

Franklin Repository.

Wednesday, January 25, 1865.

MR. STEVENS AND THE CABINET.

It was but a just tribute to one of our ablest and most upright and consistent statesmen, for the Union members of Congress to urge the appointment of Thaddeus Stevens to the important position of Secretary of the Treasury; and he could do no less, in justice to himself, than decline it. It is well known that Mr. Stevens has not approved the financial policy of the government, although as Chairman of Ways and Means in the House he has for four years past been the organ of the popular branch of the government on financial matters, and the man most brought into consultation with the management of the Treasury. From the outset he has been earnest in his opposition to the state distinction between specie and government currency, and now when it is too late to retract, the wisdom of his policy is confessed on every hand. Gold has been made a necessity by the acts of Congress and the policy of the Treasury, which adopted and adhered to specie paying bonds and thus necessitated the collection of customs in coin; and with the necessity thus created, there has been no power in the government to regulate the price of gold. Vainly has it been attempted; but every effort has but enhanced its price, until at last, after exhausting all efforts to control its market value, the government withdraws its specie loan and now proposes to rely upon bonds with principal and interest payable in currency. True the right of conversion remains; but that too will soon fade away; and after having issued one thousand millions of specie bonds, currency will become the standard of government financial operations. Had this policy been adopted, in accordance with Mr. Stevens' earnest suggestions when the war commenced, we should have saved millions of money, and the credit of the government would be infinitely better today.

Mr. Stevens might have enjoyed cabinet honors before this had he been as ambitious as other men whose qualifications are measured only by their ability to climb to positions of prominence. In 1861, after a family broil of some weeks in this State, the Union members of Congress united in recommending Mr. Stevens for the position of Secretary of the Treasury, and had he maintained the vantage ground thus proffered him, he would doubtless have been appointed. But great as he is in a struggle for a great principle, he is not conspicuous for pressing his own claims to personal preferment, nor does he appeal to the cupidity or ambition of small men to promote himself. He therefore failed in 1861, and whether he regretted it personally, perhaps no one knows but himself. He has given a most cordial support to the measures of the administration necessary for the suppression of the rebellion, but has never lost his characteristic manhood in criticizing the acts of the government. Few such men now reach positions save as the people confer them, and we look for Mr. Stevens to remain where he is, as the great Commoner of his age.

Mr. Stevens narrowly escaped cabinet honors a quarter of a century ago. He was perhaps the only man who held the voluntary written tender of a place in the ministry of Gen. Harrison before the election of 1840, and why he was not of that cabinet when it was formed, we are not advised. That it was tendered and without solicitation on his part, we feel assured, but without having signified his acceptance or declination, we believe, his name and State were omitted in the ministry of 1841. The real author of this violated faith probably sleeps in the quiet shades of Ashland, and the chief actor in the fruition of the triumph of 1840, was stricken on the threshold of his high honors. Mr. Stevens and President Harrison never met after the election, and no communications ever passed between them. Unlike modern politicians, he did not exact conditions and then demand that it was so denominated in the bond.

It is perhaps well for Mr. Stevens that he has never been called beyond the proper theatre for a great popular leader. Had he gone into the Harrison cabinet, he might have shamed Webster into an earlier withdrawal from the treachery of Tyler; but he could have accomplished nothing for the country. Had he been appointed to the cabinet of Mr. Lincoln in 1861, the Nation would have lost its ablest leader in the popular branch of the government, and at a time when of all others, his consummate ability and unflinching devotion to Liberty and Law were most needed. His views as to our proper financial policy would have been condemned at the time in the great mounded centres of the country, and he would doubtless have encountered embarrassments of the most perplexing if not fatal character. Time and experience have fully vindicated the wisdom of his counsels, but he could not conform the finances now to his views, and he does well to remain the mighty leader of the House in the severest ordeal in our history, until his ceaseless labors for Freedom are crowned with triumph. Then will a regenerated Nation and its faithful historians justly class him among our great Representative leaders in this fearful struggle for the Right as the " noblest Roman of them all."

THE PROSPECT OF PEACE.

