

# Reading's Journal

BY S. J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1863.

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### LINES:

Written on the Death of Matthew O. Totto.

I am dying, mother, dying  
In the morning of my bloom,  
Let me lie upon thy bosom  
Ere I leave thee for the tomb;  
Press my lips to mine, dear mother,  
And catch the parting breath,  
With thy loving arms around me  
I shall have no fear of death.  
Thou wilt mourn for me, dear mother;  
Thou wilt miss thy loving child;  
When thou wakest in the morning,  
Thou wilt miss me from thy side,  
And a pang will rend thy bosom  
When thou see'st my vacant chair,  
But thou'lt think of Heaven, mother,  
And will know thy son is there.  
Thou wilt be lonely, mother,  
For many a weary day;  
That brightened once thy way,  
Oft thou'lt lighten for my footsteps,  
And my low and loving tone,  
And forget that I am lying  
In the grave yard cold and lone.  
Then thou'lt weep for thy dreaming,  
And the bitter tears will flow  
When thou'lt think upon thy lost one,  
In the grave yard lying low.  
I have thought of this full often  
As I lay upon my bed,  
How thou'lt weep for me, dear mother,  
When I'm gone, bereft with the dead.  
Nay, grieve not so, my mother,  
This is a trial sore I know,  
But kiss the hand that chastens  
And calmly let me go;  
Bow to His will, dear mother,  
Who chastens but in love,  
And thou wilt not regret me  
In my blissful home above.  
Kiss me once more, dear mother,  
My strength is getting low,  
Thou'lt leave me, dear mother,  
Yet 'tis God's will I should go,  
On thy heart, thy loving heart,  
I yield my parting breath,  
Farewell! I die, dear mother,  
Yet feel no sting in death.

### A TOUGH STORY.

While crossing the East Boston Ferry on a very foggy morning not long since I heard the following story from an old down-east farmer, which struck me as about tough enough for the drawer:

A rather loquacious individual was endeavoring to draw the old gentleman into conversation, but hitherto without much success, the old fellow having sufficient discernment to see that his object was to make a little sport for the passengers at his expense.

At length says loquacious individual: "I suppose you consider Down East a right smart place; but I guess it would puzzle them to get up quite so thick a fog as we are having here this morning, wouldn't it?"

"Well," said the old man, "I don't know about that I hired one of your Massachusetts claps to work for me last summer, and one day foggy mornin' I sent him down into the meadow to lay a few courses of shingles on a barn I was buildin' off. At dinner time the fellow came up, and sez he, 'That's an awfully long barn of yours.' Sez I: 'Not very long.'"

"Well," sez he, "I've got to work all this forenoon, and I haven't got one course laid yet." "Well," sez I, "You're a lazy fellow, that's all I've got to say." And so after dinner I went down to see what he'd been about, and I'll be thundered if he hadn't shingled more than a hundred feet right on the job!"—Harper.

The coal fields of the United States aggregate more than 200,000 square miles. Of an area ten times as large as that of Great Britain, France, Spain and Belgium united. They are included in four immense bodies. The Allegheny coal fields covers large areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, and is estimated at 60,000 square miles—Another occupies the greater portion of Illinois and Indiana; the third covers most of Missouri and the fourth the greater part of Michigan.

Major-General Thomas has issued General Orders dishonorably dismissing one Col. two Majors, 15 Captains, 26 Lieutenants, and one Surgeon, for various offenses, including drunkenness, feigning sickness, spreading false rumors, permitting men to plunder, misbehavior in front of the enemy, shameful cowardice, gross disobedience, dishonest practices, and conduct unbecomingly officers and gentlemen.

At a crowded concert a young lady standing at the door of the hall was addressed by an honest Iberian who was in attendance on the occasion. Said he: "Indade, Miss, I should be glad to give you a sato, but the empty ones are all full."

The Petersburg Express says that "sundry persons" are trying to leave the Confederacy for Texas, Bermuda and elsewhere, with their wealth, in order to shirk taxation and military duty, and to do a blockade running business.

