

The announcement of a new draft has elicited a cry of indignation from every traitor sympathizer in the land, for the reason that the additional strength which will thereby be imparted to our armies in the field, banishes all hope of rebel success. It is now well understood by those who have watched the attitude of European powers, that the Government of the United States may want troops to engage other enemies than those arrayed against it in the slave States. We have always believed that the aristocracies of the Old World would interpose to save the aristocracy of slavery the moment they were convinced that the slave-holders needed such interposition to secure their triumph. That moment has now arrived. The rebellion is within the grasp of our arms. We have men in sufficient numbers to destroy every army that Jeff Davis has in the field, but suppose England or France should interpose? What then? We would need an army of at least one hundred thousand men to meet such interposition. Hence the call for three hundred thousand. But whether we are correct or not in our inference, we still believe that the Government needs the men, and that every good man in the land will do all in his power to put these troops immediately in the field. There must be no halting now or quibbling. The hour is propitious for victory. The War Department intends that the new call for men shall produce the number called for. The last call produced but forty per cent of the amount. The balance was lost in credits and other contrivances and accidents to which this new draft will not be liable. Cutting and running to Canada and elsewhere was a very large leak in the last endeavor to recruit the army. Plenty of time to do this was allowed the unwarlike and knavish. The drafted will be fetched up with a short turn this time. It is understood that a system of passports, to be rigidly enforced at Detroit, Buffalo, Suspension Bridge and Sackett's Harbor, will be invoked to hold men to the sacred duty of fighting for their country.

The Fulfillment of Republican Prophecies.

While the gallant men of the country are engaged with the enemy in a death struggle, meeting traitors face to face on the field of battle, they are fulfilling the prophecies of the Republican leaders, by their blows for the safety of the Republic. Of course the traitor sympathizers at the North cannot and will not see or admit the truth of this assertion. But it will be remembered that one of the main arguments made use of to secure the re-election of Abraham Lincoln, was that such a vindication of the policy of his administration, would hasten the end of the rebellion. His re-election was claimed as being only necessary to impress doubting men in all the world with the strength of our cause, and the helplessness of the rebellion. Well, only a little more than a month has elapsed since the re-election of Mr. Lincoln. What has been the result? The first effect of the news of Mr. Lincoln's election in Europe, depressed "Confederate securities" to a degree rendering them entirely worthless. There is not a Petroleum Company in Pennsylvania, whose stock is as worthless at home as are the Confederate securities in Europe. And while this is so in reference to Jeff Davis' "due bills," United States securities are more sought after in Europe than any loan in the markets of the old world. Such are the effects in Europe of a Republican triumph at the ballot box in America, and such, too, on the other hand, are the fulfillments of Republican prophecies! But there is a still more cheering and invigorating fulfillment of these prophecies near home, within the range of our own contemplation, where we can feel and observe its glorious and peace inspiring influence. While we were contending for the re-election of Mr. Lincoln, it was confidently predicted by the friends of the Government, that his triumph at the ballot box, would hasten the triumph of our armies on the battle field. These predictions were ridiculed by traitor sympathizers in the North, and scouted by armed traitors in the South. But mark the result. Look over the field of action—run along the entire line of our armies, and from one end to the other, nothing but victory, solid, territory-wresting and traitor-exterminating victory greets the eyes and the hearts of the loyal men of the land. We have the armies of treason surrounded in fire. There is no hope for the rebel capital but capitulation or destruction. The traitor government is literally on the rack, awaiting only a signal to be torn to pieces. Such are the fulfillments of Republican prophecies. In a little over a month from the time of Mr. Lincoln's re-election, the influence of that result has revolutionized Europe in our favor—has destroyed the false credit of the insurgents abroad—has given victory to our armies and navy, and strength to our Government. Nor will this influence stop here. We believe that before Mr. Lincoln has served a year of his second term, the rebellion will be entirely crushed out, our brave soldiers and sailors returned to their homes, and the whole land restored to peace! Mark the prediction!

The President's Message.

The President's Message, as printed in the Congressional Globe, contains this sentence in reference to the leader of the rebellion: "He would accept nothing short of the severance of the Union, precisely what we will not and cannot give." The message, as printed in the New York and Western papers, omits the italicized portion. No military appointments have yet gone to the U. S. Senate, and will not now until after the holidays.

