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OFFICIAL.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Passed at the Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress.

[PUBLIC—No. 162.]

AN ACT to establish and equalize the grades of line officers of the United States Navy.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the active list of the line officers of the United States navy shall be divided into nine grades, taking rank according to the date of their commissions in each grade, as follows, viz:

First, Rear Admirals.
Second, Commodores.
Third, Captains.
Fourth, Commanders.
Fifth, Lieutenant commanders.
Sixth, Lieutenants.
Seventh, Masters.
Eighth, Ensigns.
Ninth, Midshipmen.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the number of officers allowed to each grade shall not exceed nine rear admirals, eighteen commodores, thirty-six captains, seventy-two commanders, one hundred and forty-four lieutenant commanders, one hundred and forty-four lieutenants, one hundred and forty-four masters, and one hundred and forty-four ensigns.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the vessels of the United States navy shall be divided into four classes, to be commanded, as near as may be, as follows:

First rates, by commodores.
Second rates, by captains.
Third rates, by commanders.
Fourth rates, by lieutenant commanders.

Lieutenant commanders may be assigned as first lieutenants of naval stations and of vessels not commanded by lieutenant commanders.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall appoint an advisory board of not less than three officers, senior to those to be reported upon, who shall carefully scrutinize the active list of line officers above and including the grade of masters in the line of promotion, and report to him, in writing those who in the opinion of the board, are worthy of further promotion, in the following words: "We hereby certify that ... has the moral, mental, physical, and professional qualifications to perform efficiently all his duties, both at sea, and on shore, of the grade to which he is to be promoted, and recommend him for promotion.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the officers recommended shall be immediately commissioned, according to their present seniority, in the following grades and numbers, viz: eighteen commodores, thirty-six captains, seventy-two commanders, one hundred and forty-four lieutenant commanders, one hundred and forty-four lieutenants, one hundred and forty-four masters, and one hundred and forty-four ensigns: *Provided*, That this number of officers remain upon the active list after the action of the board, otherwise so soon as the graduates from the naval Academy are available for promotion.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That a similar advisory board shall be appointed at least once in every four years: *Provided*, That the same officers shall not be eligible for two successive terms.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That nine rear admirals may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall be selected, during war, from those officers upon the active list not below the grade of commanders, who have distinguished themselves, or shall hereafter most eminently distinguish themselves, by courage, skill, and genius, in their profession: *Provided*, That no officer shall be promoted to this grade unless, upon recommendation of the President by name, he has received the thanks of Congress for distinguished service. During times of peace vacancies in this grade shall be filled by regular promotion from the list of commodores, subject to examinations as aforesaid.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever, upon the recommendation of the President of the United States, any officer of the navy now upon the active list, not below the grade of commander, has received, or shall receive, by name, during the present war, a vote of thanks of Congress for distinguished service, such officer shall not be retired except for cause until he has been fifty-five years in the naval service of the United States.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That any line officer of the navy or marine corps may be advanced one grade, if, upon recommendation of the President, by name, he receives the thanks of Congress for highly distinguished conduct in conflict with the enemy, or for extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That any person who shall have received or shall hereafter receive a temporary appointment as acting volunteer lieutenant or acting master in the navy from civil life, authorized by the act of Congress of July twenty-four, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, may be confirmed in said appointment in the navy, and placed in the line of promotion from the date of said confirmation, if, upon the recommendation of the President, he receives the thanks of Congress for highly meritorious conduct in conflict with the enemy: *Provided*, The number of officers allowed in each grade by this act shall not be increased thereby. Seamen distinguishing themselves in battle, or by extraordinary heroism in the line of their profession, may be promoted to forward warrant officers, or acting masters' mates, as they may be best qualified, upon the recommendation of their commanding officer, approved by the flag officer and the department. Upon such promotion they shall receive a gratuity of one hundred dollars and a medal of honor to be prepared by the Navy Department.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the students at the Naval Academy shall be styled midshipmen and until their final graduating examination, when, if successful, they shall be commissioned ensigns, ranking according to merit. The number allowed at the academy shall be two for every member and delegate of the House of Representatives, two for the District of Columbia, and ten at large. They shall be between the ages of thirteen and seventeen, physically sound and well formed, and of robust constitution. They shall be examined for admittance into the academy according to regulations which shall be [illegible] Secretary of the Navy, and if [illegible] not have the privilege of [illegible] nation for admission to the [illegible] less recommended by the [illegible] bers. The President shall [illegible] from the District of Columbia at large, and the President [illegible] owed three yearly appointments, who shall be not over [illegible] age, who shall be selected [illegible] in the navy, and who [illegible] one year in the service, [illegible] shall have been sea [illegible] after the fifth of March, [illegible] and sixty-three, the [illegible] dates for admission into [illegible] shall be made between [illegible] the first of July of [illegible] recommendation of [illegible] date, from actual resi[illegible] and they shall be ex[illegible] in July: *Provided*, [illegible] who has been so [illegible] examination be found [illegible] disqualified for ad[illegible] delegate from whose [illegible] shall be noti[illegible] fied to recommend another candidate, who shall be examined in the September following. And it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Navy, as soon after the fifth of March as possible, to notify, in writing, each member and delegate of any vacancy that may exist in his district; and if said member or delegate neglects to recommend a candidate by the first of July in that year, then it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Navy to fill the vacancy. Midshipmen deficient at any examination shall not be continued at the academy, or in the service, unless upon recommendation of the academic board; nor shall any officer of the navy, who has been dismissed by sentence of a court-martial, or suffered to resign to escape one, ever again become an officer of the navy: *provided, however*, That no greater number of midshipmen shall be appointed by the President at large under this or any other law of Congress than shall be allowed by the provisions of this section.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the three senior rear admirals shall wear a square blue flag at the mainmast head; the next three at the foremast head; and all others at the mizen.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the relative rank between officers of the navy and the army shall be as follows, lineal rank only to be considered:

Rear Admirals with major generals.
Commodores with brigadier generals.
Captains with colonels.
Commanders with lieutenant colonels.
Lieutenant commanders with majors.
Lieutenants with captains.
Masters with first lieutenants.
Ensigns with second lieutenants.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That there may be allowed upon the retired list nine rear admirals and eighteen commodores. The rear admirals shall be selected by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from those captains who have given the most faithful service to their country. The eighteen commodores shall be recommended from the list of captains by an advisory board of admirals. After the above numbers are commissioned, promotion to those grades upon the retired list shall be by seniority, subject to an advisory board.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, the annual pay of the several ranks and grades of officers of the navy on the active list hereinafter named shall be as follows, viz:

Rear admirals, when at sea, shall receive five thousand dollars;
When on shore duty, four thousand dollars;
When on leave of absence, or waiting orders, three thousand dollars;
Commodores, when at sea, shall receive four thousand dollars;
When on shore duty, three thousand two hundred dollars;
When on leave of absence or waiting orders two thousand four hundred dollars;
Captains, when at sea, shall receive three thousand five hundred dollars;
When on shore duty, two thousand eight hundred dollars;
When on leave of absence or waiting orders, two thousand one hundred dollars;
Commanders, when at sea, shall receive two thousand eight hundred dollars;
When on shore duty, two thousand, two hundred and forty dollars;
When on leave of absence or waiting orders, one thousand six hundred dollars;
Lieutenant commanders, when at sea, shall receive two thousand three hundred and forty-three dollars;
When on shore duty, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars;
When on leave of absence or waiting orders, one thousand five hundred dollars;
Lieutenants, when at sea, shall receive one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars.
When on shore duty, one thousand and five hundred dollars.
When on leave of absence or waiting orders, one thousand two hundred dollars.
Masters, when at sea, shall receive one thousand five hundred dollars.
When on shore duty, one thousand two hundred dollars.
When on leave of absence or waiting orders, nine hundred and sixty dollars.
Ensigns, when at sea, shall receive one thousand two hundred dollars.
When on shore duty, nine hundred and sixty dollars.
When on leave of absence or waiting orders, seven hundred and sixty-eight dollars.
Midshipmen shall receive five hundred dollars.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever any officer of the navy of a class subject by law or regulation to examination before promotion to a higher grade, shall have been absent on duty at the time when he should have been examined and shall have been found qualified at a subsequent examination, the increased rate of pay to which he may be entitled shall be allowed to him from the date when he would have received it had he been found qualified at the time when his examination should have taken place.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That in calculating the graduated pay of boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sailmakers in the Navy, as established by law, the sea service shall be computed from the dates of their appointments or entry into the service of their respective grades in lieu of the dates of their warrant.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Navy be and he is hereby authorized to assign clerks and laborers attached to one bureau to duty in another, and also to detail a surgeon or assistant surgeon, or passed assistant surgeon, to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, who shall receive the highest shore pay of his grade.