It is said that quite a number of citizens who fled South on the breaking out of the rebellion are stealthily returning, and hope to be able to live and escape the authorities. Reports are in the habit of deserting the sinking ship.

In settling up accounts between the Government and the State of New Hampshire, lately, it was discovered that the State has been owing the Government \$10,000 since the war of 1812.

There is a couple in Cincinnati who have been engaged to be married for the past five years, but no time has occurred within that period when they were both out of prison at the same time.

BROTHAM YOUNG boasts that he can see more gold and silver from the door of his house than would equal the whole currency of the world. These mines are not allowed to be opened.

"Them old fellows alive now?" said an arch to his teacher. "What old persons do you mean, my dear?" Why, Paul, and Luke, and Deuteronomy, and them."

Death has consigned many a man to fame, while a longer life would have consigned him to infamy.

Read the President's message.

### Third Annual Message of ABRAHAM LINCOLN Delivered, December 9th, 1863.

Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:—Another year of health, and of sufficiently abundant harvest, has passed. For these, and especially for the improved condition of our National affairs our renewed and profound gratitude to God is due.

We remain in peace and friendship with foreign powers. The efforts of disloyal citizens of the United States, to involve us in foreign wars, to aid in inexorable insurrection have been unavailing. Her Britannic Majesty's Government, as was justly expected, have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports. The Emperor of France has, by a like proceeding, promptly vindicated the neutrality which he proclaimed at the beginning of the contest.

Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade, and other intelligent operations between the Government and several of the maritime powers; but they have been discussed, and as far as now possible, accommodated in a spirit of frankness, justice and mutual good will.

It is especially gratifying that our prize courts, by the impartiality of their adjudication, have commanded the respect and confidence of maritime powers.

The supplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, made on the 15th day of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution. It is believed that so far as American ports and American citizens are concerned, that inhuman and odious traffic has been brought to an end.

I shall submit, for the consideration of the Senate, a convention for the adjustment of possessory claims in Washington Territory, arising out of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1849, between the United States and Great Britain, and which have been the source of disquiet among the citizens of that now rapidly improving part of the country.

A novel and important question involving the extent of the maritime jurisdiction of Spain on the waters which surround the Island of Cuba, has been debated without reaching an agreement, and it is proposed in an amicable spirit to submit it to the arbitration of the Government and that of Chile, which has been submitted to the Senate.

I have thought it proper, subject to the approval of the Senate, to concur with the interested commercial powers in an arrangement for the liquidation of the Scheidt debts upon the principles which have been heretofore adopted in regard to the impost upon navigation in the waters of Denmark.

The long pending controversy between this Government and that of Chile, touching the seizure at St. Antonio, in Peru, by Chilean officers of a large amount in treasure belonging to citizens of the United States, has been brought to a close by the award of his Majesty, the King of the Belgians, to whose arbitration the question was referred by the parties. The subject was thoroughly and patiently examined by the justly respected magistrate, and although the sum awarded to the claimants may not have been as large as they expected, there is no reason to distrust the wisdom of his Majesty's decision. That decision was promptly complied with by Chile when intelligence in regard to it reached this country.

The joint commission, under the act of the last session, for carrying into effect the convention with Peru on the subject of claims, has been organized at Lima, and is engaged in the business intrusted to it. Difficulties concerning the inter-oceanic transit through Nicaragua, are in course of amicable adjustment.

In conformity with the principles set forth in my last annual message, I have received a representative from the United States of Columbia, and have credited a minister to that Republic.