Again the National heart beats with tremulous anxiety because of the ray of hope that breaks upon the dark horizon of bloody war. There is hope of PEACE! It may be a delusion. It may have been but a snare on one side or the other, and end in disappointment; but we believe that never before, since the commencement of this fearful, desolating struggle, has the question of Peace been so favorably entertained by the insurgents as now. Their army of the South-west is shattered, and confessedly unable for an offensive spring campaign. Charleston is menaced the port of Wilmington is closed by the capture of Fort Fisher, thus cutting off the last avenue for foreign supplies; Lee's ar-

my is wasting under the gloom with which multiplied disasters have shadowed it; Richmond cannot long be held with the powerful armies of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan gathering around it, and with it surrendered, the leaders of the rebellion would be without a resting place. It is most natural therefore that the question of Peace should distract their councils and array their victims against the colossal crime that has wastefully deluged our land with fraternal blood.

Mr. F. P. Blair, Sr., went to Richmond a few weeks ago, ostensibly to recover some valuable papers, said to have been stolen by the rebels when they occupied his premises in July of last year; but it was clear to most persons who knew the character of Mr. Blair that he did not go to Richmond solely for the recovery of his private papers. If they were taken, and could be procured again, a brief correspondence within the rules prescribed by the government would have answered the purpose. Mr. Blair evidently had a higher purpose for his mission. He went with the hope that he could bring about an adjustment. What assurances he had we do not pretend to know. He may have been invited there; he may have been sent there by Mr. Lincoln, or he may have gone on his own conviction that the time has come for friendly intervention. At all events he went to Richmond, and returned, and after a protracted and strictly confidential interview with Mr. Lincoln he steps on board of a steamer that had been kept in readiness for him, and he is now in Richmond again. He is no fool, nor does he seek notoriety. He is past the years when he would thrust himself into the rebel capital in order to find his name in every newspaper. And he is as sagacious as he is earnest. He well knows the rebel leaders. The time was when he was the great leader of many of them. When he spoke they trembled; when he counseled they obeyed, for Jackson was at his back and he well deserved the confidence the Old Hero awarded him as the editor of his organ. He therefore knew when to go and what to say; and he has gone and said it; they returned and reported to Mr. Lincoln, and gone back to say more. All this may fail to close the war; but we are greatly mistaken if there are not reasonably fair prospects that the South will, in some way, propose to end the conflict before the spring campaign opens.

The question of Slavery has ceased to be an issue North and South. By common consent it must die. The North demands it; the world demands it; the desolated South demands it; the graves of our hundreds of thousands of martyred dead demand it, and it must bow to the retributive stroke it has so wickedly, wantonly invited. It may die to-morrow, or it may linger for a term of years; but the seal of death must be indelibly planted upon its mutilated form. There is therefore little to impede adjustment. The rebel currency and debt have long since been given over as worthless, and no pretense of galvanizing it into value will be offered. Confiscation has been a practical nullity, and the amnesty proclamations of the President quiet all apprehensions of vindictiveness on the part of the government. There is therefore nothing for the South to do, but submit—to de-throne their leaders who have given them war for peace; desolation for prosperity; bereavement for happiness, and the work of reconstruction, as it is called, is effected. The Davis's, the Toombs's, the Wig-falls, the Masons, the Slidells, &c., will not trouble the government. They cannot live in any part of the Union when it is again united. Every man's hand will be against them, and especially will the victims of their intrigues and ambition in the South demand their expulsion from the land they have shrouded in mourning.

We have abiding faith that President Lincoln will assent to no negotiation or adjustment that is not entirely consistent with the honor, the dignity and the supremacy of the government; and we therefore welcome every ray of light that dawns upon us, came whence it may, and hope soon to greet the noontide of victory bearing with it a restored and regenerated Union and an honored and ending Nationality.

The Spirit devotes two columns to show that this journal has treated the prosecution in the case of the Com. vs. Rev. W. V. Gotwalt most unfairly by the publication of the letter of our Harrisburg correspondent. If the Spirit will be kind enough to inform its readers that Mr. McClure moved to amend the bill on third reading, and inserted Dauphin county instead of Franklin, giving as a reason for the motion, that an impartial hearing of the case could not be had in Franklin in consequence of the publication of our correspondent's letter, its two columns of malignant misrepresentation would be disposed of. We do not now, and Mr. McClure never did, assume that Mr. Gotwalt was innocent. Whether he is guilty of lewd conduct, or Miss Walter of perjury, are questions which did not enter into the struggle for a change of venue. Whether guilty or innocent, Mr. Gotwalt is entitled to a fair, impartial trial, and that he could not have in Adams county. Why the case was involved in the boisterous strife and deep-seated prejudice of party politics, we neither know nor care. It is enough to know that such is the fact, and being so, the propriety of changing the venue was apparent. The panel from which a jury must have been selected to try Mr. Gotwalt had but two Republicans on it out of forty-eight. It may have been a very strange accident, or it may have been design considering that the brother of the prosecutor has been for some years clerk to the commission-ers. We do not charge that the jury was deliberately packed to secure Mr. Gotwalt's conviction; but we do say, that if that had been the purpose of the parties drawing the jury they could not have more successfully carried out their purpose. The case now goes to Dauphin where both parties are unknown, and where the administration of justice will not be impeded by prejudices of any sort, and we only hope that the guilty will meet due punishment. Does the Spirit want more or less?

