

STAR OF THE NORTH

WM. H. JACOBY, EDITOR.

BLOOMSBURG, WEDNESDAY, DEC 29, 1863.

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1864.

GEORGE B. MCLELLAN.

Subject to the Decision of the Democratic National Convention.

The Conscription Act.

We notice that the Conscription Act has been taken up in Congress. It is the design of certain parties, if possible, to have this Act, calling on the national forces, altered, or so amended as to bring into the service a few more soldiers.

War Democrats.

When the Radicals praise a man for being a "War Democrat," says the Louisville Journal, they do not mean a Democrat who is in favor of the war, but a Democrat who is in favor of the radical aim and management of the war.

The Old Franklin Almanac for 1864, has been received from A. Wink, 505 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. It is a very interesting as well as useful Almanac; containing a complete list of battles and matters of interest transpiring in the Rebellion since first of 1863 up to 15th of Oct. 1863; Revenue Stamps, required by Acts of Congress of the United States; License Duties; A complete United States Army Register; Casualties among General officers of the Union Army, as well as among the Rebel Army; The Crops for the loyal States for 1862-3; Public Debt of the United States, and the Debt of the Rebel States, together with a large amount of other interesting matter. Copies mailed, post-paid, on receipt of fifteen cents.

Movements to Avoid the Draft.—We notice that old Lancaster is beginning to wake from her lethargy, and proposes to devote the eleven hour to her salvation from conscription. The County Commissioners have called a convention of the citizens, to assemble on Saturday next, to consider the proposition to offer a bounty out of the county treasury to all persons volunteering under the late call of the President.

Prohibiting the War.—The Albany Argus truly says that there is no other explanation of the peculiar issues of the Administration, its removal of Generals, and its wasteful management of our armies, than a deliberate design to protract the war, and prevent the possibility of peace until after the re-election of Lincoln.

According to the law of this State, as defined by the Supreme Court, no one need respond when drafted, and we hope none will. The conscription act is unconstitutional and every good citizen should refuse to obey it.—Selling Grove Times.

Increase of the Army.

The President has issued his proclamation calling for 300,000 volunteers to increase the army so as to render it capable of operating efficiently against the rebels.—We suppose that this large number of men are actually needed, or they would not have been demanded. But if needed—without the addition of that number the army will not be in condition to act, with effect against the rebel forces, or perhaps to hold all the important positions of which it is now in possession—it strikes us that very strong inducements should be held out to tempt men into the service.

It may be said that such inducements are offered; that large bounties will be paid, and that there is a probability amounting almost to a certainty, that the soldier's pay will be increased from \$13 to \$16, or even a larger sum, per month.

Very true. But is there no drawback to this? Does not the present policy of the Administration in regard to our soldiers captured by the enemy more than neutralize all the inducements held out by high bounty and increased pay?

There is an act of Congress, we believe, providing for the punishment of persons who may be convicted of discouraging enlistments. Is not the administration guilty of that offence? What could possibly be more discouraging to enlistment than the fact that our men taken prisoners by the enemy, can see no end to their captivity and their sufferings in rebel prisons, because of the policy adopted by the administration in regard to exchange? Under that policy any of our brave soldiers, who are so unfortunately taken to fall prisoners into the enemy's hands, may lie in rebel prisons, and starve and rot there, until such time as the Confederate administration may see proper to recognize the negro as the equal of the white man, and exchange a Lincoln darkey in uniform for a rebel soldier.

As the time is not likely soon to arrive when the Confederate administration will do this, and as Mr. Lincoln has not, up to this time, shown the slightest disposition to change his views, or recede from or modify the policy we have indicated, the conclusion cannot be avoided that our soldiers now prisoners, and those who may hereafter be captured, must languish in captivity to the close of the war, unless, in the meantime, death steps in to their relief, and while he kills their bodies, sets their spirits free.

Is this a wise or humane policy towards our white soldiers who have borne the brunt of the war so far, and must bear it to the end? In our judgment it is cruel, atrocious injustice. Will men, with the probability of such a fate staring them in the face enlist as freely as they would under a wiser and juster policy of exchange, through which, if so unfortunate as to be taken prisoners, they might confidently expect a speedy release?