Incidents occurring in the progress of our civil war have forced upon my attention the uncertain state of international questions touching the rights of foreigners in this country, and of United States citizens abroad. In regard to some governments, these rights are at least partially defined by treaties. In no instance, however, it is expressly stipulated that in the event of civil war a foreigner residing in this country within the lines of the insurgents is to be exempted from the rule which classifies him as a belligerent, in whose behalf the government of his country cannot expect any privileges or immunities distinct from that character. I regret to say, however, that such claims have been put forward, and in some instances in behalf of foreigners who have lived in the United States a greater part of their lives. There is reason to believe that many persons born in foreign countries, who have declared their intention to become citizens, or who have been fully naturalized, have evaded the military duty required of them by denying the fact, and thereby throwing upon the government the burden of proof. It has been found difficult, or impracticable, to obtain this proof for want of guides to the proper sources of information. These might be supplied by requiring the clerks of courts where declarations of intention may be made, or naturalizations effected, to send periodically a list of the names of the persons naturalized or declaring their intention to become citizens, to the Secretary of the Interior, in whose department these names might be arranged and printed for general information. There is also reason to believe that foreigners frequently become citizens of the United States for the sole purpose of evading duties imposed by the laws of their native countries, to which, on becoming naturalized here, they are at once repair, and though never returning to the United States they still claim the interposition of this government as citizens. Many alterations of great prejudice have heretofore arisen out of that abuse. It is therefore submitted to your serious consideration, that it might be advisable to fix a limit beyond which no citizen of the United States residing abroad may claim the interposition of his government.

The right of suffrage has often been assumed and exercised by aliens, under pretences of naturalization, which they have disavowed when drafted into the military service. I submit the expediency of such an amendment of the law as will make the fact of voting an estoppel against any plea of exemption from military service or other civil obligation on the ground of alienage.

In common with other Western Powers, our relations with Japan have been brought into serious jeopardy through the perverse opposition of the hereditary aristocracy of the empire to the enlightened and liberal policy of the Tycoon, designed to bring the country into the society of nations. It is hoped, although not with entire confidence, that these difficulties may be peacefully overcome. I ask your attention to the claim of the minister residing there for the damages he sustained in the destruction by fire, of the residence of the Legation at Yeddo.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Emperor of Russia, which it is believed will result in effecting a continuous line of telegraph through that Empire from our Pacific coast to Europe, and to give to our Pacific coast the subject of an international telegraph across the Atlantic Ocean, and also a telegraph between the Capital and the National forts along the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf of Mexico. Such communications, established with any reasonable outlay, would be an economical as well as effective aid to the diplomatic, military and naval service.

The consular service of the United States, under the enactment of the last Congress, begins to be self-sustaining, and there is reason to hope that it may become entirely so with an increase of trade, which will ensue whenever peace is restored.

Our ministers abroad have been faithful defenders of American rights. In protecting commercial interests, our consuls have necessarily had to encounter increased labors and responsibilities growing out of the war. These they have, for the most part, met and discharged with zeal and efficiency. This acknowledgment justly includes the consuls who are residing in Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Japan, China and other Oriental countries, are charged with complex functions and extraordinary powers.

The condition of the several organized Territories is generally satisfactory, although Indian disturbances in New Mexico have not been entirely suppressed. The mineral resources of Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona are proving far richer than has been heretofore understood. As I lay before you a communication on this subject from the Governor of New Mexico.

I again submit to your consideration the expediency of establishing a system for the encouragement of emigration. Although this source of national wealth and strength is again flowing with greater freedom than for several years before the insurrection occurred, there is still a great deficiency of laborers in every field of industry, especially in agriculture and in our mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals. While the demand for labor is thus increased here, tens of thousands of persons destitute of remunerative occupation, are thronging our foreign consulates and offering to emigrate to the United States, if essential but very cheap assistance can be afforded them. It is easy to see that under the sharp disciplines of civil war, the nation is beginning a new life. This noble effort demands the aid and ought to receive the attention and support of the Government.

Injuries, unforeseen by the government and unintended, may in some cases have been inflicted upon subjects or citizens of foreign countries, both at sea and on land, by persons in the service of the United States. As this Government expects redress from other powers when similar injuries are inflicted by persons in their service upon citizens of the United States, we must be prepared to do justice to foreigners. If the existing judicial tribunals are inadequate to this purpose, a special court may be authorized with power to hear and decide such claims of the character referred to as may have arisen under treaties and the public law. Conventions for adjusting the claims by joint commissions, have been proposed to some governments, but no definite answer to the proposition has been received from any.

