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BY M'CLURE & STONER.

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## Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON.

The Sad Changes of War—Its Penetrating Lessons—Gen. Scott and the Safety of the Capital—Gen. McClellan—General Burnside on the Proposed Advance in 1861.

Editorial Correspondence of The Repository.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16, 1863.

What changes sad war has wrought! Not only in the bereaved and sorrowing hearts; in the broken circles of household gods; in the withering desolation of States; in the vast and monumental cemeteries where once were golden crops and blooming flowers; but on every hand—in the business channels of life; in the whirl of speculation; in the marts of commerce; here, there, everywhere, has grim viaged war stamped his cruel impress upon the Nation. Mutability has made the wildest chimeras pale before its swift-winged, resistless progress; and the ideas of but yesterday are old and turned to the chequered canvas of the past-day. The Capitol Dome rises up in triumph toward Heaven, to proclaim the "more renowned" victories of Peace in the midst of remorseless War; and soon the Goddess of Liberty will decorate its top-most pinnacle, in full view of tented fields where earnest, brave men are peering life and fortune to preserve the Freedom she so dearly emblem.

This colossal war!—pray who could have reckoned it as our future destiny but two and a half brief years ago? I remember well when Sumter lowered her flag to Treason. How the great National heart beat responsive to an imperiled country's need; but the plants of that day were but pigmies in their comprehension of the work before them. That new history should be created, defying the precedents of the World in all ages; more thrilling than Roman story; bringing millions into the deadly clash of arms, and strewn our green land with hetaombs of dead—for this there was no prophetic eye; even to dream that compassed it.

I have often recalled to mind the early conceptions of this war, by those in whose hands were entrusted the sacred and fearfully responsible duty of preserving the life of the Republic, when armed traitors arrayed themselves against the government. When the Nation was first summoned to its own defense: by the reduction of Sumter, I was called here, as one of a committee of the legislature, to consult as to the proper legislation necessary to our State and National protection. The Old Hero of the Frontier and Mexico, confessedly the Great Captain of the Age, was the Commander-in-chief of the Army. Although his eye was dimmed, his hair whitened by the frosts of nearly four-score winters, and rude furrows were plowed in his face by the relentless hand of Time, still his love for his honored Nationality knew no abatement, notwithstanding his home was in the hand of his Country's foes, and his sword must be drawn against his own kindred. But he turned most regrettably to Virginia, as a doating, stricken father would turn to a wayward child. She was still in the Union—the suicidal fraud of secession had not yet been consummated; and I saw weak, vain hopes toy with that great chieftain as with trembling finger and fearful eye he pointed across the Potomac and said—"I fear Virginia—I fear she, too, will go!" Like the unsettled scribe, he seemed for a moment to quiver in his sorrowing heart; but like a fitting shadow it passed, and he pointed the path of duty as unerringly as the needle settles to the pole. In addition to the natural infirmities of old age, disease was deep seated in his majestic frame, and when he was announced at the White House, all gave way in affectionate deference to the great Hero, in whom all hopes centered in that dark hour of our country's history.

The conference was had in the President's room, and all waited for the Old Warrior to point the way of deliverance from the appalling madness of treason. His first sentence sank into the heart of every one present. With a degree of sorrow bordering on despair he said—"I am the Commander-in-Chief of a Nation of over thirty millions, and I have not as many soldiers on the Continent, East of the Rocky Mountains, as has Beauregard at Charleston!" Arlington Heights, the home of the rebel Gen. Lee, was unoccupied by our troops, and it commanded the Capitol. Between that point and Charleston there were ample means for prompt transportation of troops, and Gov. Curtin ventured to express grave apprehensions as to the safety of Washington. At this the Old Hero stood up as if fresh youth had possessed him; and his grey eye sparkled with unnatural lucency as he answered with an emphasis peculiar to himself—"No sir—No sir! The Capitol is safe—it cannot be taken, sir!" With all the deference I could command, I asked what his defensive force amounted to, and he quickly answered—"I have fifteen hundred men, sir, and two batteries—the capital is safe, sir—it is safe!" But illy consoled, was the conviction of all present that Time had left but a colossal wreck of what was once the most brilliant military genius of the Western World. The President sat whirling his spectacles uneasily and thus broke the silence in his quaint but impressive manner—"Well, General, it seems to me that if I were Beauregard, I would take Washington!" With nervous haste the General answered—"I assure you, Mr. President,