Sec. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That all officers while at sea, or attached to a sea-going vessel, shall be allowed one ration.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the relative rank between officers of the navy and army on the retired list shall be the same as on the active list, and the annual pay of retired naval officers shall be as follows, viz:

Admirals, two thousand dollars.
Commodores, eighteen hundred dollars.
Captains, sixteen hendred dollars.
Commanders, fourteen hundred dollars.
Lieutenant commanders, thirteen hundred dollars.
Lieutenants, one thousand dollars.
Masters, eight hundred dollars.
Ensigns, five hundred dollars.

And no ration shall be allowed to any officer of the navy on the retired list. And the pay of all naval officers appointed by virtue of an act entitled "An act to provide for the temporary increase of the navy" approved July twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, shall be the same as that of officers of a like grade in the regular navy.

Approved July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 153.]

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to further promote the efficiency of the navy," approved December twenty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section eighteen of an act to further promote the efficiency of the navy, approved December twenty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, be amended so as to read as follows: That the hours of labor and the rate of wages of the employees in the navy yards shall conform, as nearly as is consistent with the public interest, with those of private establishments in the immediate vicinity of the respective yards, to be determined by the commandants of the navy yards, subject to the approval and revision of the Secretary of the Navy.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 154.]

AN ACT transferring the western gunboat fleet from the War to the Navy Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the western gunboat fleet constructed by the War Department for operations on the western waters shall be transferred to the Navy Department, which will be hereafter charged with the expense of its repair, support, and maintenance: *Provided*, That all vessels now under construction or repair by authority of the War Department shall be completed and paid for under the authority of that Department from appropriations made for that purpose.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 155.]

AN ACT to enlarge the Lake Superior land district, in the State of Michigan.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all that portion of the present "Cheboygan district," in the State of Michigan, lying west of Lake Michigan and south of the line dividing townships forty-one and forty-two north, including Saint Martin's and the adjacent islands near the entrance to "Big Bay de Noc," now forming a part of the present Cheboygan district, and subject to sale at Traverse City, in said State, be and the same is hereby attached to the "Lake Superior district," and the lands therein to be subject to sale and entry at the sale of the land office for said district.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall not take effect until three months after the date of its approval.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 156.]

AN ACT to impose an additional duty on sugars produced in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in addition to the duties imposed by the act entitled "An act to provide internal revenue to support the Government, and [to] pay interest on the public debt," approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, on all brown, muscovado, or clarified sugars produced directly from the sugar cane there shall be levied, collected, and paid under the provisions of said act, upon all such sugars produced in the United States, a duty of one cent per pound; and such additional duty and the duty specified in the act aforesaid shall be levied, collected, and paid [on] all such sugars, not manufactured for consumption in the family of the producer, in the hands of the producer or manufacturer thereof, or of his agent or factor, on the day of the approval of this act by the President: *Provided*, That, within States or parts of States declared to be in insurrection, the said duties may be collected in such manner and by such officers as the President may direct until the insurrection so declared shall cease or have been suppressed.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this act shall not apply to sugar manufactured from sorghum.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 157.]

AN ACT to punish the fraudulent sale or use of postage stamps.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall wilfully remove or cause to be removed from any postage stamp or stamped envelope the cancelling or defacing marks thereon, with intent to use the same or cause the use of the same the second time, or shall knowingly or wilfully sell or buy such washed or restored stamps, or offer the same for sale, or give or expose the same to any person for use, or knowingly use the same, or prepare the same with intent for the second use thereof, every such person shall, upon conviction thereof, be adjudged guilty of felony, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding three years or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by both imprisonment and fine as aforesaid; and one-half of such fine, when collected, shall be paid to the informer.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 158.]

