

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. WELLSBOROUGH, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1863.

GOOD OUT OF NAZARETH.

We are aware that many will consider wild, if not absurd, the declaration that the final blow to Slavery, and the restoration of unity, will come through the non-slaveholding whites of the South.

The non-slaveholding whites of the former and present Slave States have been misunderstood, and entirely misplaced in the political scale. While we of the North have been giving free expression to our sentiments and convictions, these men have been thinking out the great problem, to solve which has already cost us so much blood and treasure.

We have recently had an extended conversation with the last of a long line of slaveholders, a native of Prince George county, that Egypt of Maryland. He is a mechanic, and a most excellent one too, long a member of the M. E. Church, South, and altogether a very intelligent man.

In the course of the conversation he remarked that even the Republican party, with which he had never acted, failed to comprehend the magnitude of the evil of Slavery.

I, do solemnly swear in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States themselves, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing Rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing Rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court.

The persons exempted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are, all who are, or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate Government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the Rebellion; all who are or shall have been military or naval officers of said so-called Confederate Government above the rank of colonel in the army, or lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid the Rebellion.

All who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, and afterwards aided the Rebellion, and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which person may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen or in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known, that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one tenth in number of the votes cast in such States, at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord, 1860, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State existing immediately before the so-called act of Secession, and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State Government, which shall be republican, and in no wise contravening said oath, such shall be recognized as the true Government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefit of the constitutional provision which declares that:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of Government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, on application of the Legislature, or of the Executive, when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence."

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such State Government in relation to the freed people of such State which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, as a temporary arrangement, with their present condition as a laboring, landless, and homeless class, will not be objected to by the national Executive. And it is suggested as not improper, that in constructing a loyal State government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisions, the constitution, and the general code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State Government.

To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to State government, has no reference to States wherein loyal State governments have all the while been maintained. And for the same reason, it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to Congress from any State shall be admitted to seats constitutionally, rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the Executive. And still further, that this proclamation is intended to present the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal State governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal State governments may be re-established within said States, or in any of them; and while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the eighth day of December, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth. By the President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, December 8, 1863.

There is great joy in this capital over the organization of the House with loyal officers and loyal promises. The House has never had a purer and more honest man to preside over its stormy (un) deliberations than Schuyler Colfax. I think I wrote of him before, and will not farther repeat myself.

The loyal people will not fail to rejoice over the defeat and humiliation of Emerson Etheredge, the recalcitrant come-over. His fate is the fate of all men who forsake themselves and stifle the divinity that stirs within them. When, last year, the tide seemed turning against the Government, he thought opportunity to the Administration, the purchase of continuance in place. Like all corrupt and conscienceless men, he mistook the nature of this struggle.

Up to nine o'clock of Sunday night, Emerson Etheredge showed a persistent determination to perpetrate his own secession to the office of Clerk of the House by the grossest of frauds. Under the letter of a law enacted on the 3d of March last, for the purpose of preventing the reception of members from States in rebellion, he ruled out, or refused to put on the roll, the names of members from Maryland.

But the fraud was so gross that the House, by a test vote, forced him to do his duty.

Why blame Emerson Etheredge? He only did the will of a faction which seeks to accomplish nothing honestly, or openly, that can be accomplished by fraud and force. He could not be a Copperhead in good standing with other and better proclivities. But he has met the fate he invited. He is to-day a shorn Samson, despised by the very men whom he damned his soul to serve and conciliate.

The administration goes into Congress with greater strength than its most sanguine friends hoped for. The factionists built largely upon the probable defection of the "independents," as Messrs. Hale, Tracy, and others were designated. Yet all these "independents" are zealous supporters of the war policy of the President, and of the financial policy of Mr. Chase. On all test votes they will stand firmly by the Government. The unessential is of no practical value in these times. Their election can no longer be regarded as calamitous. If any man voted for them thinking they would feel obligated to do the dirty work of factionists, such will find themselves roundly cheated.

M. H. C.

WASHINGTON, December 9, 1863.

I last night went to Odd Fellows Hall and listened to a lecture by Horace Greeley. His theme was—"The Question of the Hour." The hall was densely crowded, and though he spoke nearly two hours nobody seemed tired. The change in public opinion here is wonderful. Four years ago Horace would have spoken in Washington at his peril. Last night he was applauded to the echo. Of course the subject was ably and exhaustively handled.

I ought not to forget, also, that Frederick Douglass, who is guilty of a skin not so light as James Buchanan's or Jeff. Davis's, spoke to the Washington people last night. Such was the rush to hear this most remarkable man that hundreds were unable to get in the hall. He spoke also on Monday evening. Every body is amazed at the eloquence and solidity of this noble orator and thinker.