I assure you, sir, that the capital is safe—it cannot be taken, sir!" Yet Beauregard, with a single brigade on Arlington Heights and guns of even moderate range, could have had the capital at his mercy any day he chose; and that he did not capture it is now explained by the settled policy of the Davis usurpation not to exasperate the North by aggressive movements.

This was in April, 1861. How strangely, how sadly it reads with the startling events since crowded into less than three short years! The genius that had inspired the Nation for half a century was lost in the bewildering magnitude of the task assigned him; and our National Capitol was saved only because the foes of the Republic, were alike dwarfed in their conceptions of the gigantic crime with which they were about to blot the World's history. They hoped for a divided North—they had been well assured by the treacherous and the cowardly in our midst, that a resort to arms would paralyze the power of the Free States and give them an easy victory; and in deference to the swaddling treason of Northern Woods, Vallandigham's, Kees's and Woodwards, they did not grasp our Capitol. Could they have foreseen in the crimsoned future the gory fields of South Mountain, of Antietam, of Gettysburg, Beauregard would have been thundering with his artillery from Arlington Heights when Gen. Scott was pronouncing the Capitol safe. But the swift, appalling lessons of treason were yet unmeasured, and crime and virtue were alike strangers to its heroic power.

Gen. Scott, enfeebled by age, stricken by disease, and chafed by rising stars around him, yielded his scepter to one whom a Nation's too willing confidence and love had borne to the chief command. He hesitated, faltered, and still the People trusted. He moved when the assumption of supreme authority commanded it; stamped his weakness in the bloody blunders of the Peninsula, and at last fell into the cruel embrace of the foes of the gallant Army he had led, and of the country that had vainly sought to make him great. Alas! how stars have brightened and paled—how untried greatness and unearned honors have faded into forgetfulness—how the path of this war is marked at every step by the monuments of the once honored but now forgotten!