The Sixteenth Congressional District.

We print, to-day, the opinion of Attorney General Meredith, elicited by the facts involved in the contest for the certificate of election in the XVIIth Congressional District. Two returns were made to the Governor, by two sets of Return Judges, from this District, one claiming to elect Gen. Koozts, and the other claiming to elect Mr. Coffroth. We have heretofore discussed the merits of these returns, and it is therefore not necessary for us to do so again. It appears, however, by the opinion of the Attorney General, that the returns on which Mr. Coffroth bases his claim of election, were incomplete, as the vote of Somerset county, (which is a portion of the XVIIth Congressional District) was not included in the same. The Attorney General condemns this omission as a high-handed outrage, one which a just trial by a jury would consign the perpetrators to the penitentiary. On the other hand, the returns on which Gen. Koozts bases his claim to an election, are regarded as inadmissible, because it appears that some of those who participated in the Board of Return Judges making this return, acted without due authority. From these facts, Attorney General Meredith argues that the Governor has no room to discriminate as to which of the contestants has the right to a certificate of election at his hands. The case properly belongs to Congress for adjudication. While there is no doubt that the full return of the vote in the XVIIth Congressional District will elect Gen. Koozts, it is unfortunate that those making that return are clearly without authority. This lack of authority, while it does not vitiate the return, sternly constrains the Executive from recognizing its legality. It becomes his duty merely to mention these facts in his proclamation, which record will be accepted as evidence by the House of Representatives, and that body, on its meeting at the opening of the next Congress, will undoubtedly recognize and admit Gen. Koozts to a seat.

There can be no doubt that the opinion of Attorney General Meredith was elicited alone by the highest appreciation of the law and the clearest understanding of the facts involved in the case. However strongly our desire to see the name of Gen. Koozts included in the Proclamation of the Governor, declaring those elected to Congress from this State, we cannot afford to disregard the principle at stake, or close our eyes to the danger which such a precedent would become to the integrity of the elective franchise.—There will be nothing lost by the delay in this case; while for justice and fair dealing everything will be gained. Congress at the proper time will apply the corrective. The clerk of the House of Representatives will recognize the election of Gen. Koozts by placing his name on the roll of the House, and when that body is organized it will confirm General Koozts's title to his seat. Indeed, we doubt not, with the uncontested fact of fraud against Coffroth, whether he will exhibit the unblushing audacity of asking a seat to which he has no title in fact or law.

Gold vs. Greenbacks.

The following is a very useful table at this exchange company, New York. It shows at a glance how much currency may be had for a certain amount of gold, and vice versa:

Table with columns for Gold in Dollars, Greenbacks, and Gold in Dollars. Rows show exchange rates for various denominations.

The Seventh Congressional District.

In our published returns of the vote cast in the several Congressional Districts of the State, at the October election, we were only able to give the aggregate poll in the two counties composing this district. We are now in possession of the vote as cast in these counties. It is as follows:

Table showing vote counts for Chester and Delaware counties in the Seventh Congressional District.

The "Law and the Gospel."

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher having nominated Gen. Butler for the next President, the Falls River News proposes the pastor of the Plymouth church himself as Vice President, on the ground of the natural strength of combination of the law and the gospel.

Chief Justice Chase is the author of the phrase, "Congress has no more power to make a slave than a king."

The sentence is contained in one of the resolutions adopted by the National Liberty (Free Soil) Convention held at Buffalo, in 1856. Mr. Chase wrote most of the resolutions of this Convention.

The St. Louis Democrat says that the radical press of that State universally expresses itself against Senator Gratz Brown's proposition in favor of immediate negro suffrage in that State.

The newspapers of Illinois are agitating the question of removing the State Capital of that State from its present location, Springfield, to a more central and eligible place.

The Sixteenth Congressional District.

Contest for the Certificate of Election.

Opinion of the Attorney General.

Defining the Power of the Governor in the Premises.