Mr. KELLY, of Washington, has taken a step in the right direction in the legislative, by offering a resolution for the appointment of a committee to inquire into alleged frauds relating to the army vote practised by return judges and Prothonotaries in various localities. In several districts Democratic return judges and Prothonotaries deliberately attempted to set aside the army vote, or so much of it as would enable them to certify, Democratic candidates elected. This was the case in Adams, Fulton, and Bedford, and it is alleged that the same fraud was attempted in the Union, Snyder and Lycoming districts. The design of Mr. Kelly's resolution is to get the facts fully before the House, and then remedy wrongs by such laws as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of our elections. We did hope that Messrs. Meyers and Findlay would contest the seats of Armstrong and Ross, and thus enable the House to get at the bottom of the intrigues and frauds practiced in this Congressional and Judicial district, and in the Legislative district west of us; but Mr. Meyers considers discretion the better part of valor, and he abandoned the field to avoid an exposition of his attempt to get into the House in defiance of the voters of his district. Mr. Kelly will likely supply this chapter in the history of Democratic management in the border counties, and every honest man will congratulate him when he has accomplished it.

We give in another column of to-day's paper the new board of Directors of the Southern Pennsylvania and Connelestown Railroad Company. We learn that the work is being pushed as rapidly as possible, considering the great scarcity of labor and exorbitant prices of everything pertaining to the construction of Railroads. The apprehension of some of our people that this important work will be stopped when the connection with the Huntingdon and Broad Top Road is made, is, we are well assured, entirely groundless. That connection will first be made for obvious reasons, as it at once makes the part of the road already made productive; but it is not contemplated by any one connected with the management to abandon the connection with the Cumberland Valley. There is some doubt as to just where the new road will intersect the railroad line of this Valley; but we hazard little in saying that it will be at this point or south of it. It would now be impossible to complete the entire road in the time prescribed by the act of incorporation, and an extension will be asked for; but the company will not seek to be relieved from completing the Eastern line of the road. An effort is now being made to locate it in Maryland, and bring it from Cumberland to Hagerstown; but we hope to see it pass through our county. If located in Maryland, we should lose direct communication with the Broad Top coal fields, and receive in exchange direct communication with the Cumberland Coal beds.

The Harrisburg Telegraph thinks some idea of the immense magnitude and labor of the executive duties since the rebellion has engaged the attention of the local Governors, may be inferred from the fact that in three years, or since the war began, Gov. Curtin has signed thirty-five thousand commissions for officers in the volunteer service. It must be remembered that it is not the mere signing of these documents in which the labor is involved, but the examination of facts in each case, the claim to original appointment and the right to promotion, which requires the utmost executive care and discrimination. From all this it can easily be inferred, that to Governor of a Commonwealth like Pennsylvania is to assume and discharge a labor at once herculean and important.

The Tribune Almanac for 1865 is the most valuable political work for reference to be found. It is cheap, admirably arranged, concise in statements, and generally most reliable. The only error we notice in it is the name of A. H. Coffroth as the Congressman elected from this district, although in the election tables Gen. Kountz is given his proper majority. Price 20 cents per copy. It can be had at Stryker's.

The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows have secured an eligible sight in Baltimore on which to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the late Past Grand Sir, Thomas Widley, who was regarded as one of the founders of the order. The monument is designed to be of imposing grandeur.

We are indebted to Hon. G. W. Scofield for valuable public documents.

WASHINGTON.