Certainly not. The bravest man—the who will stand unmoved amid the storm of battle, and unflinchingly peril his life, will shrink from the horrors of prison life, the poisonous atmosphere of a crowded room, the filth and vermin that, under such circumstances are unavoidable, unwholesome water and starvation rations.

We trust that some influential and humane friends of the administration, who really wish to see the decimated ranks of the army filled by brave, intelligent white soldiers, will move in this matter, and urge upon the administration the necessity of changing their policy.

The Cost of Charleston and Richmond.

The President's Message.

With one or two exceptions, which will strike our readers without particular reference to them, we do not concur in the following views of the President's message, which we find in the Journal of Commerce, which we adopt them as the expression of our own sentiments. Passing over those parts referring to foreign relations, the department reports, &c., and coming at once to the important part, to which all eyes and thoughts will be directed, the Journal says:

The President's plan for reconstruction or restoration seems to be less a plan of pacification than a device to perpetuate the affect of the Abolition measures in the Southern States. The plan embodied in the proclamation which Mr. Lincoln proposes to issue sounds very much like a ukase from the chambers of an autocrat, instead of the voice of an ordinary man, temporarily representing the constitutional government of the United States.

In our view the grand question is now, "Can we restore peace and union, without reference to slavery or the negro at all?" If the proclamations and acts of the administration are law, they will stand as law till repealed. The past is past. But the President seems to think the great question how to perpetuate the laws and proclamations relating to slavery; and the question of peace and union he makes wholly secondary to that. The negro is the prominent object of his care; the legislation relating to the negro is that which alone he labors to make effective; the negro is the condition on which he rests the possibility of peace. This prominence given to the negro is a melancholy indication of the failure of Mr. Lincoln to see the future as men of sagacity, true statesmen here and elsewhere see it. If the slave is free, he is free; and why then waste so many words in making the peace of our nation dependent on his freedom?

A wise man would trust the proclamations and the acts of Congress to the future action of the courts and the people, not thrust them forward now as the special conditions of pacification. As we read the message, Mr. Lincoln means to say that there is no peace except on the condition of abolition. Wisdom would have looked for peace without any such condition, leaving the laws to their own effect.

The serious question is whether this plan of the President is calculated to bring about peace—whether it is a proclamation that is likely to be well received by any considerable portion of the people engaged in the insurrection, and to hasten the close of the war. It is plain that what Mr. Lincoln wants is peace and abolition. He does not take into consideration at all the question of peace without abolition. In this respect he lends himself entirely to the radical Abolitionists, and evidently expects to continue the war until slavery is actually abolished.

The offer is doubtless one which the President has the right to make. If the people will accept it, it is a very neat and pretty way of doing up the war. But it certainly does not hold out very brilliant prospects of success as a pacificatory measure. Neither is the President's halting and hesitating method of defending his position and plan at all encouraging or inspiring. He does not seem to have faith in it, he introduces it with an argument in its favor, which is of course an admission that needs defence; and this is a very bad feature in any public measure of so great importance as this. There is nothing statesmanlike in the plan or the paper defending it. It indicates a narrow view of the grand questions of government involved in the future pacification of the country, and a total failure to rise to the solemn importance of the events crowding into the close of his administration. Without perception of the real condition of the country, and without ability to master the grand problem before him, we have here from Mr. Lincoln a proclamation which, as compared with the vast throes of the nation which have seemed to produce it a very small and puny affair.

Was it not enough to require an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and all laws made and acts done in pursuance of it? Why force the negro in the very nostrils of the Southern man whose submission to law you seek? Is it said the oath requires no more than that? With all due respect to Mr. Lincoln it requires a great deal more. It requires the support of a proclamation which one-half of the people of the North do not support. It requires the support of laws one-half of the people of the North repudiate as null and void, because unconstitutional. The doctrine is not yet forced on Americans that they must obey a law until it is declared unconstitutional. On the contrary, the American is compelled to judge and take responsibilities on himself, which in no other country are imposed on the citizen; and if in obedience to a law, an American citizen injures a neighbor, and the law is declared unconstitutional, he is compelled to pay the damages. It is no defence to plead, "I obeyed a law on the statute books."