Two papers, purporting to be returns of the recent election in the 16th Congressional District, have been sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The District is composed of the five counties of Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford and Somerset. One of these papers is signed by four persons, viz: Messrs. Mann, of Bedford county; Laker, of Franklin; Winter, of Fulton, and Diehl, of Adams, styling themselves a majority of the return judges elected by the several boards of the return judges of the above named counties; and the paper goes on to state that they examined and counted the votes cast for Congress in the district, and that Messrs. Coffroth and Koozts had both received the same number of votes in the respective counties of Adams, Bedford, Franklin, and Fulton, and that Mr. Coffroth, having a majority of all the votes cast as counted before the board, is declared duly and legally elected. It is further stated in the paper that Somerset was not represented by a judge, or otherwise, in the board, and that notice of the time and place of meeting was given to the return judge elected from Somerset, who was in the borough of Chambersburg, (where the meeting was held) on the day of that meeting.

The other paper is signed by five persons, viz: Messrs. Will, of Somerset county; Cart, of Adams; Wilhelm, of Franklin; Winter, of Fulton, and Peck, of Bedford, styling themselves as being appointed return judges of the election held in the several counties composing the 16th Congressional District, viz: Adams, Bedford, Franklin, Fulton and Somerset. This paper goes on to state that having carefully examined the returns of the said several districts, and added together the votes therein contained, according to law, they certify that Messrs. Koozts and Coffroth had each a specified number of votes in the respective counties of Adams, Bedford, Franklin, Fulton and Somerset, and declare that Mr. Koozts, having received the greatest number of legal votes, is declared duly and legally elected to be district return judge met on the day and at the place fixed by law.

The respective candidates having requested a hearing, were heard by themselves and counsel, and evidence was received on the question, Who were the return judges of the district? This evidence left no material question of fact in doubt, and the result may be briefly stated as follows: Mr. Wilhelm was regularly selected district return judge for Somerset, and Mr. Winter for Fulton. All the signers of the respective papers were among the county return judges of their respective counties. Messrs. Diehl, of Adams, and Mann, of Bedford, were selected as district return judges, by the majority of the return judges of their respective counties, after the minority had withdrawn in consequence of dissatisfaction with the proceedings of the board. Mr. Wilhelm was selected as district return judge by the return judges of that county, at their first meeting, and of course before the soldiers' vote had been counted. Mr. Laker, of the same county was selected by the return judges of that county, at their last meeting, after the soldiers' vote had been counted. At that meeting, upon the suggestion of one of the clerks, Mr. Wilhelm, who was president of the board, stated that he had been informed that the selection of a district return judge, before all the votes had been counted, was illegal. He proceeded to a selection. The vote was taken and Mr. Laker had a majority, and the returns were accordingly placed in his charge. Mr. Wilhelm was nominated, but had not a majority. He never resigned the appointment, which had already been made, but, under the impression that such an appointment was illegal—he put the question on proceeding to a new selection, announced the result, and as president signed a certificate, under seal, of Mr. Laker's selection as district return judge.

On this state of facts the Governor has requested my opinion on the question, Which of the two candidates ought to be proclaimed by him as having been returned as elected to be district return judge, and on what reasons, which need not be here recapitulated, for arriving at the conclusion that the Governor has no right to go behind the returns for the purpose of enquiring into their correctness—that his functions in regard to them are strictly ministerial.

In the present instance it happens (it is believed for the first time) that two different bodies of men, each claiming to be the board of return judges, present papers which they style returns of the election. The Governor is of course compelled to endeavor to ascertain, by such evidence as can be had, which of these papers is signed by the lawful district return judges, just as every ministerial officer is bound to satisfy himself of the authenticity of an official paper, on which he is required to act.

It is well established that (unless otherwise expressly provided) an authority of a public nature, conferred on three or more persons jointly, may be executed by a majority at a meeting lawfully held, and of which all have had legal notice, and that the meeting and proceedings of such a body are presumed to be regular, in the absence of proof to the contrary. But a minority of such a body cannot, by withdrawing (for whatever reason) from the majority, deprive the majority of the authority which the law has conferred on the whole, and permits to be exercised by a majority as above stated.

The general election law of 1839 provides that when two or more counties shall compose a district for the choice of a member of Congress, the judges of the election in each county, having met, the clerks shall make and sign a statement of all the votes which shall have been given in said election, which shall be signed by said judges and attested by the clerks, and that one of the said judges shall take charge of such certificate, and shall produce the same at a meeting of one judge from each county.

