Pacific. All was done that could be done; but an overruling power that ever disposes, however man proposes, made the triumph of slavery in the Mexican acquisition a crowning disappointment. California was held at the door of Congress with her Representatives and Senators for months to give slavery and Democracy some pretext to reject them; but the power of freedom on the Pacific became stronger with each day, and at last they bowed down and confessed their discomfiture.

But, disastrous as was the defeat, it was not dismayed. It still had a willing and powerful party at the head of the Government, and it struggled confidently, defiantly for supremacy. It wrung the Missouri Compromise from an unwilling people, years before, and triumphed thereby; but it now stood in the way of the march of slavery to universal dominion. It was a sacred monument of the solemnly plighted faith of our fathers. For a quarter of a century it had stood unassailed by any one; but it confronted slavery, and it must be ruthlesly destroyed. Democracy was summoned to the task, and the cruel work was done. Again was the tranquility of the nation wantonly, wickedly broken by the Democracy in obedience to slavery, and when its convulsions threatened the very safety of our institutions, the spoiler came again with the seducing cry of peace, by submission to its wrongs. What followed is but too well remembered by all. The revolting scenes which made up the early history of Kansas, and the Lecompton infamy, which was made the test of devotion to a Democratic Administration, are but fitting sequels to the crime that had its inception on the violation of the Missouri compact.

Still it was not content. The right of petition had been restored; the right to rifle the mails had been abrogated, and enlightened progress was on every hand besetting this monster foe of liberty and law. In this extremity it turned to the judicial tribunal of last resort—a court where once sat a Marshal and a Story, and in the name of Democracy demanded that its life should be declared to issue from the Constitution itself, and that by virtue of the sacred instrument it could spread its polluting power wherever it was not expressly interdicted by municipal law. It had but to command, and it was obeyed. The territories were surrendered mercilessly, and in defiance of the accepted law of the civilized world, to its desolating tread. The States were pronounced its obedient servants in the maintenance of its interests, and the black man was judicially defined as a being without rights which any one was bound to respect. This was its chief, its fatal triumph. The year that witnessed its mastery over a free people and their institutions, dated its decline and fall; and now the rejected black man pleads in a court where, but a few years ago, he was denied even the legal status of manhood necessary to maintain the prerogatives of a suitor.

At last this demon of discord and relentless foe of our liberties had exhausted the uses of the Democratic party as a party of administrative power. It had so prostituted and demoralized that organization that it was impotent to save slavery from the doom of subordination, and with it subordination was death. It therefore spurned its faithful instrument of wrong, and rent it in twain at Charleston. It did not mean to sunder the Union. It was not prepared for the war with which it has shadowed the land in mourning. It saw its power departing, and it must be supreme or die. It resolved upon a final, exhausting effort to prostitute the North at its feet and secure its perpetual and unquestioned power by new and wholesale organic concessions to its vitality. It therefore thrust out the major portion of the Northern Democracy, and reckoning by the history of the past, it confidently expected to see friend and foe paralyzed into submission rather than brave its vengeance. But the age of submission was past. The free North was aroused, and resolved that the right of the majority to rule in conformity with the laws should be tested.—Vainly did its rejected ally, the Democracy, plead for it in 1860, but the fiat of the people declared that slavery must henceforth yield its own boasted supremacy to the majesty of the laws. It was no unmeaning victory. It was not achieved to be basely bartered away by compromise, in which right should surrender to wrong.

Slavery was appalled at the retributions it had invited, but it did not despair. It saw the sceptre of power depart, but it hoped to seduce or intimidate the great North from its settled purpose to vindicate the laws and the force of the Government. It saw an educated, honored and requited industry give rich fruits in prosperity and progress in the Northern States, while its own fair homes were marked by decay. It saw a vast preponderance of population gathering about it whose honest aims of life made them its implacable foes. It saw every element of greatness with which a beneficent God had blessed a free people. It saw school-houses at every cross-road scattering wide-spread education—its deadliest antagonist. It saw the spires of our churches pointing to heaven in every community, each steadily instilling the great eternal truths which pronounce slavery accursed of man and God. It saw rising here from day to day elements which in time must crush it as the foe of civilization, of humanity and peace. It saw its own power wasting from day to day beneath the inexorable progress of intelligence, and it buckled on its armor for its final struggle. If dethroned, it resolved that there should be woe to the victors as well as vanquished in its last conflict.

Again it turned to its distracted ally in the North. It had spurned the Northern Democracy from its councils, and left it without a resting place; but when it gathered up its strength to make a nation bow at its deadly shrine, or accept its fearful alternative, it again turned to the shattered elements of the Democracy, and said, "There shall be war or submission, and Democracy shall be the ally of slavery." I understand well, Mr. Speaker, the fearful import of this declaration. I mean it in its broadest sense. When slavery resolved upon war as its last resort, should the North maintain its integrity, it turned to the Democracy, and was assured of sympathy and triumph in grappling with the very life of the Republic. How far it has been successful, let the chequered history of this bloody drama tell. It made war, confident in the belief, predicated upon positive assurance, that the Democracy would paralyze the North in the attempt to exercise its might; that there would be a powerful party that would sustain it with matchless fidelity even unto death, and the bond is about to be fulfilled to-day. And why should it not? Aught else would be but hollow hypocrisy and shameless cowardice.