Rejoicing over the Fall of Fort Fisher—Preliminary for the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln—Success of the Union Arms—Despondency in Rebellion—The Charleston Mercury on President Lincoln—Places of Amusement—The New Railroad Project—Hon. John M. Forney and the Secretaryship of the Interior.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 20, 1865.

We have been blessed with a few days of pleasant, cool and dry winter weather, just such as would make one feel contented, were it not for the original state of excitement to which we are daily subject.

Since Monday last a continual rejoicing over the fall of Fort Fisher, has been kept up. Last night when the excitement had quieted down, rumors of peace took its place, and to heighten the fever old Mr. Blair today took his servant and again started for Richmond. The steamer Don, on which vessel he made his last trip, has been lying at the Navy Yard ever since with steam up, and today at 11:15 Mr. Blair got aboard and she steamed away for City Point. This of course caused a tremendous hubbub, even among our bulls and bears, for we have come here, and hold tumbled down to 201. If old Abe don't soon tell some people what kind of business old Mr. Blair is traveling back and forth to Richmond about, some people will die of wonder. But the return of Mr. Blair to Richmond, does look as if something more than the recovery of papers was in the wind. Let us have patience and Abraham will tell us all about it, for he said so.

Since the commencement of the present session of Congress very little has been done, save debating the questions of amendment to the constitution and reconstruction. They bid fair to have a much longer run.

If the arrangements which are now making be carried out, the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln next 4th of March, will surpass anything of the kind ever held on this continent, both as to the number of people in attendance and the imposing grandeur of the ceremony. The Union League, the Lincoln and Johnson club, and the Loyal Association of Pennsylvania have made the preliminary movement in the matter, and invited other State associations to join them. The inaugural will take place on the steps of the main entrance

of the east side of the capital, where the last took place. In the evening a grand ball will be given in the North unfinished wing of the Patent Office, where there is a hall some 300 feet long by 16 in breadth. Cards of admission will be \$10, and at that price, the demand will be greater than the supply.

From all sections of Rebellion where our armies are operating, every breath of wind wafts us news of success and victories beyond our most sanguine expectations. The beginning of the end is fast approaching. This gigantic rebel bubble must soon burst, and every individual in Rebellion, from the highest official to the beggar is aware of it. Every issue of their papers show weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. The rank and file of the people of the Confederacy are hearing curses deep and loud upon their old leaders—the betrayers that lead them on from happy homes to misery and death. Even Jeff. Davis himself, so lately set up by them as an omnipotent power, or rather God, is deemed by them an impracticable imbecile, who knows neither how to act or plan, nor judgement to select an executive officer who can. To show the wonderful change of opinion in comparing the Administration of Jeff. Davis to that of Abraham Lincoln, we quote the following from the Charleston Mercury of January 10th, 1865:

"When Abraham Lincoln took the chair of the Presidency of the United States, he promised in his flat-footed lingo to 'run the machine as he found it.' Whether he has strictly kept his promise, those may doubt who choose to consider the bubble 'running his machine' in the way of his predecessors or not, he has run it with a stern, inflexible purpose, a bold, steady hand, a vigilant, active eye, a sleepless energy, a frantic spirit, and an eye single to his end—conquest—emancipation. He has called around him, in counsel, the ablest and most earnest men of his country. Where he has lacked in individual ability, learning, experience and statesmanship, he has sought it, and found it in the able men about him, whose assistance he has cheerfully accepted, whose powers he applies to the advancement of the cause he has undertaken. In the Cabinet and in the field he has consistently and fearlessly pressed on the search for men who could advance his cause, and has not hesitated to displace any of his own Force, energy, brain, earnestness, he has collected around him in every department. Blackguard and buffoon as he is, he has pursued his end with an energy as untiring as it is Indian, and his single purpose in the pathway of his progress, patriotic. If he were not an unscrupulous killer in his end, and a fanatic in his political views, he would undoubtedly command our respect as a ruler, so far as we are concerned. Abroad and at home, he has exercised alike the same ceaseless energy and circumspection. 'We turn our eyes to Richmond, and the contrast is appalling, shocking to the heart.'"

Yesterday was the first day, since early in 1861, that there was no death of a soldier to report from the Hospitals of this District. Owing to the high state of perfection to which our hospitals have arrived, very few deaths occur.

Our Theatres and places of amusement are nightly crowded. Forrest is playing at Ford's and Miss Annie Jones at Grover's. Besides we have had three nights of Italian Opera, at \$2.50 per ticket, and at that price there was scarcely room left to move your elbow.