AN ACT in relation to the competency of witnesses, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That the laws of the State in which the court shall be held shall be the rules of decision as to the competency of witnesses in the courts of the United States, in trials at common law, in equity, and admiralty.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of section twenty-nine of an act entitled "An act to establish judicial courts of the United States," approved September twenty-four, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, as requires, in cases punishable with death, twelve petit jurors to be summoned from the county where the offence was committed, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 159.]

AN ACT prohibiting the confinement of persons in the military service of the United States in the penitentiary of the District of Columbia, except as a punishment for certain crimes, and to discharge therefrom certain convicts by sentence of courts-martial, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter no person in the military service of the United States, convicted and sentenced by a court-martial, shall be punished by confinement in the penitentiary of the District of Columbia, unless the offence of which such person may be convicted would by some statute of the United States or at common law, as the same exists in the said District, subject such convict to said punishment.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all such persons in the military service, as aforesaid, who have heretofore been or may hereafter be convicted and sentenced by a court-martial for any offence which if tried before the criminal court of said District, would not subject such person to imprisonment in said penitentiary, and who are now or may hereafter be confined therein, shall be discharged from said imprisonment, upon such terms and conditions of further punishment as the President of the United States may, in his discretion, impose as a commutation of said sentence.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That upon the application of any citizen of the United States, supported by his oath, alleging that a person or persons in the military service as aforesaid, are confined in said penitentiary under the sentence of a court-martial for any offence not punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary by the authority of the criminal court aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the judge of said court, or, in case of his absence or inability, of one of the judges of the circuit court of said District, if upon an inspection of the record of the proceedings of said court-martial he shall find the facts to be as alleged in said application, immediately to issue the writ of habeas corpus to bring before him the said convict; and and if, upon an investigation of the case, it shall be the opinion of such judge that the case of such convict is within the provisions of the previous sections of this act, he shall order such convict to be confined in the common jail of said District, until the decision of the President of the United States as to the commutation aforesaid shall be filed in said court, and then such convict shall be disposed of and suffer such punishment as by said commutation of his said sentence may be imposed.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That no person convicted upon the decision of a court-martial shall be confined in any penitentiary in the United States, except under the conditions of this act.

Approved, July 16, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 160.]

AN ACT to suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate the property of rebels, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every person who shall hereafter commit the crime of treason against the United States, and shall be adjudged guilty thereof, shall suffer death, and all his slaves, if any, shall be declared and made free; or, at the discretion of the court, he shall be imprisoned for not less than five years and fined not less than ten thousand dollars, and all his slaves, if any, shall be declared and made free; said fine shall be levied and collected on any or all of the property, real and personal, excluding slaves, of which the said person so convicted was the owner at the time of committing the said crime, any sale or conveyance to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted* That if any person shall hereafter incite, set on foot, or assist, or engage in any rebellion or insurrection against the authority of the United States, or the laws thereof, or shall give aid or comfort thereto, or shall engage in, or give aid and comfort to, any such existing rebellion or insurrection, and be convicted thereof, such person shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years, or by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, and by the liberation of all his slaves, if any he have; or both of said punishments, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That every person guilty of either of the offences described in this act shall be forever incapable and disqualified to hold any office under the United States.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall not be construed in any way to affect or alter the prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person or persons guilty of treason against the United States before the passage of this act, unless such person is convicted under this act.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That, to insure a speedy termination of the present rebellion, it shall be the duty of the President of the United States to cause the seizure of all the estate and property, money, stocks, credits and the effects of the persons hereinafter named in this section, and to apply the use of the same and the proceeds thereof for the support of the army of the United States; that is to say:

First, Of any person hereafter acting as an officer of the army or navy of rebels in arms against the Government of the United States.

Secondly, Of any person hereafter acting as President, Vice President, member of Congress, judge of any court, cabinet officer, foreign minister, commissioner or consul of the so-called Confederate States of America.

Thirdly, Of any person acting as Governor of a State, member of a Convention or Legislature, or judge of any court of any of the so-called Confederate States of America.

Fourthly, Of any person who, having held an office of honor, trust, or profit in the United States, shall hereafter hold an office in the so-called Confederate States of America.