This proclamation requires the taking of an oath, as a condition of pardon, which half the citizens of the Northern States would refuse to take. It is true the President may proffer pardon on conditions. But the question is whether his conditions are wise, practical, likely to do good. We are very much afraid that the Administration knows no more how to make peace than it has heretofore seemed to know about making war. We see no prospect of peace or good to the country in the President's plan. On the contrary, we fear he has thrown away a golden opportunity for the country, for the sake of winning a support among Northern radicals for himself.

There is one part of the proclamation which presents a curious subject for reflection—that in which the President talks

LATE WAR NEWS.

We are without news from either General Grant or General Meade, and are unable to give our readers any information of General Longstreet's progress from Blair's Cross Roads to Knoxville. The telegraph maintains a mysterious silence.

General Averell's Cavalry are in the Shenandoah Valley, and have appeared at Staunton. This is thirty-five miles east of Gordonsville. A local railroad connects them but forms no portion of the great road from Gordonsville to Lynchburg and thence to south-western Virginia. A report (which as the telegram that contains it states, needs confirmation) has been received here that Averell has destroyed this road for six miles east of Staunton. If such destruction has been made, it does not interfere with any of the Confederate communications.

The Federal gunboat Daylight, one of the Wilmington blockading fleet, has been destroyed. A blockade runner had been chased ashore, and the Daylight ventured too near, when a shot from Fort Fisher, a Confederate battery on the shore exploded her magazine, destroying the vessel and killing most of her officers and crew.

An arrival from New Orleans gives us no definite information about the real state of affairs in Texas. Military operations seem to be at a stand-still, and it looks very much as if the authorities there, having failed in several expeditions are at a loss what to do next. General Franklin, with twenty thousand troops, is at New Iberia, in Louisiana, but a short distance from New Orleans. A small force is at Matagorda Bay, the centre of the coast of Texas, and another at Brownsville, on the Rio Grande. All maintain a masterly inactivity.

An official despatch from Halifax to Washington states that the Chesapeake has been given up to the British authorities, and that the Federal captives had abandoned her. It will now be the subject of lengthy negotiations. The Chesapeake is at Halifax, and a party of citizens who sympathized with her captors rescued them from the authorities upon their arrival at that port. Every one is now at large.

A confederate raid from South Western Virginia to Kentucky, resulted in the capture of forty-six federal prisoners, and two hundred and fifty horses. Seven hundred thousand dollars worth of property and six hundred and fifty small arms were destroyed. Ten Federal soldiers were killed; the Confederate loss was two wounded.

It is reported that the recent storm has washed the obstructions out of Charleston harbor. Military and naval officers hereabout however, who are conversant with the obstructions, scarcely believe this story.

The Confederates have appeared in force at Gloucester Point, opposite Yorktown on the Virginia Peninsula. The recent explosion of the fort at Yorktown, destroyed nearly every house in the place.

Capture of Rebel Prisoners.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

PETERSON'S MAGAZINE for January has been received. It has entered upon the new year with a splendid number. The engravings in this surpass those in all former numbers. "The Orphan's New Year's Eve" is a magnificent plate, as well as is the "Merry Children." The fashion plates, in general, we think are marked with improvement second to no other periodical.

FRANK LESLIE'S Lady's Magazine and Gazette of Fashion, is out in full bloom for the month of December. This number closes the present year, and it does it well, sparing nothing to make it the choice of the Ladies as a Fashion Magazine. It is larger and more voluminous than most periodicals, containing in connection with its superior Fashion Plates some most excellent reading. Send and get it, you are sure to get the worth of your money almost in a single number. Published by Frank Leslie, 72 Duane Street, New York; Terms, \$3.00 per year.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE, for January, is on our table. This Magazine is always interesting and profitable, teeming with attractions rare and elegant. No better investment can be made than by subscribing for Arthur's Magazine. There is no two dollar monthly that surpasses it, and but few that even equal it. Its corps of contributors are superior to all others. The very best talent is employed. T. S. Arthur publisher, Phila. Terms \$2 a year in advance.