Yesterday the subject of a new Rail Road between Washington and New York was debated in the Senate, and quite a number of Railroad men are in the city. The old Monopoly will as usual come off victorious and no new road will be built, which is much to be regretted.

The name of John W. Forney is daily used and his chances every day growing bright, for Secretary of the Interior in the re-construction of the cabinet. Thaddeus Stevens declined, on account of ill health, the use of his name for Secretary of the Treasury, for which position he was urged by every Union member from Pennsylvania. His declination makes the chances of Mr. Forney better. S. C.

HARRISBURG.

The Adams County Venue Case—Political Parties—General Law to Issue Licenses—The Local Boycott Question—The State Guard—The Volition of the Election Law—The De Haven Contested Seat.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, January 21, 1865.

There was little business of importance transacted in the legislature this week. The bill to change the venue in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Gotwalt, from Adams to Dauphin, excited some debate, and passed finally on Thursday—the day the case was called up for trial in Gettysburg. Mr. McClure moved to amend the bill on third reading in the House to change it to Dauphin instead of Franklin, giving as a reason the publication of my letter in that county, which might forestall public opinion in the case.

The main reason for the change of venue in the case was the fact that the panel of jurors for the present term of the Adams county court was composed almost entirely of Democrats. The commissioners of that county seem to have acted upon the idea that the position of juror is a purely political one, and must be used to reward small friends in a small way, and to punish political enemies in courts of justice. The Union men of Montgomery and other counties complain bitterly that their juries are packed in the same way, and a general law will probably be passed prescribing some more equitable mode of selecting jurors, so as to break up the intrigues of petty politicians designed to control trials in the courts of justice.

Messrs. Sharpe and McClure have both presented petitions for and remonstrances against collecting the additional bounty of \$200 to each recruit by tax. Franklin is in the same situation on this question with most of the other counties of the State, and there is scarcely any division of sentiment among the members as to the necessity of a law providing for the collection of the additional \$200; but there is much diversity of opinion as to its details. There will doubtless be a general law on the subject designed to cover all cases.

An amendment to the militia law was passed to third reading in the House yesterday, giving all the necessary power to the Governor to make a draft for the State Guard with promptness at any time it may be necessary. It will pass both branches in a short time, and unless the war is brought to a speedy close, we shall have a State force to protect the border by the time spring operations commence.

A special committee has been raised in the House, on motion of Mr. Kelly, of Washington, to inquire into the violations of the election laws by return judges and Prothonotaries, with power to send for persons and papers. These officers have assumed in several instances to disregard the army vote in order to give certificates of election to defeated candidates; but the most noticeable case was in our congressional and judicial districts, and the Bedford, Fulton and Somerset Representative district. The object of the committee is to ascertain the facts and report to the legislature what enactments are necessary to guard against future frauds and punish those who attempt to perpetrate them. As Messrs. Meyers and Findlay skulked away from a contest, after having insisted that they were honestly and legally elected, the House had no opportunity to get the facts of that case before it but by a special committee. Messrs. Kelly and Waddell, two members of the committee, are young lawyers of more than ordinary ability and energy, and they will prosecute the investigation thoroughly. I have not learned the names of the other members of the committee.

The contested election case of Scofield vs. De Haven is understood to be decided, although report has not been made. De Haven will retain his seat. The question as to residence for a year in the district was a new one, and perhaps the strong equity of De Haven's case gave him the benefit of all doubts. It is not denied that he was

elected by nearly 500 majority, and under such circumstances it would require a clear demand of the constitution to qualify Mr. Scofield.

HORACE.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

A band of mounted rebels attempted to invade Illinois at Metropolitan, but only a few succeeded in crossing the river, the others having been dispersed by shells from a gunboat.

General Canby has ordered a draft of one in seven within the Departments of Arkansas and Mississippi and the Gulf on the 15th of February, unless the quotas are previously filled by volunteers.

Rear Admiral S. P. Lee, under date of 9th of January, informs the Navy Department that he has learned that a resolution will soon be introduced into the Alabama Legislature recommending a return of the State into the Union.

The monitor Palatupo was destroyed off Charleston at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 17th, while doing picket duty, by a rebel torpedo. Forty or fifty of the crew went down with her. Their names were not ascertained at the time of the sailing of the Fulton.