In the course of the session I shall provide indemnification to claimants where decrees of restitution have been rendered, and damages awarded by Admiralty Courts, and in other cases where this Government may be acknowledged to be liable in principle, and where the amount of that liability has been ascertained by an informal arbitration.

The proper officers of the Treasury have deemed themselves required by the law of the United States upon the subject to demand a tax upon the incomes of foreign consuls in this country. While such a demand may not, in strictness, be in derogation of public law, or perhaps of any existing treaty between the United States and a foreign country, the expediency of so far modifying the act as to exempt from tax the incomes of such consuls as are not citizens of the United States, derived from the emoluments of their office, or from property not situated in the United States, is submitted to your serious consideration. To make this suggestion upon the ground that a country which ought to be reciprocated exempts our consuls in all other countries from taxation, to the extent thus indicated. The United States, I think, ought not to be exceptionally illiberal to international trade and commerce.

The operations of the Treasury during the last year have been successfully conducted. The enactment by Congress of the National Banking Law, has proved a valuable support of the public credit, and the general legislation in relation to loans has fully answered the expectation of its favorers. Some amendments may be required to perfect existing laws, but no change on their principles or general scope is believed to be needed.

Since these measures have been in operation, all demands on the Treasury, including the pay of the army and navy, have been promptly met and fully satisfied. No considerable body of troops, it is believed, were ever more amply provided and more liberally and punctually paid and it may be added, that by no people were the burdens incidental to a great war ever more cheerfully borne. The receipts during the year from all sources, including loans and the balance in the Treasury at its commencement, were \$901,125,674 86, and the aggregate disbursements, \$895,796,630 55, leaving a balance on the 1st of July, 1863, of \$5,329,044 21. Of the receipts, there were derived from Customs, \$69,059,642 40; from internal revenue, \$27,640,787 95; from direct tax, \$1,485,103 61; from loans, \$167,617 17; from miscellaneous sources, \$3,046,615 85; and from loans, \$776,682,861 57, making the aggregate \$901,125,674 86. Of the disbursements there were: For the civil

service, \$23,253,922 08; for pensions and Indians, \$4,216,526 59; for interest on public debt, \$24,729,846 61; for the War Department, \$599,298,600 83; for the Navy Department, \$63,211,105 27; for payment of funded and temporary debt, \$181,086,635 07; making the aggregate \$895,796,630 55; and leaving a balance of \$5,329,044 21. But the payment of funded and temporary debt having been made from money borrowed during the year, must be regarded as merely nominal payments, and the moneys borrowed to make them as merely nominal receipts. Their amount, \$181,086,635 07, should therefore be deducted both from the receipts and disbursements. This being done, there remains as actual receipts, \$720,699,039 79, and the actual disbursements, \$714,709,995 58, leaving the balance as ready as stated.

The actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the remaining three quarters of the current fiscal year, 1864, will be shown in detail by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to which I invite your attention. It is sufficient to say here that it is not believed that actual results will exhibit a state of the finances less favorable to the country than the estimates of that officer heretofore submitted, while it is confidently expected that at the close of the year both disbursements and debt will be found pretty considerably less than has been anticipated.

The report of the Secretary of War is a document of great interest. It consists of *First*, The military operations of the year detailed in the report of the General-in-Chief. *Second*, The organization of colored persons into the regular army. *Third*, The exchange of prisoners, fully set forth in the report of Gen. Hitchcock. *Fourth*, The operations under the "Act for Enrolling and Calling Out the National Forces," detailed in the report of the Provost Marshal General. *Fifth*, The organization of the Invalid Corps; and *Sixth*, The operations of the several Departments of the Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Paymaster General, Chief of Engineers, Chief of Ordnance, and Surgeon General. It has appeared impossible to make a valuable summary of this report, except such it would be too extended for this place; and hence I content myself by asking your careful attention to the report itself.