Keeping in view the principles above stated, which are of universal acceptance, the minorities of the judges in Adams and Bedford had plainly no authority to appoint clerks or count votes to be added up, or returns to be made out, or in fine to perform any of the functions of the body of county judges of the election. The conclusion is inevitable that Messrs. Cart, of Adams, and Peck, of Bedford, who claimed to act as judges from these counties at the meeting of one judge from each county, and present returns made and signed by such minorities, were not entitled so to act, nor could the returns which they presented be legally received.

The law, as has been seen, requires that the certificate having been made out by the clerks, shall be signed by the county judges of the election. It is, of course, in the possession and under the control of the body of such judges when assembled according to law. Of course that body must direct it to be placed in the charge of the member whom a majority may designate, to attend the meeting of one judge from each county, and present

it to that meeting, and assist in making up the returns of the district. I can see no ground for the assumption that a judge cannot be designated for these purposes, just as lawfully before the certificate has been made out and signed, as afterwards, and therefore I conceive that the selection of Mr. Wilhelm was entirely legal. But that selection did not constitute him the holder of an office. He was rather a committee of one, to perform certain duties. But, whether he be styled an officer or a committee, in my opinion the subsequent selection of Mr. Laker, and the actual placing of the certificate in his charge, completely discharged Mr. Wilhelm and overrode his appointment.

The result is that of the five persons who have signed the papers stating Mr. Koozts to be elected, three had no legal authority to act in the capacity which they assumed, and I am therefore of opinion that the Governor ought not to base his proclamation on that paper as a return.

In regard to the other paper, it is signed by four persons who appear to be all designated by the judges of election in their respective counties. The judge from Somerset, though he had notice, neglected or refused to attend the meeting, or at any rate failed to attend it. The duty of the four judges who did attend is clearly pointed out by law. It was to "cast up the several county returns and make duplicate returns of all the votes given, for the office in the district, and of the name of the person elected." Instead of doing this, they omitted to count the vote of Somerset, apparently by reason of the non-attendance of the judge from that county. It has been suggested that as they had not those returns they could not count them, which is very true. But duplicate originals were accessible in the office of the Probate Judge of Somerset county, and as their duty, if necessary, to go to them. They could not, of course, have obtained them on the same day, but though the law fixes the day of their meeting, it was perfectly legal for them to adjourn if the business could not be completed in one day, and I think it was undoubtedly their duty to do so. That the non-attendance of a judge should be held to infer the disfranchisement of the county from which he comes, when duplicate originals of the returns which he failed to produce were easily obtainable by a short delay, would be intolerable.

The act of 1839 provides that the judges shall make returns of "all the votes given for such office in said district, and of the name of the person or persons elected," and further provides that it shall be the duty of the Governor, on the receipt of the returns of the election as aforesaid, "to declare by proclamation the names of the persons so returned as elected in the respective districts," that is to say, returned as elected in a return which also purports to return all the votes given for the office in the district.

The paper in question does not purport to return all the votes given for the office in the district. It shows on its face that the vote of one county in the district was not counted, and therefore that the judges had not before them the means of knowing who was elected and who was returned as elected in the district. Mr. Coffroth had a majority "of all the votes cast as counted before the board," (that is to say, of the votes in four out of five counties which composed the district,) and therefore is duly elected. This return is so essentially defective that I conceive it to be no return at all, and am of opinion that the Governor ought not to base his proclamation on it as a return.