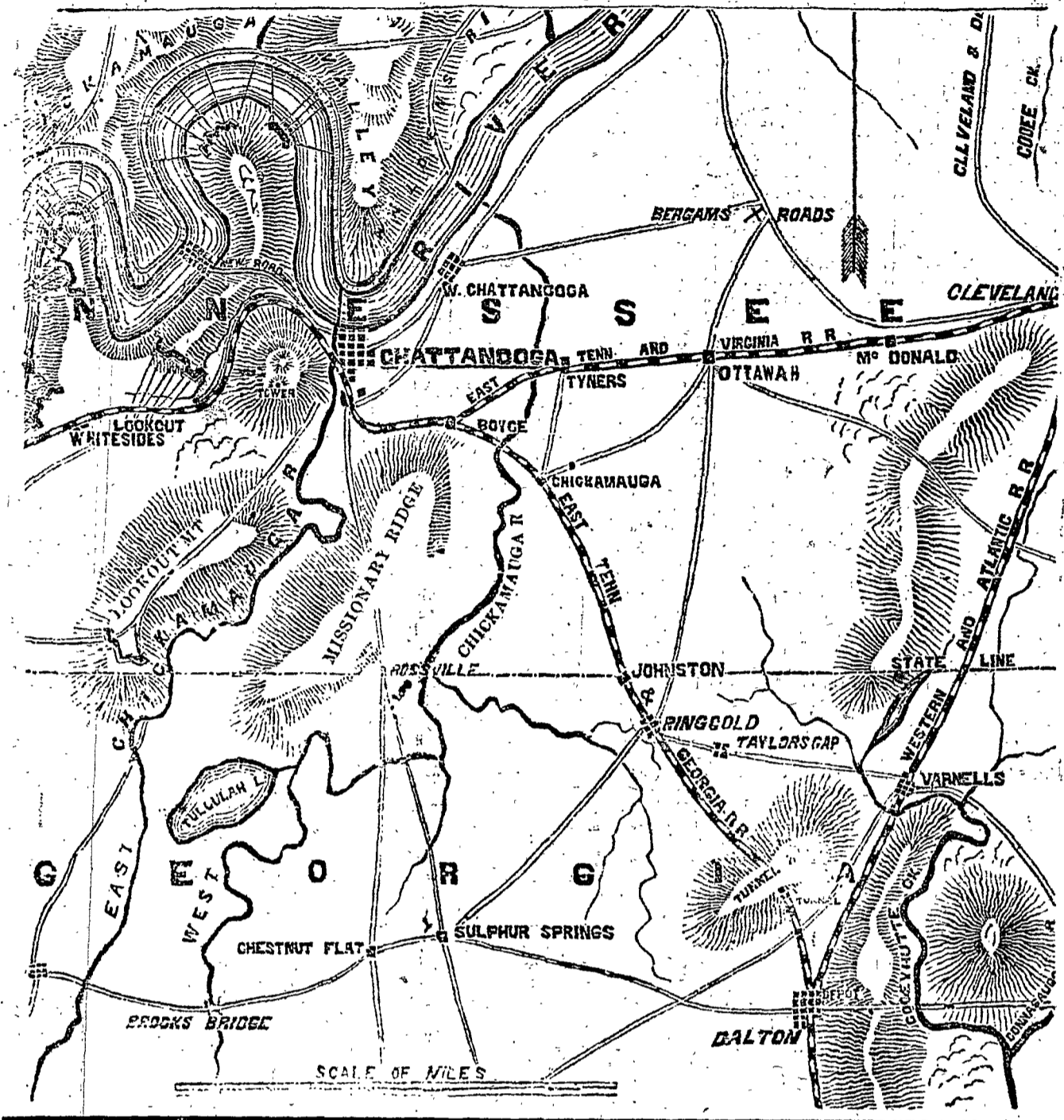
In glancing at the crimsoned history of the last two years, who does not turn regretfully to November, 1861. Gen. McClellan had then the largest, the best equipped, and best appointed army ever commanded on this Continent. Before him was an enemy not half his equal in numbers, imperfectly provided with the necessities of war, and with but feeble fortifications. The Great Ruler, as if to point the way to the destruction of treason, made the season to invite the sluggard to his easy triumph; but in vain. A fall and winter lost to us, was a rich harvest gained to our foes, and when the actual conflict came on the Peninsula, it was only when and where the enemy chose to accept it. I remember well, when the country was impatient for the advance of the Army of the Potomac in the fall of 1861, bearing Gens. Burnside and Porter defend their laggard chief. When asked whether they could not advance with reasonable certainty of success, Gen. Burnside's large keen eyes quickened with mingled pride and sadness as he answered—"Yes, we can take Manassas, and go to Richmond; but we should leave ten thousand gallant soldiers on the field!" He deemed the answer conclusive, and none at that day could gainsay it. Yet since then ten times ten thousand have fallen. Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, Cedar Mountain, the second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg have each, each made acres of untimely graves, and Richmond is still the rebel capital. Yet the loss of ten thousand men in 1861 would have appalled the Nation more than does the vast cemetery of Virginia now! Thus mercilessly has war schooled our common country. Heaven grant that the lesson may be well nigh learned!