The duties devolving on the naval branch of the service during the year, and throughout the whole of this unhappy contest, have been discharged with fidelity and eminent success. The extensive blockade has been constantly maintained, and the navy has been expanded. Yet, on so long a coast, it has so far been impossible to entirely suppress illicit trade. From returns received at the Navy Department, it appears that more than 1,000 vessels have been captured since the blockade was instituted, and that the value of prizes already sent in for adjudication amounts to over \$13,000,000.

The naval force of the United States consists, at this time, of 588 vessels, completed and in the course of completion, and of these 75 are iron-clad or armored steamers. The events of the war give an increased interest and importance to the navy which will probably extend beyond the war itself. The armored vessels in our Navy, completed and in service, or which are under contract and appropria- tion, are believed to exceed in number those of any other power. But while these may be relied upon for harbor defense and coast service, others of greater strength and capacity will be necessary for cruising purposes and to maintain our rightful position on the ocean.

The change that has taken place in naval vessels and naval warfare since the introduction of steam as a motive power for ships of war, demands either a corresponding change in some of our existing Navy Yards, or the establishment of new ones for the construction and necessary repair of modern naval vessels. No inconsiderable embarrassment, delay and public injury have been experienced from a want of such governmental establishments. The necessity of such a Navy Yard, so furnished, at some suitable place upon the Atlantic coast, has been repeatedly mentioned, and has been brought to the attention of Congress by the Navy Department, and is again presented in the report of the Secretary, which accompanies this communication.

I think it my duty to invite your special attention to this subject, and also to that of establishing a yard and depot for naval purposes, upon one of the western rivers. A naval force has been created on these interior waters, and under many disadvantages, within little more than two years, exceeding in numbers the whole naval force of the country at the commencement of the present administration. Satisfactory and important as have been the performances of the heroic men of the navy at this interesting period, they are scarcely more wonderful than the success of our mechanics and artisans in the production of war vessels, which has created a new form of naval power, our country has advantages superior to any other nation in our resources of iron and timber, with inexhaustible quantities of fuel in the immediate vicinity of both, and available and in close proximity to navigable waters. Without the advantage of public works, the resources of the nation have been governed, developed, and its power displayed in the construction of a navy of such magnitude, which has, at every period of its creation, rendered signal service to the Union.

The increase of the number of seamen in the public service, from 7,500 men in the spring of 1861, to about 34,000 at the present time, has been accomplished without special legislation, or extraordinary bounties to promote that increase. It has been found, however, that the operation of the draft, with the high bounties paid for army recruits, is beginning to affect injuriously the naval service, and will, if not corrected, be likely to impair its efficiency by detaching seamen from their proper calling, and inducing them to enter the army. I therefore respectfully suggest that Congress might aid both the army and naval services by a definite provision on the subject, which would at the same time be equitable to the communities more especially interested.

I commend to your consideration the suggestion of the Secretary of the Navy in regard to the policy of fostering and training seamen, and also the education of officers and engineers for naval service. The Naval Academy is rendering signal service in preparing midshipmen for the highly responsible duties which, in after life, they will be required to perform. In order that the country should not be deprived of the proper quota of educa-

tioned officers, for which legal provisions has been made at the naval schools, the vacancies caused by the neglect or omission to make nominations from the States in insurrection, have been filled by the Secretary of the Navy. The school is now more full and complete than at any former period, and in every respect entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress.

During the past fiscal year the financial condition of the Post Office Department has been one of increasing prosperity, and I am gratified in being able to state that the actual postal revenue has nearly equaled the entire expenditures, the latter amounting to \$11,314,206 84, and the former to \$11,163,789 59, leaving a deficiency of but \$150,417 25.