Lieutenant Davis, late keeper of the Andersonville (Ga.) jail, who was recognized by one of our soldiers while in transit to Canada, has been brought to Cincinnati, and will be tried as a spy. He defends his treatment of Federal prisoners as being in obedience to orders.

Admiral Porter has made an report to the Navy Department relative to the iron-clads and monitors, speaking very favorably of them. He also refers to the New Ironsides in high terms, saying that no other ship has come up to his ideas of a vessel for offensive operations.

Secretary Stanton, in a letter to the President, dated Fort Monroe, January 17, states that the rebel flag of Fort Fisher was delivered to him on the previous day, on the steamer Spaulding, off that place, by Gen. Terry. Mr. Stanton then gives the particulars of the capture of the fort, as obtained from Admiral Porter, and Gen. Terry.

The Richmond papers, in discussing the visit of Mr. Blair, to that city, say that his ostensible object was to have an interview with Jeff. Davis about the return of some papers, but in the course of conversation he touched upon peace. The rebel "President" is said to have replied that he is always ready to receive regularly accredited commissioners on the subject, or to send such commissioners.

Admiral Porter in his detailed report of the attack on Fort Fisher, gives the total number of naval officers killed and wounded at twenty-one, and of others killed, wounded and missing, including the explosion of the magazine at three hundred and nine. He states that the rebels have blown up Fort Caswell and the steamers Taffehasee and Chickamauga, and that we will be in Wilmington before long.

A son of Herschel V. Johnson, who is an officer in Hood's army, writes from that band of demoralized scamps to his father, that the people of Atlanta, instead of looking upon the Confederate government as a protection, see in it nothing but a great tyrant crushing them to death. He expresses the opinion that the war will stop within thirty days after the 4th of March, for the Southern people will come back on any terms.

Deserters from the Rebel army arrived within Grant's lines say that the Danville Railroad, between Danville and Greensboro, a distance of forty-five miles, has been destroyed by the recent heavy rains; that every culvert and bridge has been carried away, and that Lee's army is likely to be out of rations altogether very soon. Every effort is making to reconstruct the road, and large gangs of men are detailed for that purpose, but even at that it will take some time to repair it, the destruction of the road being so extensive.

A despatch from Cairo to the Commercial, says: Lieutenant Neely, in command of a company of Tennessee cavalry, left Columbus, Ky., on the 18th, and when ten miles out, encountered a force of two hundred rebels. A fierce fight ensued, lasting half an hour. The rebels had five killed, one wounded, and five taken prisoners. There were no casualties on the Union side. It is reported that from five to ten of Forrest's command came into our lines and take the oath daily.

Charleston dispatches of the 16th contain accounts of the attack on Pocotaligo bridge by the Federal forces, and the evacuation of the place by the rebels. The rebel forces took a position behind the Combahee river. The same dispatches say that Hood's losses during his campaign were 8000, and that he has plenty of artillery. It is rumored in Richmond that Hood has been superseded by Gen. Dick Taylor. The Rebel Senate has passed a bill creating the office of commander-in-chief, and recommending that General Joe Johnston be reinstated.

Gen. Sherman renewed the movement of his forces from Savannah last week. Secretary Stanton, in a letter to the President, states that the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps went in transports to Beaufort on Saturday, Jan. 14th. The Seventeenth Corps crossed Port Royal Ferry, and with a portion of General Foster's command moved on Beaufort. The enemy abandoned his strong works in our front during Saturday night. General Blair's Corps now occupies a strong position across the railroad and covering all the approaches eastward to Pocotaligo.

Forty guerrillas under command of Pratt and McGregory, a consolidation of several bands on Wednesday last made a dash into Bardston, Ky., for the purpose of recovering one of their men, John Robinson, confined in the jail of that place. Bardston is garrisoned by a detachment of Federal soldiers under Capt. G. W. Nichols. The guerrillas set the depot on fire and it was burned to the ground, and the body of Mr. Sunberry was consumed in it. The guerrillas and our troops had a heavy fight. Captain Pratt and Pat Bull were killed and Lieutenants Munday and Mason and several others wounded. The guerrillas were routed and driven from the town. The pursuit was continued till darkness put a stop to further proceedings.