It is indeed a wonderful progress that has been made since I first set foot in Washington. Then the pistol and the bludgeon ruled the roost, and white men were mobbed for opinion's sake. These things are now unknown. Even treason may be preached by Copperhead Congressmen without subjecting the preacher to more than scorn and contempt. The world does move.

M. H. C.

REMARKABLE INCIDENT AT COURT.—James Sutherland, who was on trial at Indianapolis for four days for killing Roddy A. Small, was acquitted on Thursday.

His wife and three children were in court at the time. After the announcement of the verdict there followed a scene, says the Indianapolis Journal, not often witnessed in a court room. The prisoner that was a prisoner now no longer—fell upon his knees, and lifting his eyes toward heaven uttered an earnest prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the God, whose justice and mercy had been so wonderfully manifested in him. The prayer was irresistibly eloquent, and when Amen was pronounced, Amen came back in response from every part of the room, and there were tears in every eye. All rose to their feet; the acquitted man advanced and took each jurymen by the hand with a fervent "God bless you! You have saved an innocent man from shame and disgrace; you have taken a foul stain from my name. God bless you! And to the prosecutor, whose conduct in the case commands admiration from all for fairness and honesty, he gave a cordial "God bless you!" The old white-haired father, whose firm trust had supported the son in the dark hours of trial, now melted in tears of joy that his boy was acquitted of guilt, and his own good name remained untarnished. The judge, wiping his eyes of the tears that had come unbidden, ordered the Sheriff to adjourn the court.

How THE SOLDIER SLEEPS.—You would, I think, wonder to see men lie right down in the dusty road, under the full moon sun of Tennessee and Alabama, and fall asleep in a minute. I have passed hundreds of such sleepers. A dry spot is a good mattress; the flap of a blanket quite a downy pillow. You would wonder, I think, to see a whole army corps, as I have, without a shred of a tent to bless themselves with, lying anywhere and everywhere in all-night rain and not a growl nor a grumble. I was curious to see whether the pluck and good

nature were washed out of them, and so I made my way out of the camp, dry quarters I am ashamed to say I occupied, at five in the morning, to see what water had done with them. Nothing! Each soaked blanket hatched out as jolly a fellow as you would wish to see, middy, dripping, half-flooded; forth they came, wringing themselves out as they went, with the look of a troop of "wet down" roosters in a full rain storm, plume of half-mast, but hearts trumpets every time. If they swore—and some did—it was with a laugh; the sleepy frowns were stirred up; then came the coffee, and they were as good as new. "Blood is thicker than water."—E. F. Taylor.

WAR NEWS.

News from Texas reached Washington on Saturday. Gen. Banks announces that forces under Major Gen. Washburne have seized the approaches to Matagorda. The Rebel garrison of Fort Esperanza, consisting of 1,000 men, fled at the approach of our troops, first blowing up the magazines. A high gale prevented the co-operation of the gunboats with the land forces, or the enemy would probably have fallen into our hands. Ten guns were captured, ranging from 24 to 100-pounders. The command of Matagorda Bay substantially gives us the control of Central and Western Texas, and all the important points on the east coast except Galveston. The town of Matagorda, situated on the bay, at the mouth of the Colorado River, has a large trade, and is the depot for the produce of the Colorado Valley, which is one of the richest parts of Texas.

Richmond papers say that Longstreet's command is at Rutledge, 30 miles north-west of Knoxville, on the road to Bristol, South-Western Virginia, and in a comparatively safe position. His rear was skirmishing with our cavalry, but our pursuit is said not to have been vigorous. A rebel raiding party had penetrated to Mount Sterling, Ky., encountering a body of our troops whom it claims to have routed after a stout fight. The Rebels then burned the Court-House and jail, and returned to Abington, Va., with \$100,000 in greenbacks in the way of booty.

A Louisville dispatch says the guerrillas in Cumberland, Wayne, and Clinton Counties are very troublesome, and often make raids across the Cumberland, destroying property, stealing horses, and conscripting citizens. They are generally believed to be Rebel citizens, who take this method of robbing the Union. Four thousand and two hundred Chattanooga prisoners have passed through Louisville.

Gen. McPherson, commanding at Vicksburg, has issued orders for changing Col. B. G. Farrah's 2d Mississippi Artillery into cavalry, to operate against the guerrillas which infest the lower part of the river.

Gen. Gillmore threw a few more shells into Charleston on Thursday last, which (the Rebels say) did no damage worth noticing.

The latest news from the Chesapeake is that she left Shelburne, Nova Scotia, on Saturday morning, after shipping some men and taking in coal.