I regretted to observe on the argument that it was contended by Mr. Koozts that the act which also purports to return all the votes given for the office in the district, arose from the action of a majority of the judges of election in Adams, Bedford, and perhaps one other county, in illegally throwing out the returns of the county of Somerset. Their duty is to call the clerks to make out a fair statement of all the votes which shall have been given at the election. To usurp the power of throwing out, at their discretion any votes so given, is to commit a wilful and grievous offense, for which, if found guilty by a jury, they can be adjudged to be liable to punishment under their illegal course can also be avoided, as the House of Representatives has full jurisdiction over the election and returns, and may apply a summary remedy if the alleged state of facts should be properly substantiated. But, as the Governor cannot, if satisfied that the offense has been committed, thrust the offenders into the Penitentiary, and thus usurp the power of the judicial tribunals, neither can he constitute himself a judge of the election, and thus usurp the power of the House of Representatives, which is the proper tribunal to adjudicate on it. He has no more right to put votes into the county returns than the county judges of election had to put them out, or to treat as valid the acts of a seceding minority of the county judges of election, than he would have to treat as the acts of the House a bill emanating from a similar seceding minority of that body. His duty is not to lend himself to revolutionary action of any kind. He is to preserve order, not to abet confusion. He is to obey the act of Assembly, and as no returns have been presented such as that act authorizes him to base his proclamation upon, I am of opinion that he has no legal course but to state that fact as his reason for not declaring the name of any person to have been returned as elected in the 16th Congressional District.

Surrounded by the contagious unrest of angry and excited passions, and often forced, amid such surroundings, to act promptly on questions of the most difficult and delicate character, it may appear to require some moral firmness in the Executive Magistrate to avoid being swept beyond the limits of his appropriate sphere. But it is to be recollected that we have a popular government, and in such a case the public confidence, important to every government, is essential to ours. It appears to me that he must be the boldest of men, who, being at the head of the Government of any one of our States at this crisis, should have the courage to be feeble and vacillating, regardless of law, partial in his judgments, usurping in his practice, and guided by merely personal feelings or personal influence, thus loosening the structure of our political fabric, and exposing its very foundations to depreciation. On the other hand, I should esteem him to be fortunate, who, in such a position, rising to the level of the occasion, should leave below him all the turns of ordinary politics, should preserve his own calmness during the storms that are raging, not as lacking emotion, but as feeling that upon his calmness may depend the public safety; who should combine a thoroughly active, energetic and loyal administration of affairs, with open fairness and equity to all, obey himself the law to which he enforces the obedience of others, compel the trust of the honest and truth loving masses of all parties in his vigor, justice and integrity, and thus, commanding the public confidence, cause to strike daily deeper and deeper the roots of authority, and possibly by rendering irresistible the just power of government.

I should esteem him to be fortunate, because—though his task would not be easy—when he should have fulfilled it he would have connected for all time, his own honor with the history of the salvation of the Republic.

W. M. MEREDITH, Attorney General.

Harrisburg, Dec. 18th, 1864.

Arrival of Released Prisoners at Annapolis.

The steamer Star of the South has just arrived from Charleston, S. C., with six hundred more returned prisoners, all in better condition than those arrived last week, with

WHEELER FLOGGED ON THE MARCH.

New York, Dec. 21. The United States transport Fulton has arrived, with Port Royal advices of Sunday last, Dec. 18th.

The Fulton touched at Fortress Monroe to land Lt. Col. O. E. Babcock, bearer of dispatches from Gen. Sherman to the War Department. Also, Colonel A. H. Markal, Gen. Sherman's mail agent.

Savannah is still in the hands of the rebels. Its surrender had not been demanded by General Sherman up to the time the Fulton sailed.

Among the Fulton's passengers are Colonel W. Gurney, of the 127th New York volunteers, and 19 other officers wounded in the battle of Pocotaligo.

The Palmetto Herald says that only one fight of any moment occurred on Sherman's march, and that resulted in the flogging of Wheeler.

A Proclamation by the President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1864. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A PROCLAMATION. Whereas, By the act approved July 4th, 1864, entitled, "An act further to regulate and provide for the enrolling and calling out of the National forces, and for other purposes," it is provided that the President of the United States may, at his discretion, at any time hereafter, call for any number of men as volunteers for the respective terms of one, two, and three years, for military service, and that in case the quota, or any part thereof, of any town, township, ward of a city, precinct or election district, or of a county not so subdivided, shall not be filled within the space of fifty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year, to fill such quota or any part thereof which may be unfilled; and whereas, by the credits allowed in accordance with the act of Congress, the call for five hundred thousand men, made July 18th 1864, the number of men to be obtained under that call was reduced to two hundred and eighty thousand; and whereas, the operations of the enemy in certain States have rendered it impracticable to procure from them their full quotas of troops under said call; and whereas, from the foregoing causes but two hundred and fifty thousand men have been put into the army, navy and marine corps under the said call of July 18, 1864, leaving a deficiency of that call of two hundred and fifty thousand; now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, in order to supply the aforesaid deficiency and to provide for casualties in the military and naval service of the United States, do issue this my call, for three hundred thousand volunteers to serve for one, two, or three years, to wit: The quotas of the States, Districts, and Sub-districts under this call, will be assigned by the War Department through the bureau of the Provost Marshal-General of the United States, and in case the quota or any part thereof of any town, township, ward, or city, precinct or election district, or of a county not so subdivided, shall not be filled before the 15th day of February, 1865, then a draft shall be made to fill such quota, or any part thereof, under this call, which may be unfilled on the fifteenth day of February, 1865.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed, at the city of Washington this 19th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President, WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Army of the Potomac.