An expedition consisting of details from the Brigade of Gen. Gregory of the Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac, sent out on Wednesday last in the direction of Stony Creek for the purpose of obtaining forage for the use of the Brigade, was fired upon by an unknown force, of the enemy secured in ambush, killing and wounding seven of our men. Among the killed was Capt. Rice, Inspector-General on the staff of Gen. Gregory, whose body was for a time left in possession of the enemy. A stronger force was afterwards sent out to recover the body of Capt. R., who had commanded the foraging party, and on returning found it denuded of its clothing, and mutilated by several shells in the head which had been fired by his mercenary enemies after the retirement of our men. Capt. Rice was an officer of great promise, and his sad fate is deplored by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

full of faithful Union people, and the negroes are everywhere and all the time, the friends and helpers of our soldiers. The Unionists in North Carolina are, latterly, doing a good work in the way of bushwhacking the rebel lone guards, deterring themselves especially to the shooting of officers. The Richmond paper that has much the largest circulation is the Examiner, the sheet that so bitterly assails Jeff. Davis.

PERSONAL.

Gov. Hahn has been elected U. S. Senator from Louisiana, for six years.

General Sherman is to be presented with \$100,000 by the citizens of Ohio.

Hon. Henry Wilson was on Wednesday last re-elected United States Senator from Massachusetts.

Win. H. Fry, the composer, and long connected with the Tribune, died at Santa Cruz on December 21st.

Col. Lamb, taken at Fort Fisher, was, we think, captured at Fort Hatteras in 1862. He is a North Carolinian.

Burligh, the Canadian raider, has been recommended to prison to await extradition by the Governor General.

Lieut. Col. Harry White, of the 67th Penna. Vols., has been commissioned by Gov. Curtin as Colonel of his regiment.

Gen. Whitting, captured at Fort Fisher, is a native of Hartford, Conn., and an old friend of his captor, Gen. Terry.

General Butler's friends at Lowell have appointed a committee to make arrangements for giving him a public reception upon his return to that city.

During his stay in Savannah, Secretary Stanton promoted a number of officers who have distinguished themselves, including Gen. Kilpatrick, who was brevetted a major general.

Parson Brownlow has been recommended to the President for the appointment of Brigadier General, in order that he may succeed Gov. Johnson as Military Governor of Tennessee.

Mr. Prentice, having been charged with complicity with the rebellion, during his recent visit to Richmond, is out in a lengthy vindication of his conduct, in the Journal of the 14th inst.

Lieut. Col. Jacobs, of Kentucky, who was sent South some time since, has been pardoned by the President and has returned to his home. He represents the feeling in favor of peace to be strong among not only the lower classes but among officers of high grade.

Major General Winfield S. Hancock was presented on Saturday morning, at the La Pierre House, with the handsome saddle and accoutrements voted him by the citizens of Philadelphia at the Sanitary Fair, during last summer. Win. H. Ashurst, Esq., made the presentation.

Hon. Myer Strouse, Alexander Bailey and Archibald McAllister, of Pa., Democrats—with two members from each of the States of New York and Missouri, one from Kentucky, and one from Wisconsin, of the same party, voted for the constitutional amendment to abolish slavery.

General A. J. Smith, the dashing cavalry leader of the west, in a man nearly fifty years old, wears glasses, his hair is white or rather grizzled; he speaks quickly, moves briskly, is nervous and restless. He is a man of small stature, comely of dress, and abrupt in his address, though kind of heart, the officers of his command say.

It appears that the rebel authorities after arresting rebel Senator Henry S. Foote, at Occoquan, conveyed him to Fredericksburg and occupied him until Jeff. Davis could determine what should be done with him. Late Richmond papers announce that he is released from his parole and at liberty to go where he pleases. It remains to be seen whether they will permit him to pass through the rebel lines to reach Washington, where Mrs. Foote and her child are residing.

Lieut. Col. Harry White, whose capture and retention by the Rebels kept our Senate in hot water for so long last winter, until finally came in the shape of a captain with the gallant Sherman's resignation sewed in his shoulder strap, was promoted, by Governor A. G. Curtin, to the full command of his old regiment, the Sixty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers. After a brilliant reception at the State Capitol, the Colonel left for his regiment.

Col. Pennypacker, who led one of the charging columns in the assault on Fort Fisher, is a son of Chester county, and has won his way from the ranks to his present position by his own merits. He is every inch a soldier. Beloved by his men, they would follow him to the valley's mouth. Born on the storied ground of Valley Forge twenty-five years ago, he has caught the heroic blood of '76. We pray he may survive his dangerous wound, and live to serve his country among the long list of Pennsylvania's patriot sons.