MME. DEMOREST has sent us her Quarterly Mirror of Fashion for the winter, ending in February. It is a work that no lady should be without, and in short we cannot conceive how they can. It contains all the latest fashions, with full size patrons accompanying each number, which are more than worth the price of subscription. Send and get it. Single copies \$2.50 or one dollar a year, with a valuable premium. No. 473 Broadway New York.

The history of the organization of the armies of the United States, and the history of the Army of the Potomac from Bull Run to Antietam while under the command of General McClellan, is at last to be brought to light. Mr. Cox, of Ohio, introduced a resolution on Tuesday, which was adopted requiring Secretary Stanton to communicate to the House the report of General McClellan.

It will doubtless prove to be the most important chapter of the history of the war, and of the present administration.

DEATH OF AN EDITOR.—J. K. Calhoun, Esq., editor of the Armstrong Democrat, and formerly a member of the Legislature, died at his residence in Kittanning, of typhoid fever, on the 5th instant. He was a man of amiable disposition and considerable intelligence, a sound lawyer and vigorous writer.

The Portland (Maine) Argus thus heads its remarks upon the President's ingenious invention of a plain "how not to do it?" "THE PRESIDENT'S LAST PROCLAMATION A CURIOUS MIDDLE PROPOSITIONS TO FORM STATES EXCLUSIVELY OF PARDONED CRIMINALS."

DIED.

IMPORTANT TO LADIES.—Dr. Harvey's Female Pills have never yet failed in removing difficulties arising from obstruction, or stoppage of nature, or in restoring the system to perfect health when suffering from spinal affections, prolapser, Uteri, the whites, or other weakness of the uterine organs.

Each box contains 60 pills.—Price \$1. Dr. Harvey's Treatise on Diseases of Females, pregnancy, miscarriage, barrenness, sterility, reproduction, and abuses of Nature, and emphatically the ladies' Private Medical Adviser, a pamphlet of 64 pages sent free to any address. Six cents required to pay postage.

BELL'S SPECIFIC PILLS.—Warranted in all cases. Can be relied on! Never fail to cure! Do not nauseate! Are speedy in action! No change of diet required! Do not interfere with business pursuits! Can be used without detection! Upward of 200 cures the past month—some of them very severe cases. Over one hundred physicians have used them in their practice, and all speak well of their efficacy, and approve their composition, which is entirely vegetable, and harmless on the system. Hundreds of certificates can be shown.

Bell's Specific Pills are the original and only genuine Specific Pills. They are adapted for male and female, old or young, and the only reliable remedy for effecting a permanent and speedy cure in all cases of Spermatitis, or Seminal Weakness, with all its train of evils such as Urethral and Vaginal Discharges, the Whites, Nightly or Involuntary Emissions, Incontinence, Genital Debility and Irritability Impotence, Weakness or loss of Power, nervous Debility, &c., all of which arise principally from Sexual Excesses or self-abuse, or some constitutional derangement, and incapacitates the sufferer from fulfilling the duties of married life. In all sexual diseases, Gonorrhoea, Gleet and Strictures, and in Diseases of the Bladder and Kidneys, they act as a charm! Relief is experienced by taking a single box.

They will be sent by mail, securely sealed, and confidentially, on receipt of the money, by J. BRYAN, M. D., No. 76 Cedar street, New York.

THE FIFTIETH THOUSAND—DR. BELL'S TREATISE on self-abuse, Premature sexual diseases, seminal weakness, nightly emissions, genital debility, &c., &c., a pamphlet of 64 pages, containing important advice to the afflicted, and which should be read by every sufferer, as the means of cure in the severest stages is plainly set forth. Two stamps required to pay postage. Nov. 25, 1861—1y.

Administrators Notice. Estate of Henry Kitcher, deceased.

ESTRAY COW.

A FORTUNE FOR ALL! EITHER MEN OR WOMEN!

ESTRAY SHEEP.