Washington's Opinion of the North.

In a letter of Washington to his friend Lund, in June 1776, occurs the following passage, in which he most graphically describes the peculiarities of Northern and Southern men as soldiers, and gives a preference for the qualities of the Northern men; the justice of which the present campaign is likely to verify:

"We have lately had a general review, and I have much pleasure in informing you that we made a better appearance, and went through our exercises more like soldiers than I had expected. The Southern States are rash and blamable in the judgement they form of their brethren of the four New England States. I do assure, with all my partiality for my own countrymen, and prejudices against them, I can but consider them as the flower of the American army. They are strong, vigorous and healthy people, inured to labor and toil, which our people seldom are; and though our hot and eager spirit may suit better in a sudden and desperate enterprise, yet, in the way in which wars are now carried on, you must look for permanent advantages only from that patient and persevering temper which is the result of labor. The New Englanders are cool, considerate and sensible while we are all fire and fury. Like their climate, they maintain an equal temperature, whereas we cannot shine but we burn. They have an uniformity and stability of character, to which the people of no other States have any pretensions; hence they must, and will always preserve their influence in this great empire. Were it not for the drawbacks and disadvantages which the influence of their popular opinions on the subject of government have on their army, they soon might, and probably will, give law to it."

THE SNOWS AND SEAS OF MARS.—Mars has lately presented a favorable opportunity for the examination of its surface.—The constitution of this planet more nearly approaches that of the earth than any other in the system. Snow can be detected at both poles, the white circle increasing in winter and decreasing in summer. It has been found that the center of this region of snow does not coincide, exactly with the poles of the planet. And in this respect it is like the earth, whose greatest cold is not exactly at the pole. A greenish belt with deep bays and inlets near the equator, which is suspected to be a sea, has recently been detected. The termination of the snowy region is very sharp and abrupt, giving the idea of lofty cliff. A reddish island in the above sea has also been detected. The probability of Mars being inhabited is greater than that of any other planet. Its density is very nearly that of the earth. The heat and light of the sun would only be half that that enjoyed on our globe; but then this may be compensated by an atmosphere which may form a warmer wrapping than ours and by a more sensitive eye. A great part of the surface of the globe is covered with snow for half of the year; the people in Mars would not be worse off than we are in Canada, and life is tolerable there. People emigrating from this planet to Mars would find that they were only half as heavy as they are here, which some would not regard as a disadvantage.—Leitch.

LARGE LOCOMOTIVE.—The largest locomotive in the United States, if not in the world, has just been built for the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co. It has twelve driving wheels 43 inches in diameter, and the stroke of piston 26 inches. The fire boxes 10 feet 8 inches long, and 41 1/2 inches wide. Inside diameter 48 inches. The weight of the locomotive when in run-

ning order is 100,320 pounds. This locomotive is intended for a pushing one; to force the heavy coal-trains up the grades of the road. It was designed by Mr. James Millholland, and its construction superintended by him.

CAUTION.

WHEREAS, my wife, PHILENA Z. WEBB, has left my bed and board without any just cause or provocation; I hereby caution all persons against harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debt for her contracting after this date. VALERINE WEBB. Delmar, Dec. 16, 1863-34.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

A Magazine of Literature, Art, and Politics. IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED AS THE BEST AMERICAN MAGAZINE! The Thirteenth Volume Of the Atlantic commences with the number for January, 1864. A new element affords the Publishers an occasion to say that the Atlantic has attained a circulation and prosperity never equaled by any American magazine of its class.

The prosperity of the Atlantic enables its conductors to employ the most eminent talent of the country in its columns. All the best known writers in American literature, contributing faithfully to its pages, give it the sole right to be known as our national magazine. Its staff comprises the following names among its leading contributors: James Russell Lowell, Oliver W. Holmes, Henry W. Longfellow, John G. Whittier, Louis Agassiz, Gail Hamilton, Ralph Waldo Emerson, E. P. Whipple, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bayard Taylor, Charles Sumner, Charles E. Norton, Robert Dale Owen, Francis Furman, George W. Curtis, John W. Foster, G. C. Hazard, John G. Sargent, T. W. Higginson, George S. Hillard, George S. Hillard, Henry Giles, Author "Margaret Howth" Walter Mitchell, Mrs. Julia W. Howe, Henry T. Buckerman, Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney, John W. Adams, "The Country Parson," Mrs. W. C. Bryant, Mrs. H. B. Stowe, Harriet Martineau, "The Country Parson," David A. Wason, Harriet E. Prescott, Rose Terry, Robert T. Lowell, T. T. Bridge, Josiah P. Quincy, Frank D. White, Edward E. Hale, F. Sheldon.

