the republic. We hazard nothing in expressing this opinion.

The decrees of God are immutable—and He has decreed that the reign of the wicked shall be short.—[Patriot and Union.

There is a Bostonian in Washington—a quondam member of the firm of Lawrence & Co., who has piled up the snug little sum of five hundred thousand dollars within two years, as he acknowledges, out of his Government contracts.

Congress met on Monday last.

The Home Journal for 1864.—New Series.—New Features.—New Type.
The Home Journal, published by the Home Journal Co., No. 107 Nassau St., N. Y., is a very fine paper, and contains a large amount of valuable information. It is published weekly, and is sold at the rate of \$6.00 per year, or one copy for three cents. For a club of six copies, \$12, and, at that rate, for a larger club—ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

Those who wish to begin with the new volume, will please send their subscriptions at once. Address, MORRIS & WILLIS, Editors & Proprietors, 107 Nassau St., N. Y.

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If citizen soldiers could vote without restraint, and under the influences which affect their fellow-citizens, there would be no hesitation about leaving to them the choice of officials in civil life. But they are not allowed to choose their own officers, much less to vote unconstrainedly for civil officers. Here is an example of how the system works in practice:

In Louisville, at the Exchange Barracks, an Ohio regiment was stationed at the time of the Ohio election. The vote of this regiment was 308 for Brough and 2 for Vallandigham. Mr. Farlow, a well known citizen of defiance county, Ohio, was one of the voters for Vallandigham. Read his story:

At the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m., I went to the place appointed for the Ohio soldiers to vote. Royal Taylor, the State agent, officiated. I asked if they had any Democratic tickets. They said they had not. I had a ticket in my pocket, neatly folded, on purpose for the occasion. I handed it to one of the officers. The man who put the tickets into the box had it in his hand the last I saw of it. I started back to the hospital. I got part way back, when an officer caught me and took me back into the office, and said:—"There is another man that voted for Vallandigham." They took us down to the barracks and put us in the guard house. We were summoned to appear before a court-martial about 10 o'clock that night. The charge against me was, voting for Vallandigham. I plead guilty to the charge; I wrote my defense and was then taken back to prison, and have been kept there ever since.

"Thou art the Man."
Jack Hale, in a speech in Manchester, last week, asked, in the voice of the Bull of Bashan—"where is the man who is such a dastardly coward that he will not sacrifice friends, property, and even life itself in the present great struggle with the rebellion?" We answer, as Nathan said to David—"Thou art the man." Years ago, in the Senate, Hale declared that if the conflict ever came, he should be found upon the battle-field, musket in hand; and for twenty years he has labored to bring the country into a state of disunion and civil war. And now that his labors have been successful and his ardent desires realized, he shows himself just the "dastardly coward" he inquires for. He has made no sacrifice of friends, property or life, unless it is of some fourth cousin to his wife; and no sacrifice will be voluntarily made in a war of his own creating. On the contrary, he is making money out of it, as most of the Abolition demagogues are; and as long as he and they can enjoy fat offices and grow rich out of the war, they will not allow it to come to an end. To them, peace would be political ruin, and therefore they urge on the war, oppose all idea of peace, and denounce all as "dastardly cowards" who follow their example in refusing to sacrifice friends, property and life in a war for the abolition of slavery, the destruction of the Union and the ruin of the country.—[New Hampshire Patriot.

The Next Election.
We do not think there is much "ridiculous presumption" in saying that the Democracy mean to control the next Presidential election. With 254,000 untried to start with in Pennsylvania, over 300,000 in New York, 187,000 in Ohio, besides a half million or more certain in the other "loyal" States, it strikes us that the idea is by no means far-fetched or presumptuous. So far from thinking so, without regard to the number of "nocks" that the administration may consign to the halber between this and the next Presidential election, we repeat the declaration that the Democracy mean to control the next Presidential election, and that Mr. Abraham Lincoln's term will expire on the 4th of March, 1865, by limitation of the Constitution and the consent of the people.

If we had any doubt of this, we should feel sadder to-day than we do, being well convinced that the continuance in power of the present administration, or party, must necessarily result in the destruction of the republic. We hazard nothing in expressing this opinion.

The decrees of God are immutable—and He has decreed that the reign of the wicked shall be short.—[Patriot and Union.

There is a Bostonian in Washington—a quondam member of the firm of Lawrence & Co., who has piled up the snug little sum of five hundred thousand dollars within two years, as he acknowledges, out of his Government contracts.

Congress met on Monday last.

Latest from Knoxville.—Longstreet Defeated, retreating into Virginia.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 2.—The following was received last evening: "Major General Halleck, General-in-Chief: Gen. Palmer reports that Johnson's division, 14th corps, surprised A. P. Stewart's division last night, and took four guns, two caissons and many prisoners. Gen. Hooker reports his arrival at Ringgold at 9 a. m. to-day. He found the road strewn with caissons, limbers and ambulances. He commenced skirmishing with the enemy at 11 o'clock, a. m., in the railroad pass or gap near Ringold. About one-half of General Osterhaus' division and one-third of General Geary's division engaged and forced the enemy to abandon the position he had taken in the passes. Both divisions suffered severely, the enemy making an obstinate resistance. On the morning of the 24th I sent Col. Long, commanding the second brigade of the second cavalry division, across the South Chickamauga to make raids on the East Tennessee and Georgia railroads. He returned this evening, bringing two hundred and fifty prisoners, and reports that he has destroyed the railroad from Lynn's station to the Hiwassee, and ten miles south-west of Cleveland. He also destroyed eighty wagons and large quantities of commissary stores and other supplies at Cleveland. The prisoners we have taken since the 23d will not sum up more than five thousand.

[Signed] GEO. H. THOMAS, Major-General Commanding.

Rebel Fare.
The present ration of the rebel army is one pound of flour and one pound of fresh beef, with little salt and nothing else. As for clothing, they have a good supply of very inferior quality, except what has been stolen from the United States; but not one half of them have shoes, and nearly all are greatly dispirited and tired of the contest, and keep from deserting only by the strictest and most cruel discipline.

Embalmed Bodies.
Sometime since, in clearing out the ruins of an old chapel in Warwickshire, England, several lead coffins were exhumed, containing embalmed bodies which were buried more than two hundred years ago. The coffin which contained the body of Lady Audrey Leigh, buried in 1640, was opened, and the body found perfectly embalmed, and in entire state of preservation, her flesh plump as if she were alive, her face very beautiful, her hands exceedingly small and not wasted; she was dressed in fine linen, trimmed with old lace, and two rows of lace were laid flat across her forehead. She looked exactly as if she was asleep, and seemed not more than