Public Sale OF VALUABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

WILL be exposed to Public Sale, at the late residence of Henry Kitcher, deceased, in Greenwood township, Columbia county, on SATURDAY THE 9TH OF JAN. 1864, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, on said day, the following valuable personal property: 1y, to-wit:

THREE HORSES; One yearling colt, three Milch cows, One heifer, Two calves, One breeding sow, Four shoats, Eleven head of SHEEP, ALSO, One Threshing Machine, One Windmill, One Two horse Wagon, One Truck Wagon, One open buggy, One Sleigh, One sled, Two cultivators, Two harrows, Two Plows, Two single sets of Light Harness, besides a number of other harness commonly used for teaming and farming; Also, a lot of GRAIN by the bushel, such as WHEAT, CORN AND OATS; ALSO, Potatoes by the bushel, Hay by the Ton, and corn fodder by the sheaf; ALSO, IRON IN THE GROUND, ALSO, Household and Kitchen Furniture, consisting of beds, bedding, Bureaus, Chairs, Tables, Coning and Parlor Stoves and Pipe, together with a lot of other articles too tedious to mention.

Old Things Become New. The undersigned would be pleased to inform his old friends, and "the rest of mankind," that he has lately returned from the service of his country, and again reopened his O. J. D. ESTABLISHMENT, at No. 1 A. L. O. R. N. S. L. O. O. N., with a view of making up entire new garments, as well as mending old ones, for all mankind, [and any body else,] who may favor him with their work in his line.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. We do not believe that even in this age of cheap publications any work can be more reasonable than the terms of the Scientific American at \$2 per annum, with 25 per cent. discount for clubs of 10 to form a yearly volume of 832 pages quarto, with an immense number of original engravings of patented machinery, valuable inventions, and objects of scientific interest. There is not an industrial pursuit which does not receive a share of its attention. It contains official lists of patent claims, important statistics, practical recipes for domestic purposes and has long stood, both in this country and in Europe, as the highest authority in the mechanic arts and sciences. There is no publication more valuable to the farmer, the miller, the engineer, the iron founder, the mechanic, or the manufacturer. We have never opened a number without learning something we never knew before, and obtaining valuable information for the benefit of our business. The Publishers, Messrs. Morse & Co., of 37 Park Row, New York, have deserved the success which they have achieved. No one should visit that city without calling at their palatial establishment, which is a museum of inventive genius, collected from the entire world.—If any of our friends desire to know more, we will take our advice, they will mail \$2 and become subscribers immediately, or by applying to the Publishers they can obtain a specimen copy gratis, which will be sure to confirm the truth of our recommendation.

SECRET DISCLOSURES! Secrets for the Million! Most valuable and wonderful publication. A work of 400 pages, and 30 colored engravings. DR. HUNTER'S VADEMECUM, an original and popular treatise on Man and Woman, their Physiology, Functions, and Sexual Disorders of every kind, with Never-Failing Remedies for their speedy cure. The practice of DR. HUNTER has long been, and still is, unbounded, but at the earnest solicitation numerous persons, he has been induced to extend his medical usefulness through the medium of his "VADEMECUM." It is a volume that should be in the hands of every family in the land, as a preventive of secret vice, or as a guide for the alleviation of one of the most awful and destructive scourges ever visited mankind. One copy, securely enveloped, will be forwarded free of postage to any part of the United States for 50 cents in P. O. stamps, 15 cents for S. D. Orders, post paid, DR. HUNTER, No. 3 Division Street, New York Sept. 9, 1863.

HOSTETTER'S BITTERS. Have received the warmest encomiums from the press and people throughout the Union as a valuable tonic for the cure of Dyspepsia, Flatulence, Constipation, and general nervous debility, it can not be approached. Every day new cases of its great effect are chronicled through our principal periodicals. There is nothing equal to the enjoyment to that which the afflicted experience when using this valuable specific. Its mild tone, its sure and vigorous action upon a disordered stomach, and the clearing up of the entire human body should recommend it to all classes of our country.

For sale by Druggists and dealers generally everywhere. Dec. 9, 1863.—1 mo

Auditor's Notice. In the matter of the Administration account of Benjamin Bomby and Isaac Wagner, Administrators of Isaac Wagner, late of Hemlock township, Columbia county, dec'd.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.