HEAVY FIRING AT DUTCH GAP CANAL—OPENING OF A NEW ONE HUNDRED POUND GUN BY THE REBELS—NO DAMAGE DONE THUS FAR—SALUTE IN HONOR OF THOMAS' VICTORY OVER HOOD.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, December 10. There is little of interest to report from this army, our commanders seeming to be waiting the result of Sherman's operations, as well as those of the fleet which lately sailed from Fortress Monroe.

A good deal of heavy firing has been going on at Dutch Gap Canal the past two days. In front of Petersburg the enemy, a day or two ago, opened a new one hundred pound gun, and have since been industriously engaged in throwing shells at the railroad trains as they pass a certain point of the road in full view of their gunners, but as yet they have done no damage whatever nor are they likely to do so, unless they show more accuracy than they have so far. This morning a salute of one hundred guns was fired in honor of Thomas' victory over Hood. The rebel batteries threw a few shells in reply, but without damage. Last night the pickets on the right of the line were very active, keeping up an exchange of compliments all night.

Total Defeat and Rout of Hood's Army.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 20. An officer of General Rousseau's staff, just from General Thomas' headquarters, arrived last night. Our forces were then at Spring Hill, near Columbia. Hood's army, or the remnants of it, was at Duck river, which he was crossing as fast as possible. All our wounded left at Franklin were recaptured; also all of the rebels who were severely wounded, including General Quarles, of Tennessee, formerly Supervisor of a bank in this State.

Yesterday morning General Hatch captured three guns from the rebel cavalry force at Spring Hill. Our total captures of artillery, from Hood amount to sixty-one pieces. The loss of Forrest in his attack on Murfreesboro, on Thursday last, is estimated at 1,500 killed and wounded.

The rebel army, from all accounts, has become utterly demoralized and unable to make a stand, having scarcely any artillery.

The telegraph is working to Spring Hill, and trains will run to Franklin this morning. General Schofield was in Columbia yesterday morning.

Our total wounded in the battles of Thursday and Friday will reach but few over two thousand.

Arrival of Released Prisoners at Annapolis.

The steamer Star of the South has just arrived from Charleston, S. C., with six hundred more returned prisoners, all in better condition than those arrived last week, with

the exception of about fifty, who had to be taken from the boat on stretchers. This makes about four thousand from Charleston, and with five thousand received from Savannah, leave about one thousand still to complete the exchange.

2D EDITION.

Army of the Potomac.

An Attack Upon Our Pickets—the Rebels Repulsed.

Exploit of a Captured Rebel. A RUMOR THAT JEFF DAVIS IS DEAD.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, December 19. An attack was made last night by the rebels on the pickets on the extreme left of the line, held by General Miles' division of the Second Corps. They captured six or eight men, killed one, and wounded another, all of the Fourth New Hampshire regiment.

The attacking party were quickly driven back and the line re-established. Two or three days ago two rebel scouts, named Waterbury and Brown, claiming to belong to the 2d North Carolina regiment, were captured and placed in the guard house. They managed, however, to escape shortly after by cutting through the board fence around the prison; but on getting out into the woods they lost their way. Waterbury then went to seek information from a camp near by, and by pretending to belong to a Pennsylvania cavalry regiment, got a guard to conduct him toward the lines held by the cavalry.