THE ATLANTIC FOR 1864

Will be in no wise inferior to the previous volumes, but it will be the constant aim of the Publishers to advance the high standard already established for the magazine. In furtherance of this aim, they have secured for their new volume several FEATURES OF PECULIAR INTEREST! Among these are now able to announce definitely that: ROBERT BROWNING will contribute several New Poems; NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE will print his new Romance in the columns of the Atlantic, commencing, probably, with the February number; HENRY WASHINGTON LONGFELLOW will publish in the Atlantic some Cantos of his Translation of Dante's "Divina Commedia"; MRS. HARRIET BECHER STOWE begins, in the January number, a series of capital sketches, to be continued through several months, with the title of "Houses and Home Papers, by Christopher Crowfield"; J. T. TROWBRIDGE has written a New Novel, which will be commenced in the Atlantic during the next volume; PROF. LOUIS AGASSIZ will continue those admirable articles upon different branches of natural science which have constituted so interesting and important a feature in the late volumes of the Atlantic.

TERMS.—The Atlantic is for sale by all Book and Periodical Dealers. Price 25 cents a number. Subscriptions for the year, \$2.50, postage paid. Club Rates.—Five Copies for one year, \$12.00, and each additional subscription at the same rate; and an Extra Copy gratis for every Club of Ten Subscribers; or Eleven Copies for \$25.00. In all Clubs, subscribers pay their own postage, 24 cents per year. Specimen numbers sent GRATIS on receipt of four cents for postage. TICKNOR & FIELDS, Publishers, 135 Washington Street, Boston.

ALL persons are hereby cautioned against purchasing a Judgment against John A. Vance, payable to James H. Smith, for I will never pay it. Charleston, Dec. 8, 1863. JOHN A. VANCE. CHRISTMAS GIFTS. MRS. A. J. SOFIELD will open for sale at her Millinery Rooms, a choice variety of Christmas presents, which will be sold low. She is now receiving from New York a carefully selected assortment of Toys of every variety, China, Alabaster, Rubber, Wood, &c. Also a new and an assortment of head-dresses, hats, dress-caps, bonnets, and everything comprising a good stock of Millinery. Wellsboro, Dec. 9, 1863. DENTISTRY. C. B. PRICE, WOULD return thanks to his numerous patrons for their liberal patronage during his visit with them, and would respectfully announce that he will remain until Dec. 25, 1863, at the residence of his wife in Wellsboro for this season. Persons needing his services are requested to call early. Office Room, No. 4, Holiday's Hotel. Wellsboro, Dec. 9, 1863. ESTRAY. CAME to the enclosure of the subscriber on or about the 20th of Nov., one Red Lincked Yearling Heifer, some white on the tail and belly. The owner is requested to call and prove property, pay charges, and take her away, or she will be disposed of according to law. D. ROSE. Sullivan, Dec. 9, 1863-34. FARM FOR SALE. ADJOINING Wellsboro, the county seat of Tioga Co. Pa., containing 155 acres, 125 cleared, 30 woodland. The region is remarkably healthy. Churches, schools, &c., are found in the village. There is a large and commodious mansion, surrounded by ornamental trees and shrubbery; suit buildings large and convenient, house and barn supplied by a fountain of running water. It is well suited for a dairy farm, for raising sheep or hogs, or as a place for raising apple and pear trees, which would bear about 200 trees. The orchard alone might be made to pay the interest upon the cost of the whole property. It is distant about 12 miles from the Tioga Railroad, which connects with the Erie Railroad at Corning. Leave Wellsboro about noon. Price of the property \$50 per acre—fourth cash down, balance to suit convenience of purchaser. Apply to WM. E. MORRIS, Harlem B. R. N. Y. City. JAMES LOWRY, Wellsboro, Tioga Co. Pa. J. N. W. GUERNSEY, Tioga, " " " " F. K. WRIGHT, Wellsboro, " " " " December 9, 1863-4. STRAY MARE. BROKE into the enclosure of the Subscriber, on the 16th ult., a SORELL MARE, about ten years old, good sized, with a white stripe in the forehead, and one white hind leg, and one fore leg. She is near the ankle, very little white on the other two feet. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take her away. JACKSON, Dec. 2, 1863. JOHN WILSON. EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. LETTERS testamentary having been granted to the subscriber on the estate of Ellis L. Miller, late of Delmar, township, deceased, notice is hereby given to those indebted to make immediate payment, and those having claims to present them properly authenticated for settlement. ISRAEL STONE, Dec. 2, 1863. Executor. NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given that the notes and accounts of E. H. Oliver, deceased, on Jan. 1, 1863, have been placed in my hands for collection. Persons indebted will please settle immediately and save costs. GEORGE M. HALL. Farmington, Nov. 19. SULPHITE OF LIME for preventing CIDER, at ROY'S DRUG STORE.

