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THE LESSONS OF A YEAR.

An eventful year has closed. Inexorable Time has consigned it, with its crimsoned and thrilling history to the eternal past; and upon the chequered canvas of man's imperfect record of himself, it must ever stand as the mightiest of its century.

Thus closed the eventful year of sixty-three. The Union armies have won decisive fields in every section; and redeemed States, unshaken credit, a confident Army and Navy, a preserved Nationality, and an accepted policy of Universal Freedom.

The New Year of sixty three dawned upon the Nation thus sorrowing and humiliated. Mourning was in half our households for loved ones sacrificed in what seemed hopeless war.

turned defeated at Chancellorsville; Grant and Banks in vain assaulted the strongholds of the Mississippi, and mid summer came ere there was so much as a silver lining to the cloud that enveloped our National life.

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The adjournment of Congress for two weeks of holiday festivities, without providing all necessary legislation for filling up our depleted armies, was utterly unpardonable.

the war justly upon all! would furnish an ample supply of men, and it would give such heart and confidence to the veterans in the field that they would re-enlist almost with one accord.

The coming spring campaign will be remarkable either as the bloody or bloodless campaign of the war. It must be one or the other. If the government does its duty fearlessly and makes our armies overwhelmingly strong, treason must recede before the march of the Old Flag until it fades out in the Gulf.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

The Bedford Gazette thus falsifies or apologize for the rebels in their barbarous refusal to exchange prisoners:

It is about time that the soldiers in the army and their friends at home, are made acquainted with the reason why Union prisoners in the hands of the rebel authorities, are not exchanged.

The foregoing is but one of the many similar editorials to be found in the Democratic journals, justifying the brutality of the rebels in starving and mistreating our brave soldiers who are prisoners.

wholly, shamelessly, maliciously false; false in its conception and studiously false in the construction of every sentence touching the main question. It is not true that our government has imposed any terms precedent to an exchange.

We now hold fully three prisoners to their one, alike officers and men, not counting the violation of the parole at Vicksburg, and some thousands alleged to be added to the rebel side of credits for citizens captured and paroled.

But the government went still farther. Gen. Butler sent to the rebel Commissioner 500 prisoners, and asked 500 Union prisoners in return. He imposed no conditions, asked no questions, and sought in no way to commit the rebel authorities on any of the pending issues.

MORE WORK FOR THE GHOSTS.

We are profoundly grateful to the departed political spirits who nominated Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan for the Presidency. True, they have no newspapers to perform the functions of organs; no stump speakers to whom any live man would listen; no electoral tickets for which to vote, and no constituencies to play the rather important part of voters at the election.

call up from the vasty deep all the wandering spirits and employ them in like manner. We should like to have a score or so of Presidential tickets of the same sort made up with the least possible delay.

—We bid the politically departed speed in their work. Let them push along the nominations, and vacate commissions, now only held to make mendicants for the government, until all the old military rubbish is cleared away, and bloodless shoulder-straps surrendered.

HON. FRANCES JORDON, of Bedford, has been tendered and accepted the position of Aid to Gov. Curtin, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, in order to be assigned to the duty of Military State Agent, at Washington.

THE MAGAZINES.

The Continental Monthly for January, opens with an able article entitled "Retrospective," by Rev. Dr. Henry, in which the progress of the war is reviewed with great candor and ability.

Godey's Lady's Book opens the new year with a beautiful engraving entitled "A Tableau Picture," followed by another illustrating the bright side of winter; and with these we have the exquisite colored fashions and nearly a score of wood cuts representing sleighing parties, architecture, patterns and almost everything a lady would want in her work-basket.

The Lady's Friend is a new candidate for popular favor, under the editorial direction of Mrs. Henry Peterson, an authoress of considerable celebrity. It is a neatly printed Monthly of 88 pages, devoted to Literature and Fashion and gives in its list of contributors most of our distinguished authoresses.

Harpers Magazine for January, brings its usual rich freight of literature and beautiful illustrations; its carefully compiled Monthly Record of Events, its delightful Editor's Easy Chair, and its mirth provoking Editor's Drawer.

The American Exchange and Review for December has leading articles of masterly ability on Authors and Publishers; American History—Fourth Era; Antiquities of the Mississippi Valley; Memory and Metallic Productions in the United States and French Finance and Politics.

The Illustrated Annual Register for 1863, issued by Luther Sackett & Son, Albany, New York, is worth its price ten-fold to any family. It is replete with hints and suggestions of interest to the farmer, horticulturist, and housekeeper; and has 130 fine engravings of buildings, implements, &c.

WEEK OF PRAYER.—The Evangelical Alliance of England have issued an annual address for a week of prayer, to commence on January 3, 1864, and Christians of all lands are affectionately invited to observe a week of special and united prayer at the beginning of the New Year.

THE news of Grant's victory causes a great deal of comment in the European journals. The London News styles Gen. Grant "the most active and successful commander whom Unionists possess, whose presence has turned the fortunes of the campaign," but conforts its secession friends with the assurance that the victory is owing to the weakness of the Southern armies.

A United States Cemetery, like that at Gettysburg, is under way at Chattanooga. Rev. Thomas B. Vanhorne has the supervision; Sergt. Seth Weeks, Co. D., 106 Ohio Volunteer Infantry, is Sexton.

REBELS CAPTURED.—The friends of Lieut. Wm. E. Gayton, who was stationed here during the month of September last, in command of a portion of Co. D, 22d Penna. Cavalry, doing provost duty, will be pleased to learn that he, with the assistance of Sergt. G. B. Taylor, S. F. Myers and H. Straubhugh, of this county, succeeded, on the 17th inst., in capturing the notorious Col. Carter, of the Black Horse Cavalry, Capt. Carter, Capt. Moore, Lieut. Carter and two privates belonging to White's Battalion, Rebel Cavalry, near Upperville, Va.