Fifthly, Of any person hereafter holding any office or agency under the government of the so-called Confederate States of America, or under any of the several States of the said Confederacy, or the laws thereof, whether such office or agency be national, State, or municipal in its name or character: *Provided*, That the persons thirdly, fourthly, and fifthly above described shall have accepted their appointment or election since the date of the pretended ordinance of secession of the State, or shall have taken an oath of allegiance to, or to support the Constitution of the so-called Confederate States.

Sixthly. Of any person who, owning property in any loyal State or Territory of the United States, or in the District of Columbia, shall hereafter assist and give aid and comfort to such rebellion; and all sales, transfers or, conveyances of any such property shall be null and void; and it shall be a sufficient bar to any suit brought by such person for the possession or the use of such property, or any of it, to allege and prove that he is one of the persons described in this section.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person within any State or Territory of the United States, other than those named as aforesaid, after the passage of this act, being engaged in armed rebellion against the Government of the United States, or aiding or abetting such rebellion, shall not within sixty days after public warning and proclamation duly given and made by the President of the United States, cease to aid, countenance, and abet such rebellion, and return to his allegiance to the United States, all the estate and property, moneys, stocks, and credits of such person shall be liable to seizure as aforesaid, and it shall be the duty of the President to seize and use them as aforesaid or the proceeds thereof. And all sales, transfers, or conveyances of any such property after the expiration of the said sixty days from the date of such warning and proclamation shall be null and void; and it shall be a sufficient bar to any suit brought by such person for the possession or the use of such property, or any of it, to allege and prove that he is one of the persons described in this section.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That to secure the condemnation and sale of any of such property, after the same shall have been seized, so that it may be made available for the purpose aforesaid, proceedings in rem shall be instituted in the name of the United States in any district court thereof, or in any Territorial court, or in the United States district court for the district of Columbia, within which the property above described, or any part thereof, may be found, into which the same, if moveable, may first be brought, which proceedings shall conform as nearly as may be to proceedings in admiralty or revenue cases; and if said property, whether real or personal, shall be found to have belonged to a person engaged in rebellion, or who has given aid or comfort thereto, the same shall be condemned as enemies' property and become the property of the United States, and may be disposed of as the court shall decree, and the proceeds thereof paid into the Treasury of the United States for the purpose aforesaid.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the several courts aforesaid shall have power to make such orders, establish such forms of decree and sale, and direct such deeds and conveyances to be executed and delivered by the marshals thereof where real estate shall be the subject of sale, as shall fitly and efficiently effect the purposes of this act, and vest in the purchasers of such property good and valid titles thereto. And the said courts shall have power to allow such fees and charges of their officers as shall be reasonable and proper in the premises.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all slaves of persons who shall hereafter be engaged in rebellion against the Government of the United States, or who shall in any way give aid or comfort thereto, escaping from such persons and taking refuge within the lines of the army; and all slaves captured from such persons or deserted by them and coming under the control of the Government of the United States, and all slaves of such persons found on [or] being within any place occupied by rebel forces and afterwards occupied by the forces of the United States shall be deemed captives of the war, and shall be forever free of their servitude, and not again held as slaves.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That no slaves escaping into any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, from any other State, shall be delivered up, or in any way impeded or hindered of his liberty, except for crime, or some offence against the laws, unless the person claiming said fugitive shall first make oath that the person to whom the labor or service of such fugitive is alleged to be due is his lawful owner, and has not borne arms against the United States in the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid and comfort thereto; and no person engaged in the military or naval service of the United States shall, under any pretence, whatever, assume to decide on the validity of the claim of any person to the service or labor of any other person, or surrender up any such person to the claimant, on pain of being dismissed from the service.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States is authorized to employ as many persons of African descent as he may deem necessary and proper for the suppression of this rebellion, and for this purpose he may organize and use them in such manner as he may judge best for the public welfare.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to make provision for the transportation, colonization, and settlement, in some tropical country beyond the limits of the United States, of such persons of the African race, made free by the provisions of this act, as may be willing to emigrate, having first obtained the consent of the Government of said country to their protection and settlement within the same, with all the rights and privileges of freemen.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the President is hereby authorized, at any time hereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have anticipated in the existing rebellion in any State or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such time and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the courts of the United States shall have full power to institute proceedings, make orders and decrees, issue process, and do all other things necessary to carry this act into effect.