### PERSONAL.

Gen. Foster has gone on a visit to New England.  
Artemus Ward's first lecture in San Francisco yielded \$2,500.  
The President is solicitous for the health of his youngest son.  
Maj. Gen. Butler arrived at Newbury, N. C., on the 20th inst.  
The President has declined to accept Burnside's resignation from the army.  
Col. S. P. Sagar, of the 11th Pa. Cavalry, has been appointed a Brigadier General.  
It is rumored that Maj. Gen. Sigel is to take Gen. Schenck's place in Baltimore.  
Gen. Buford, it is reported, is to go West, to take charge of the cavalry at Chattanooga.  
Admiral Lisovsky has selected Hampton Roads as the winter quarters of the Russian fleet.  
John Brough, Governor Elect of Ohio, was formerly Editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer.  
It is said that Gens. McDowell and Butterfield will soon be assigned to important commands.  
Col. Jennison, of Kansas, is to raise a brigade of troops under the last call of the President.

## GREAT BATTLES IN TENNESSEE.

Map Showing the Positions Carried by Assault and Occupied by Gens. Granger, Hooker and Sherman, on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, the 21st, 23d and 24th of November.



Seventy of the Mauch Chunk rioters have been arrested, among them the murderer of Mr. Smith.

Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott voted the straight Union ticket in New York at the late election.

Col. J. B. Howell, of the 85th Pennsylvania regiment, has been appointed a Brigadier General.

Major Brua Cameron, Paymaster U. S. Army, and son of ex-Secretary Cameron, has been retired.

The Richmond Enquirer mildly suggests that Vallandigham's true place is in the Southern army.

Ex-Congressman Casey, of Kentucky, is about to be tendered the military governorship of Mississippi.

Capt. B. Scanlan, of the 7th Pennsylvania cavalry, has been dismissed the service for "gross misconduct and immorality."

Brig. Gen. S. Meredith, who was injured at Gettysburg, has been placed in command of the 1st Division, 1st Army Corps.

Artemus Ward says there is no daily paper published in town, but there is a ladies' sewing circle, which answers the same purpose.

Maj. Whiting, of the 2d Regular cavalry, has been dismissed the service for "disloyalty and speaking contemptuously of the President."

Surgeon Gen. Hammond has been ordered to Nashville, Tennessee, on a tour of inspection among the hospitals of our western armies.

George I. Ayre, agent for the sale of Confederate bonds, has been sent hither from the Army of the Potomac and committed to the Old Capitol.

Thomas Francis Meagher has been reinstated to the rank of Brig. Gen., with permission to recruit to its complement his old Irish Brigade.

The President has appointed Richard Busted, Esq., of New York, United States Judge for the Northern and Southern districts of Alabama.

Col. Alexander Cummings, of Pennsylvania, has been ordered by the Secretary of War to Arkansas, to assist in raising colored troops in that State.

Mr. James M. Murdoch, the comedian, has accepted an appointment on Gen. Roseau's staff, and will soon take the field in that General's new department.

The President has shut himself up from visitors, and from this time till the assembling of Congress will devote himself to the composition of his annual message.

Gen. Robert Anderson, has been relieved from the command of Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., his increasing ill health not allowing him to continue longer in the service.

Brig. Charles K. Graham has been relieved by order of the Secretary of War, from his command in the Army of the Potomac, and ordered to report to Gen. Butler.

At Cincinnati C. W. Hull, a horse-contractor, has been convicted of defrauding the Government in his business, and fined \$10,000, with six months' imprisonment.

We see by the court reports in the Baltimore Clipper, that the suits brought against Gen. Cameron, for damages for alleged false imprisonment, have all been withdrawn.

Maj. Gen. L. H. Rousseau has been assigned to the command of the District of the Cumberland, vice Gen. Gordon Granger, appointed to the command of the Fourth Corps.

The Hon. G. W. Lane, U. S. Judge from Alabama, and a refugee from that State on account of his Union principles, died at Louisville on Thursday, of congestion of the lungs.

Robert G. Harper, Esq., has published the Gettysburg Sentinel for 47 years, and justly claims to be the "oldest Editor in Pennsylvania service." The Sentinel entered its 64th year last week. Long may it wave.

William T. Smithson, a banker of Washington, and John K. Stetler, a merchant of Philadelphia, have been tried for serious frauds against the Government, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Albany Penitentiary.