After proceeding for some distance, Waterbury and his guard became interested in conversation, and the former pretending great curiosity to examine the gun that his companion was carrying, asked to see it. After getting it into his possession, he told the soldier he was his prisoner, and led him off into the woods where they camped for the night. The guard feigning to be asleep, waited his chance, and when he found the other sound asleep he grasped the gun from underneath his enemy and fired, wounding him badly in the side, and it is doubtful if he could recover. He was taken to a house near by, where he was paroled by one of our officers. Brown succeeded in making his escape.

A report is current here, to-day, that Jeff Davis is dead, having poisoned himself. Scouts and deserters say it is true, and the story is current in Butler's department, but from what source they got it I cannot say.

The Richmond papers of to-morrow will undoubtedly inform us of the truth or falsity of the story.

DECEMBER 20.—Richmond papers of yesterday have received. They say the report of Jeff Davis' death was a canard, and that he was well and would be in his office during the day.

Department of the Gulf.

CAPTURE OF BLOCKADE-RUNNERS ON THE TEXAS COAST—PRIZE-MONEY GAINED AT MOBILE. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 16, Via CHICAGO, Dec. 20. Advice from the blockading squadron, off Galveston, report that they seized, during the week ending Dec. 9, six blockade-runners on the coast of Texas.

The report of the capture of a steamship is disbelieved. Two large fires recently occurred in Galveston. The yellow fever has been epidemic in Galveston and the late Phase Oglethorpe. The prize-money of Mobile Bay amounts to one year's pay for every man engaged in the fight.

There have been no transactions in cotton. Sugar 23@23c. Molasses 1 3/2@1 3/3.

MARRIED.

On the 24th, by Rev. John Walker Jackson, at the residence of the bride's father, Wm. Henry Beckler, Esq., to Miss Mary Zov, all of this city.

December 20th, 1864, in Harrisburg, at the house of Mowry Nicola, Esq., by Rev. E. S. Johnston, Mr. James R. Srooker, of Hummelstown, and Miss Kate S. Getzler, of Harrisburg.

DIED.

On the morning of the 20th inst., MARRERA, J., youngest daughter of Frank and the late Phase Oglethorpe. The friends and relatives are invited to attend her funeral, from her father's residence, South street, on Thursday afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

The funeral will take place from the residence of her parents on Sixth street, between South and State, at 2 P. M., Thursday.

We've barred our shutters tight and fast, We've closed this cramped door; For death has swept this way and past, That dear one's now no more.

Come view the little pallid face, Where sweetest smiles abide; Let flowers in their beauty grace, What death in silence hides.

Farewell, Nonn, thou hast left us, We thy loss do deeply feel; Though 'tis God that has bereft us, He can all our sorrows heal.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, TWO BARKEEPERS, who understand the restaurant business. Good wages paid. Apply at the National House, Market street, near Fourth. dec20-d2\*

FOR SALE.

A STORE, in one of the most flourishing towns in Schuylkill county, doing a very prosperous business; sales averaging about eight (8) thousand dollars per month; a large capital of from six to eight thousand dollars required. Address "STORE," dec21-1w\*

ATAWBA GRAPES.—A new lot of fine Catawba Grapes, by the box or pound, just received at WM. M. GRAY & CO., (Houser and Lochman's old stand, Market square.) dec21

BRANDY PEACHES, Spiced and Pickled Oysters, just received at WM. M. GRAY & CO., (Houser and Lochman's old stand, Market square.) dec21

HAVANA ORANGES.—Fine Havana Oranges, by the dozen or single, just received at WM. M. GRAY & CO., (Houser and Lochman's old stand, Market square.) dec21

SHAFFER & BROTHER, PAPER HANGERS, AND DEALERS IN WALL PAPER, WINDOW SHADES, &C., Market Square, Harrisburg, Pa.

dec21-1y An Elegant and Varied Assortment OF HOLIDAY GOODS, JUST RECEIVED, consisting in part of Albums, Writing Desks, Work Boxes, Ladies' Purse, Portfolios, Dollhouses, Juveniles, Games, Dishes, Gold Pens, Transparent Slates, Photographs, Pocket Cases, Chess Boards, Alphabet Blocks, and novelties which must be seen to be appreciated, and to which I respectfully call the attention of the public. All of which will be sold at small profits, and satisfaction guaranteed. GEO. L. WATERBURY, 110 North 4th street, dec21-d2\*