Approved, July 17, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 161.]

AN ACT to authorize payments in stamps and to prohibit circulation of notes of less denomination than one dollar.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby directed to furnish to the Assistant Treasurers and such designated depositories of the United States as may be by him selected, in such sums as he may deem expedient, the postage and other stamps of the United States, to be exchanged by them, on application, for United States notes; and from and after the first day of August next such stamps shall be receivable in payment of all dues to the United States less than five dollars, and shall be received in exchange for United States notes when presented to any Assistant Treasurer or any designated depository selected as aforesaid in sums not less than five dollars.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the first day of August, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, no private corporation, banking association, firm, or individual shall make, issue, circulate or pay any note, check, memorandum, token, or other obligation, for a less sum than one dollar, intended to circulate as money or to be received or used in lieu of lawful money of the United States; and every person so offending shall, on conviction thereof in any district court of the United States be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both, at the option of the court.

Approved, July 17, 1862.

[PUBLIC—No. 162.]

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "an act to amend an act entitled 'An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave trade.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the President of the United States to enter into arrangement, by contract or otherwise, with one or more foreign Governments having possessions in the West Indies or other tropical regions, or with their duly constituted agent or agents, to receive from the United States, for a term not exceeding five years, at such place or places as shall be agreed upon, all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade by commanders of United States armed vessels, and to provide them with suitable instruction, and with comfortable clothing and shelter, and to employ them, for wages, under such regulations as shall be agreed upon, for a period not exceeding five years from the date of their being landed at the place or places agreed upon: *Provided*, That the United States incur no expenses on account of said negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, after having landed them at the place or places agreed upon: *And provided, further*, That any arrangement so made as aforesaid may be renewed by the President of the United States from time to time, as may be found necessary or desirable, for periods not exceeding five years on each renewal.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to issue instructions to the commanders of the armed vessels of the United States, directing them, whenever it shall be practicable, and under such rules and regulations as he shall prescribe, to proceed directly to such place or places as shall have been agreed upon with any foreign Government, or its duly constituted agent or agents, under the provisions of the first section of this act, and there deliver to the duly constituted authorities, or agents of such foreign Governments, all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade, afterwards taking the vessel and persons engaged in prosecuting the slave trade to the proper place for trial and adjudication.

Approved, July 17, 1862.

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MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 29.

The Freedmen of South Carolina.

The following letter, addressed to the Philadelphia *Press*, will be read with great interest, in view of the recent proclamation, whose opponents are either howling with rage, or, with equal malignity, conjuring up all imaginable and unimaginable difficulties and horrible consequences, to stand in the way of, and to result from, the carrying of it out. The writer of this letter, having better opportunities to arrive at a better knowledge—having in fact seen the question put to a practical test with such satisfactory results as he describes—evidently has no fears as to the solution of the great problem of general emancipation, though he did not know, when he wrote, that a few days more would give the facts he reported such an increase of interest;

BEAUFORT, S. C., Sept. 10, 1862.

To the Editor of the Press:

SIR: There is one phase of the present war which has attracted more of the attention of those who look beyond the incidents of battles, sieges, retreats, and victories, than the probable success or failure of the experiment of free-labor as attempted on the sea-islands of South Carolina. If 15,000 *freedmen* are found to have no insane desire to overrun the North, but, on the contrary, are found to evince the strongest attachment to the place of their birth; if 15,000 freedmen working on these plantations with no other stimulus than that common to mankind since Adam was condemned to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, can produce a cotton crop, why may not three or four million similarly circumstanced do as well? The experiment has been tried and hundreds of fields and thousands of acres whitened by the king of staples attest its success.

During this week I have ridden over several plantations on St. Helena and Ladies Island to witness the process of cotton-picking. The plants are opening rapidly now, though the crop is generally backward on account of the late planting. For the first time in South Carolina can now be witnessed thousands of men, women and children rapidly filling their bags with the staple, and without the hitherto indispensable motive-power of the lash!