In 1860, the year immediately preceding the rebellion, the deficiency amounted to \$5,656,705 49, the postal receipts of that year being \$2,645,722 19, less than those of 1863.

The decrease in 1860 in the actual amount of transportation has been only about 25 per cent., but the annual expenditure on account of the same has been reduced 55 per cent. It is manifest, therefore, that the Post Office Department may become self-sustaining in a few years, even with the restoration of the whole service.

The international conference of Postal Delegates from the principal countries of Europe and America, which was called at the suggestion of the Postmaster General, met at Paris on the 11th of May last, and concluded its deliberations on the 8th of June. The principle established by the conference as best adapted to facilitate postal intercourse between nations, and as the basis of future postal conventions, inaugurate a general system of uniform international charges at reduced rates of postage, and cannot fail to produce beneficial results.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior, which is herewith laid before you, for useful and varied information in relation to the public lands, Indian affairs, patents, pensions, and other matters of public concern pertaining to his department.

The quantity of land disposed of during the last and the first quarter of the present fiscal year was three millions eight hundred and forty-one thousand, five hundred and forty-nine acres, of which 161,911 acres were sold for cash, 1,456,514 acres were taken up under the homestead law, and the residue disposed of under laws granting lands for military bounties, for railroad and other purposes. It also appears that the sale of the public lands is largely on the increase. It has long been a cherished opinion of some of our wisest statesmen, that the people of the United States, and a higher and more enduring interest in the early settlement and substantial cultivation of the public lands, than in the amount of direct revenue to be derived from the sale of them. This opinion has had a controlling influence in shaping legislation upon the subject of our national domain. I may cite as evidence of this the liberal measures adopted in reference to actual settlers, the grant to the States of the overworked lands within their limits, in order to their being reclaimed and rendered fit for cultivation, the grant to Railroad Companies of alternate sections of land upon the completed, will largely multiply the facilities for reaching our distant possessions. This policy has received its most signal and beneficial illustration in the recent enactment granting homesteads to actual settlers. Since the first of January last the before mentioned quantity of one million four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and fourteen acres of land have been taken up under its provisions. This fact and the amount of sales furnish gratifying evidence of increasing settlement upon the public lands, notwithstanding the great struggle in which the energies of the people of the United States are engaged, and required so large a withdrawal of our citizens from their accustomed pursuits. I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, suggesting a modification of the act in favor of those engaged in the military and naval service of the United States.

I do not but that Congress will cheerfully adopt such measures as will, without essentially changing the general features of the system, carry into effect, sundry measures which will be of great practical benefit to the benefits to those who have left their homes in the defence of the country in its arduous crisis. I invite your attention to the views of the Secretary as to the propriety of raising by appropriate legislation a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States.

The measures provided, at your last session, for the removal of certain Indian tribes, have been carried into effect. Sundry treaties, have been negotiated which will, in due time, be submitted for the constitutional action of the Senate. They contain stipulations for extinguishing the possessory rights of the Indians, to large and valuable tracts of land. It is hoped that the effects of these treaties will result in the establishment of a permanent friendly relations with such of these tribes as shall, on the conditional conditions be protected against invasion and depredations. The Constitutional obligation of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government and to protect the State in the cases stated, is explicit and full. But why tender the benefits of this provision only to a State Government set up in this particular way? This section of the Constitution contemplates a case where the element within a State favorable to a Republican Government in the Union, may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element, external to and even within the State, and such are the cases with which we are now dealing. An attempt to guarantee and protect a revised State Government constructed in whole or in preponderant part from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd. There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements so as to build only from the sound, and that test is a sufficient liberal one, which accepts as sound, whoever will make a sworn recantation of his former un-soundness.

But if it be proper to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, and to the Union under it, why also to the laws and proclamations in regard to slavery? These laws and proclamations were put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the Rebellion. To give them the fullest effect there had to be a pledge for their maintenance. In my judgment they have aided and will further aid the cause for which they were intended. To now abandon them would

spices so favorable to its rapid progress and completion. Enlarged navigation becomes a palpable need to the great road. I transmit the second annual report of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, asking your attention to the developments in that vital interest of the nation.