Brevet Major General Alfred H. Terry, commanding the expedition against Fort Fisher, is one of the successful officers taken from civil life. He was born in Hartford, Conn., Nov. 10th, 1827, and was educated at New Haven, where he was admitted to the bar in 1848. He became clerk of the county courts, but resigned in 1860, and made a short visit to Europe. He had long inclined to military studies, and took an active part in the militia of his State. He was colonel of the 2d or New Haven County Regiment when Fort Sumpter was fired on, and immediately offered his services to the Governor, and was commissioned to command the 2d Connecticut Regiment of three-months men, which was one of the few that behaved well at Bull Run. He afterwards raised another regiment, the 7th Connecticut, which did excellent service in General T. Sherman's (afterwards Gilmore's) command, at Hilton Head, and at the capture of Fort Pulaski, for which it had the honor of being selected as the garrison. In March, 1863, Terry was promoted to be a brigadier general of volunteers, and the splendid service of capturing a fort which, twenty days before, Gen. Butler had declared impregnable, he has been made a brevet Major General.

Brig. Gen. Adelbert Ames, who commanded the assaulting division in the successful attack on Fort Fisher, was at the breaking out of the rebellion a cadet at West Point. He was graduated on the 6th of May, 1861, fifth in his class, and entered the army on the same day as second lieutenant in the Fifth Artillery. At the first battle of Bull Run he served with distinction in Griffin's celebrated battery and was wounded in the thigh. He was engaged with his battery at Yorktown, Golding's Farm and Malvern Hill. In August, 1862, he was appointed Colonel of the Twentieth Maine, and commanded that regiment at Antietam, Sheppardstown and Fredericksburg. At Chancellorsville he served on Gen. Hooker's staff. On the 20th of May, 1863, Ames was made a Brigadier General and placed in command of a picked brigade, which he led at Beverly Ford on the 9th of June, in that year. At Gettysburg he commanded a division in the Eleventh Corps during the second and third days of that memorable battle, and for his good conduct was highly commended by General Howard. In August, 1863, Gen. Ames was ordered to report to General Gilmore, and he with his brigade participated in the operations against Fort Wagner and Gregg, and also in the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Gen. Ames remained in the Department of the South until April 22d, 1864, when he proceeded to the Peninsula with the Tenth Army Corps, in all the operations of which against Petersburg and Richmond he acted a distinguished part. General Ames was born in East Thomaston, (now Rockland,) Maine, on the 31st day of October, 1825.

THE CHARLESTON "MERCURY" ON THE SITUATION.

The following significant article appeared in the Charleston Mercury of January 19:

The condition of this military department, as embraced within the limits of Georgia and South Carolina, is such as to excite the satisfaction of any man who is aware of facts, and has capacity to understand their bearing. We presume there is no one in the department to whom the condition of our present military organization is less satisfactory than to the General commanding. There is here no one so thorough an aware of the lamentable disorganization that prevails in certain corps and sections of his command. Yet it would scarcely be fair to hold him responsible for this condition of things.

His department has been newly turned into his hands, and many of the troops are new to him and to that department. They came to him under the command of imbeciles; he has received them, a herd of stragglers and outlaws. What has been done to eradicate this fatal evil we do not stop to inquire. The time has been short to do much, and the forces have been much scattered. But the very last moments are arriving, when all must be done that can be done. The enemy does not intend to wait upon our leisure. And there is no time to lose.

Before bringing ourselves to face the enemy, it is absolutely essential that those in command bring themselves to face the vital evils existing within our own lines. The path we now are traveling is straight to destruction. The crisis of the Confederacy is at hand. The next six months will bring the Confederacy to the ground, or will re-instate its power. Without reform we are doomed. There is more than one department of the Government in which reform is important. But reform in no other is so essential as in the military. Without the death of the Confederacy is already dead. With the proper reform made, he is a coward who carries his heart in his boots.

There are men in the land—there is fight in the land, and the intellects of this soil are not so stupid to inquire. The time has been short to do much, and the forces have been much scattered. But the very last moments are arriving, when all must be done that can be done. The enemy does not intend to wait upon our leisure. And there is no time to lose.