Many circumstances have conspired to prevent the production of a large crop of cotton. One of them is found in the very large number of the best hands being withdrawn from the plantation to work in the quartermaster's department at Hilton Head and Beaufort. The value of the labor performed by them cannot be estimated in dollars and cents, when it is remembered that it would otherwise have fallen to the lot of our Pennsylvania and Connecticut soldiers, who would have sunk by hundreds under such drudgery in this climate. Gen. Hunter's regiment of South Carolina Volunteers drew off another thousand prime field hands, now returned to the plantations to find the crops planted by them in the spring overrun by weeds and lost by neglect. Still another loss was experienced in the evacuation of Edisto Island, which was the richest in the quality of land and quantity of crops of any island in the department. Twelve hundred people were thus added to the population of the remaining islands at a time when their industry could not be available. It is hoped that before the crops planted there are lost we may be able to return and gather them. Above all, the sense of insecurity, so fatal to business activity everywhere, has retarded labor here. It is difficult to plan broadly for next year or next month when there is no certainty of being here to-morrow.

The total number of effective plantation hands on Port Royal, St. Helena, and Ladies Island, is about 3,250; non-effective, (including children, aged and infirm,) is about 3,600. The ground cultivated is—

Corn	6,444	Peas, Beans, etc.	360
Potatoes	1,407	Cotton	3,394

A little calculation will show that enough food has been produced to support the workers, and a cotton crop estimated to be worth about half a million dollars, in addition.

Before closing this subject, let me say a word of the conduct of these ignorant people, during their transition period from chattelism to manhood. I believe I express the opinion of both friends and foes of emancipation when I say it has been admirable. The same patience exhibited under the oppression of former masters has been shown under the frequent insults and wrongs of a portion of the soldiery. Their respectful demeanor towards white persons has been preserved, notwithstanding the privileges of freedom accorded to them. The crops on the plantations, and the records of the Quartermaster's Department, prove them not to be lazy. The judicious manner in which they expend their earning proves them not to be thriftless. The experiment thus far has justified the sanguine expectations of their friends and refuted the calumnies of their enemies.

I am, sir, with great respect, yours,
J. G. T.

Important from Kentucky.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, writing from Louisville, contradicts the report that Gen. Morgan had evacuated Cumberland Gap. He says Col. De Courcey, with a detachment of Gen. Morgan's forces, had taken Richmond, but the Gap was being held. The *Gazette* remarks editorially: "We have reason to believe the report that Morgan holds the Gap, is correct. Gen. Morgan has provisions sufficient to keep his men for some time; and it will be found much easier to hold the position than it would be to retake it."

THE STOCK MARKET in Wall street, on Thursday, was in a state of excitement almost beyond precedent, in consequence of the late campaign in Maryland, the President's proclamation, and the regulation at the Sub-Treasury offering four per cent. interest upon deposits in gold, to aid it in accumulating sufficient to meet accruing interest on bonds. Men's political opinions operated to increase the excitement and unsettle prices. Government Loan (1881) fell ¼ per cent.; demand notes advanced ¾—other stocks, State and railroad, advanced from 2 to 3 per cent. Gold rose to 120⅝, but receded to 119½, and again rose to 120¾. Money is very abundant, and is pressed upon borrowers at call at 4 and 5 per cent.

THE *conservatives* of New York propose to hold a public meeting to denounce the President's Proclamation of emancipation; but the *Herald*, in speaking of it, says: "As it is possible that the carrying out of the original design might be attended with turmoil and riot, which it is most desirable at such a time particularly to avoid, we hope that it will not be persisted in." This is very significant. That astute, though unscrupulous journal sees plainly that such a movement would be a death-blow to the hopes of the party that should attempt it.

IT may not be generally known that to sell postage stamp envelopes at more than its face, is contrary to law, and may subject the seller to a penalty.

The Battle of Iuka.

A Cairo correspondent of the New York *Tribune* gives the following account of the late splendid victory achieved by Gen. Rosecrans at Iuka, of which the telegraph some days ago gave us a brief report:

Those who have watched the progress of events in Tennessee, have all along been aware that a battle was impending, and liable to occur at any moment. We have known of the movement of troops, but from considerations of public policy have forborne to mention them. We have known that Gen. Grant had shipped large numbers of his veterans to Louisville and Cincinnati to aid in repelling threatened rebel invasion, and this knowledge has led to the fear that when the decisive moment should arrive, our army would be wanting. Happily these fears were groundless. "We have met the enemy and they are ours." We have routed him, "horse, foot, and dragoons." We have slain and wounded from five hundred to a thousand. We have taken five hundred prisoners. We have captured six entire batteries, thirty-six cannon, and a large army train. We are now pursuing the enemy, and hope, before it be intermitted, to be able to announce the capture of the entire rebel army.