Maj. Gen. Schenck several days since peremptorily tendered his resignation as a Maj. Gen. of Volunteers in the United States service, to take effect on the 20th of December, 1863. His resignation has been accepted by the President.

The Hon. Lucien Anderson, one of the Representatives elect from Kentucky, who was recently captured by the Rebels has been released and will be in Washington in season to vote for the Administration candidate for Speaker.

The first instance in the Union army of a commissioned officer being reduced to the ranks is the case of First Lieut. Joseph J. Ennis, 71st Ohio regiment, found guilty of forging an order detailing him to go from Louisiana to Cincinnati to arrest deserters.

Col. W. W. Sellers, formerly of the Fulton Republican, has turned up as Editor and proprietor of the Pekin (Ill.) Republican, a beautiful and spirited Republican Journal. The Colonel has the ability to make a first class paper, and we commend him to the confidence and support of his new people.

The woman who was divorced from Aaron Burr in 1822, on account of his infidelity, some time since put in a claim to the Revolutionary pension, to which, as his wife, she conceived herself to be entitled. The Attorney Gen. recently decided adversely to her claim.

Hon. P. C. Shannon, of Allegheny county, Pa., during the late animated election in this State, made some fifty speeches to the people. Judge Shannon has always been a Democrat, and occupies a high social position in Pittsburg, where he resides. He was appointed to a judgeship by Gov. Bigler, and twice served his county in the Legislature, having declined a re-nomination.

### BRIEF WAR ITEMS.

Our Government now holds 31,000 rebel prisoners.

There are 40,000 negroes armed and in the service of the Government.

The 8th Illinois Cavalry have re-enlisted in a body as veteran volunteers.

The second regiment District of Columbia Volunteers (colored) is full and will soon take the field.

Two thousand boxes and packages for Union prisoners at Richmond arrived per Adams Express at Fortress Monroe on Saturday.

The news from Chattanooga has been telegraphed to the soldiers on the Rappahannock, and has created intense enthusiasm in our lines.

Gen. Meredith, commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, writes that the rebel authorities will permit no agent whatever from the North to visit Richmond.

Gen. Schofield's order to recruit from slaves just the same as from white men is out, and his old conservative supporters in Missouri are conspiring how to attack and remove him.

An order from the War Department declares that veteran volunteers re-enlisting will be allowed a furlough of thirty days, and transportation to and from their homes.

All the sick and wounded soldiers now in the hospitals at David's Island, New York, are to be transferred to Philadelphia. This move is made by the War Department at the suggestion of Gov. Curtin.

A dispatch reports that Gen. Butler, on being told that the rebel Gen. Fitzhugh Lee enjoyed the liberty of Old Point, sharply expressed his disapproval of such reprehensible courtesy. The next day Lee made a voyage to Fort Lafayette.

Judge Underwood has just delivered an opinion in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, in the case of the United States vs. Hugh Latham, under the Confiscation act, in which he confiscates the real estate of the defendant in fee simple.

The Alexandria Gazette of Monday says: The Arlington estate, in this county, lately occupied by Gen. Robert E. Lee, and the Custis Mill property adjoining, are advertised to be sold for unpaid taxes, &c., under recent acts of the Congress of the United States.

An officer on Gen. Banks' staff, writing to a friend in Washington, says a large quantity of cotton was captured near Brownsville, and expeditions had been sent up the river to get all they could find. The Union men at Brownsville, who hailed with delight the capture of the place by our forces.

Lately Gen. Gilmore's heavy guns have been again turned on the city of Charleston. Nineteen shells were lodged within the town. What effect our projectiles have produced remains to be seen. The bursting of the shells within the town was easily seen, and their reports plainly heard.

A dispatch from Baltimore says: "Intelligence from our prisoners at Richmond is most gloomy. No meat has been furnished to them for twelve days. The prisoners on Belle Island had actually killed and eaten dogs to sustain their lives. The supplies furnished by the Baltimore American Relief Fund are going forward daily. These supplies, however, are not sufficient to feed 13,000 men.