When Congress assembled a year ago the war had already lasted nearly twenty months, and there had been many conflicts on both land and sea. With varying results, the rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits, yet the tone of public feeling and opinion at home and abroad, was not satisfactory.

With other signs, the popular elections, then just passed, indicated uneasiness among ourselves; while, amid much that was cold and menacing, the kindest words coming from Europe were uttered in accents of pity—that we were too blind to surrender. Our commerce was suffering greatly by a few armed vessels built upon and furnished with such additions from the same quarter as would sweep our trade from the sea and raise our blockade. He had failed to elicit from the European governments anything hopeful upon this subject.

The preliminary emancipation proclamation, issued in September, was running its assigned period to the beginning of the new year. A month later the final proclamation came, including the announcement that colored men of suitable condition would be received into the war service. The policy of emancipation and of employing black soldiers gave to the future a new aspect, about which hope and fear and doubt contended in uncertain conflict. According to our political system, as a matter of civil administration, the general government had no lawful power to effect emancipation in any State, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military measure. It was all the while deemed possible that the necessity for it might come, and that if it should, the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and as was intended, it was followed by dark and doubtful days.

Eleven months having now passed, we are permitted to take another review. The rebel borders are pressed still further back, and by the complete opening of the Mississippi river, the country dominated over by the rebellion is divided into distant parts, with no practical communication between them. Tennessee and Arkansas have been substantially cleared of insurgent control and influence, and the citizens in each of the United States, and advocates of slavery at the beginning of the rebellion, now declare openly for Emancipation in their respective States. Of these States not included in the Emancipation Proclamation, Maryland and Missouri, neither of which, three years ago, would tolerate any restraint upon the extension of slavery into the new territories, only dispute now as to the best mode of removing it within their own limits.

Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion, full one hundred thousand are now in the United States military service, about one-half of which number actually bear arms in the ranks thus giving the double advantage of taking so much labor from the insurgent cause, and supplying the places, which otherwise must be filled with many white men. So far as tested it is difficult to say that they are not as good soldiers as any. No servile insurrection or tendency to violence or cruelty has marked the measures of emancipation and arming. The blacks these measures have been much discussed in foreign countries. Contemporary with such discussion the tone of public sentiment there is much improved. At home the same measures have been fully discussed, criticized, and denounced; and the annual discussions following are highly encouraging to those whose official duty it is to bear the country through this great trial. Thus we have the new reckoning. The crisis which threatened to divide the friends of the Union is past.

Looking now to the present and future, and with reference to a resumption of the national authority within the States wherein that authority has been suspended, I have thought fit to issue a proclamation, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. On examination of this proclamation it will appear as is believed that nothing is attempted beyond what is amply justified by the Constitution. True, the form of an oath is given, but no man is coerced to take it. A man is only promised a pardon in case he voluntarily takes the oath. The constitution authorizes the Executive to grant or withhold the pardon at his own absolute discretion, and it includes the power to grant on terms as is fully established by judicial and other authorities.

It is also provided that if in any of the States named, a State Government shall be in the mode prescribed set up, such government shall be recognized and guaranteed by the United States, and that under it the State shall, on the conditional conditions be protected against invasion and depredations. The Constitutional obligation of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government and to protect the State in the cases stated, is explicit and full. But why tender the benefits of this provision only to a State Government set up in this particular way? This section of the Constitution contemplates a case where the element within a State favorable to a Republican Government in the Union, may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element, external to and even within the State, and such are the cases with which we are now dealing. An attempt to guarantee and protect a revised State Government constructed in whole or in preponderant part from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd. There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements so as to build only from the sound, and that test is a sufficient liberal one, which accepts as sound, whoever will make a sworn recantation of his former un-soundness.

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be to deprive the country of the benefit of their work upon the Pacific Railroad, under au-