Proclamation. It will appear (as is believed) that nothing is attempted beyond what is simply justified by the Constitution. True the form of an oath is given, but no man is coerced to take it.

The man is only promised a pardon in case he voluntarily takes the oath. The Constitution authorizes the Executive to grant or withhold the pardon at his own absolute discretion, and this includes the power to grant on terms, as is fully established by judicial and other authorities. It is also proffered that if in any of the States named a State Government shall be recognized and guaranteed by the United States, and that under it the State shall, on the Constitutional condition, be protected against invasion and domestic violence.

The Constitutional obligations of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of Government, and to protect the State in the cases stated, is explicit and full. But why tender the benefits of this provision to a State Government set up in this particular way? This section of the Constitution contemplates a case wherein the element within a State favorable to republican government in the Union may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element external to or even within the State, and such are precisely the cases with which we are now dealing.

An attempt to guarantee and protect a revived State Government constructed in whole, or in preponderating part, from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd. There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements so as to build only from the sound, and that test is a sufficiently liberal one which accepts as sound whoever will make a sworn recantation of his former movements.

But if it be proper to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the United States, and to the Union under it, why not also to the laws and proclamations in regard to Slavery?

Those laws and proclamations were put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the Rebellion. To give them the fullest effect, there had to be a pledge for their maintenance. In my judgement they have aided and will further aid the cause for which they were intended.

To now abandon them would be not only to relinquish a lever of power, but would also be a cruel and astounding breach of faith. I may add, at this point, while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress.

For these and other reasons it is thought that support of these measures should be included in the oath, and it is believed that the Executive may lawfully claim it in return for pardon and restoration of forfeited rights, which he has a clear constitutional power to withhold altogether, or grant upon the terms he shall deem wisest for the public interest.

It should be observed also that this part of the oath is subject to the modifying and abrogating power of legislation and supreme judicial decision.

The proposed acquiescence of the National Executive in any reasonable temporary State arrangement for the freed people is made with the view of possibly modifying the confusion and destitution which must at best attend all classes by a total revolution of labor throughout whole States.

It is hoped that the already deeply afflicted people in those States may be somewhat more ready to give up the cause of their affliction, if to this extent this vital matter be left to themselves, while no power of the national executive to prevent an abuse is abridged by the proposition.

The suggestion in the Proclamation as to maintaining the political framework of the State on what is called reconstruction, is made in the hope that it might do good without danger of harm. It will save labor, and avoid great confusion. But why any proclamation now upon the subject? This subject is best with the conflicting views that the step might be delayed too long, on to be taken too soon.

In some States the elements for resumption seem ready for action, but remain inactive, apparently for want of a rallying point—a plan of action. Why shall A adopt the plan of B, rather than B that of A? And if A and B should agree how can they know but that the general Government here will reject their plan? By the Proclamation a plan is presented which may be accepted by them as a rallying point, and which they are assured in advance will not be rejected here. This may bring them to act sooner than they otherwise would.

The objections to a premature presentation of a plan by the National Executive consists in the danger of committees on points which could be more safely left to further developments. Care has been taken to so shape the document as to avoid embarrassment from this source, saying that on certain terms certain classes will be pardoned, with rigors restored.

It is not said that other classes and other terms will never be accepted, saying that reconstruction will be accepted if presented in a specific way. It is not said it will never be accepted in any other way. The movements by States action for Emancipation in several of the States not included in the Emancipation Proclamation, are matter of profound gratitude.

And while I do not repeat nor detail what I have heretofore so earnestly urged upon this subject, my general views and feelings remain unchanged; and I trust that Congress will omit no fair opportunity of aiding these important steps to the great consummation. In the midst of other cares, however important, we must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still our main reliance. To that power alone can we look for a time to give confidence to the people in the contested regions that the insurgent power will not again overrun them. Until that confidence shall be established little can be done anywhere for what is called reconstruction.

Hence our chief care must still be directed to the army and navy, which have thus far borne their harder part so nobly and well; and it may be esteemed fortunate that in giving the greatest efficiency to these indispensable arms we do honorably recognize the gallant men from commander to sentinel who compose them, and to whom more than to others the world must stand indebted for the hope of freedom disenthrallled, regenerated, enlarged, and perpetuated. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. December 8, 1863.

The following Proclamation is appended to the Message. PROCLAMATION. Whereas, in and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President shall have power to grant reprieves and par-