The ninety-five surgeons recently released from the Libby prison have reached Washington. They were ordered below decks while the steamer was passing Fort Darling. Commissioner Ould was recently asked by a prisoner if we would release, say five thousand rebel prisoners, now held by us, whether the confederate authorities would release an equal number of prisoners held by them. Mr. Ould gave an emphatic negative response.

Corpus Christi was captured on the 15th ult., by Gens. Banks and Dana, who marched upon that place overland from Brownsville. Arkansas city was attacked, and taken after a very brief resistance. One hundred prisoners and three guns were taken. The British brig Dashing Wave was captured by the gunboat New London off the Rio Grande, with a cargo consisting of seventy thousand dollars in gold, and a large quantity of clothing and medicines intended for the rebels. By this move Gen. Banks secures possession of nearly one-third of the coast of the State of Texas.

### POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Gen. Banks has declared in favor of the re-nomination of President Lincoln.

Hon. F. W. Lincoln has been re-nominated for Mayor of Boston by the Republican Party.

The Judicial Election in California last month seems to have gone by default. The Union nominees were chosen, of course.

A Washington correspondent says that the leading Democrats now concede the organization of the House to the Republicans, and there will consequently be no squabble for Democratic caucus nominations.

Gen. Charles Clark, recently elected, was inaugurated Governor of Mississippi on the 17th inst. J. W. C. Watson of Marshall County was chosen Senator in the 23rd Congress in place of James Phelan.

New Haven has elected Union Charter Officers by 115 majority. Last Fall the Seymour Democracy carried their ticket by over 500 majority; at the election for Governor, Seymour (Copperhead), had 251 majority.

The latest election returns from Missouri indicate that the soldiers' vote, as far as heard from, not only wiped out the Conservative majority on the home vote, but elected the Radical State ticket by a majority of somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000.

At the recent election for Governor of Georgia the contest was very spirited, a determined attempt being made to defeat Gov. Brown. The vote shows that Brown had 36,588; Hill, 18,122; Furlow, 10,024—total vote, 64,734. For President the total vote was 106,365; so there has been falling off of nearly 42,000, or nearly 40 per cent.

The Raleigh Standard claims that the Conservatives have elected eight members out of ten to the Rebel Congress. Those of them who announced themselves in favor of peace on any terms, and who were most severe in their condemnation of the Rebel Administration, received the largest majorities. The Conservative candidates also received a majority of the soldiers' votes.

Gov. Bradford of Maryland, after hearing testimony from the objectors, has officially proclaimed John A. J. Creswell, Edwin H. Webster, Henry Winter Davis, Francis Thomas, and Benjamin G. Harris duly elected Representatives of that State in the new Congress. So vanishes the last hope of a Copperhead tangle in the organization of the House.

The State Canvassers of Iowa have just counted up the soldiers' vote for Governor. Stone, the Republican Union nominee, gets 15,031; Tuttle, the Copperhead, gets 3,270. Union majority, 11,761. Stone's majority on the home vote is probably over 16,000—so that the Union majority in all will be about 32,000. Last year it was 15,115; in 1861 it was 16,608; and for Lincoln, 15,298. An increase of over 16,000 in a year is doing exceedingly well, even for Iowa.

Hon. Nathaniel B. Smithers, Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, has resigned his position to take the seat in Congress to which he has been chosen, and Hon. Samuel M. Harrington, Jr., of Wilmington has been commissioned in his place. Mr. Harrington is at present Adjutant General of Delaware, and an eminently able lawyer. He is an eloquent orator, and did good service during the late political campaigns in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. He is an earnest supporter of the most radical measures of the present Administration.

Hon. Reverdy Johnson is the father of the Senate, having first taken his seat there as a Senator from Maryland in 1845, but he has not occupied it continuously, while Hon. John P. Hale has been a Senator from New Hampshire since 1847. So in the House, Hon. Mr. Washburn, the radical candidate for speaker, has represented his district longer, continuously, than any other Representative; but Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, was a member some years before his term commenced.