A glance at the map will show the position of our forces and the location of the enemy. Troops were on the march from Grand Junction to reinforce Gen. Price, who left Tupelo a week or two ago. United, they marched to the vicinity of the little town of Cotton Plant, whence they were to strike across the country diagonally to Eastport, where they intended to cross the Tennessee, at Muscle Shoals, and thus form a junction with Gen. Bragg.

So far as can be learned, the enemy's forces must have exceeded 15,000—a welcome addition to Gen. Bragg's army.

Gen. Grant heard of this project, and at once set himself to defeat it. He proposed "to move upon the enemy's works," and this is how he did it. First he sent Gen. Rosecrans' army, the one formerly commanded by Gen. Pope, to Rienzi. Second, Gen. Ord, with his divisions, was sent to Iuka. (Rienzi is on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, south of Corinth, and Iuka is on the Charleston and Memphis Railroad, east of Corinth.) Here were the two sides of the triangle. Rosecrans at Rienzi and Ord at Iuka, and Grant's army at Corinth, the apex.

Rosecrans reached Rienzi without difficulty, but Gen. Price is too old a bird to run directly into the fowler's snare, so he turned his course and left the line of the Mobile and Ohio railroad not far from Cotton Plant station, ten miles below, and made diagonally across the country for Iuka. Through his scouts, Rosecrans learned of this diversion, and, not to be behind his enemy in enterprise, he also started for Iuka. Rosecrans had the advantage of distance, as he moved directly across the country between the two sides of the triangle, while Price had the advantage in time.

Rosecrans moved rapidly and reached the village—or rather what was the village before our troops burned it, just as the enemy's rear guard was leaving. This was in the afternoon of Friday. Our army, although weary and footsore, did not rest, but eagerly sought the foe. They found him two miles east of Iuka in the direction of the river, and here commenced the battle which has ended so gloriously. As there was but an hour before darkness would settle upon the earth and cover, as a mantle, the contending armies, it was not deemed advisable to bring on a general engagement.

There was skirmishing, first on one side then on the other, and the two armies, having surveyed each other, like two men preparing for a pugilistic encounter, seeking each their advantages, lay down upon the battle-field and slept. To the wearied soldiers, sleep with her healing wings, came tripping through the amber night. They revelled in sweet dreams of home and the dear ones left behind. To how many of these brave men would the morrow prove the occasion of that slumber which knows no waking.

At daybreak the fight was renewed and continued vigorously till noon, when the enemy's line, wavering under a vigorous attack, gave way. Our forces bravely followed up their advantage, and soon the rebel army broke and ran in wild confusion.

Our artillery buried a deadly storm of fire upon the fugitives, and the cavalry completed what it had begun. The enemy were beaten, demoralized and scattered.

The Union army is now in pursuit. Two rebel Generals were placed *hors de combat*. Gen. Little is killed and Gen. Whitfield is wounded and a prisoner.

The Union loss is large—probably four or five hundred in killed and wounded. Of the casualties nothing more is known.

News Items Telegraphed to the Eastern Papers.

Our news from the Army of the Potomac to-day indicates the progress of preparations for an advance into Virginia at an early moment.—*Phila. Press.*

THE FATE OF COL. MILES.

It is now stated, on what seems good authority, that Col. Miles was shot by his own men after the capitulation, instead of being killed by a shell.

The following is an extract from a letter dated at Norfolk, Va., Sept. 20, and written by an officer of a New York regiment: "I am detailed here at Gen. Veile's headquarters on special duty. My regiment is now on the march for Richmond, which you will hear from soon."—*N. Y. Times.*

THE SCHEME FOR COLONIZING THE SOUTHERN STATES.

Hon. Eli Thayer's scheme for the colonization, by armed men, of the Southern States, meets with much favor from the President, Secretary of War, and the other Secretaries, has been discussed several times in the