Slavery reckoned but too truly on the power of Democracy in this fearful conflict. When the guns of treason were thundering against Sumter, every member of that party on this floor responded to the call of slavery by voting against the organization of any force to defend the State, or the unity of the Republic. And in the Senate, when our deliberations on the bill to arm a force for defence were interrupted by the lightning messengers proclaiming the progress of the bombardment of the feeble but heroic command of Anderson, every Democratic member sent back to triumphant treason the cheering assurance, that no men or means should be employed to preserve the life of the Government by their votes. Such is the blistering truth of history as made in these legislative halls.

And as here, it was elsewhere. The faithless were for a time overwhelmed by the outburst of patriotism of the people; but as soon as they felt safe in so doing, they assailed the loyal cause with every petty pretext, just as they have quibbled to resist the inexorable logic of events to-day. Then, when the national heart throbbed with devotion to our imperilled institutions, the gentleman from Northumberland (Mr. Purdy) did not declare in the columns of his paper that the Southern Confederacy was an established fact, as he afterwards did. He bowed to the resistless current of patriotism for the time, but he waited, and watched for the period when he could by stealth, by cowardly innuendo, by specious assaults upon the administration of the government, strike most effectually at the very vitals of the Republic. And, sir, with what mathless fidelity has this cruel task been performed. The gentlemen who last addressed the House in opposition to the resolutions has, from the time this war commenced, persistently condemned, every measure proposed for the vindication of our national life. When slavery unfurled its banner to the breeze, proclaiming wanton, relentless war alike upon our people and their institutions, he answered its demands by denying the right of coercion—by refusing to the nation its inherent right to live. There has hardly been an argument emanating from the leaders of treason in Richmond that has not in spirit or in terms been re-echoed by the gentlemen from Northumberland. His own constituents, I believe declared in public meeting that the Southern Confederacy was established.

Mr. PURDY. Will the gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. M'CLURE. Certainly.

Mr. PURDY. I would like to know where the meeting was held.

Mr. M'CLURE. I cannot say, but the resolutions were published in his own journal.

Mr. PURDY. They were never published in my journal.

Mr. M'CLURE. I cannot be mistaken, sir. The gentlemen may quibble as to the exact phraseology of the resolutions, but I do not know that resolutions were published by him, if not endorsed, certainly without disapproval, declaring that the rebel confederacy was an established fact; that their government was successful; that resistance to their power was useless, and therefore we should submit to the triumph of treason. I do not mean that this was the exact language of the resolutions, but I will thank the gentleman, if he has them in his possession, if he will present them now and show wherein I am mistaken.

Mr. PURDY. I rise to explain. I suppose the gentleman from Franklin (Mr. M'Clure) refers to a meeting called away up in Maine, the proceedings of which were published in my journal as an evidence of what was being done up there.

Mr. M'CLURE. I may be mistaken as to where these resolutions originated, but not as to their sentiments. They declared for disunion—for the success of our country's foes. Were they endorsed or were they condemned by the gentleman when he published them?

Mr. PURDY. The resolutions were copied from the *World* or *Herald* into my paper, together with an editorial from the journal from which they were taken.

Mr. M'CLURE. I wish to inquire distinctly of the gentleman whether he condemned the sentiments of the resolutions when he published them?

Mr. PURDY. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that, I think, the whole tone of my paper condemned the resolutions.

Mr. M'CLURE. I wish the gentleman to answer frankly whether, when he published in his own columns resolutions declaring that treason had already triumphed over the government, he did so with or without their condemnation.

Mr. PURDY. I will say, in the first place, that these resolutions did not declare that treason should triumph.

Mr M'CLURE. I hope that I shall get the gentlemen to answer my question.

Mr. PURDY. I have answered it.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Franklin will proceed. This dialogue is out of order.

Mr. M'CLURE. Sir, I am not mistaken in the charge I have preferred. A series of resolutions which I supposed to have emanated from his constituents, (I accept his correction on this point,) confessing that the confederacy of treason was established, and the Union substantially dismembered, was published in his own journal and in others of like faith, and with positive or silent approval, thus in everything short of an actual espousal of the enemy's cause, strengthening the foes of the government in their murderous war upon our heroic brothers in the field. By every means which promised success, they sought to impair the sanctity of the laws; to traduce, misrepresent and weaken the government, and render it feeble as possible in its terrible conflict with slavery and treason. They sought to defeat the execution of its own statutes deemed essential to the safety of the nation. And how could this be better done than by proclaiming through the columns of a newspaper that the rebel government was established, and therefore resistance to treason was but remorseless murder? No man who read those resolutions misunderstood them. No loyal man read them without being chilled in his confidence in the great struggle; no traitor ever read them without rejoicing that he had faithful, tireless allies in the free North. Such publications and speeches of like tone were the brightest rays of hope to treason until the nation spoke million-tongued in behalf of its own life in 1864, and bid the cruel murderers of the South rely upon themselves. There was not a skulking conscript in the gentleman's own county, or elsewhere, who did not applaud the resolutions, and thank him for their publication.

Mr. PURDY. Will the gentleman allow me to interrupt him to make an explanation? In regard to the resolutions I will simply say, that they were published as the proceedings of a meeting in the State of Maine, which was called about the time of the breaking out of the rebellion, when it was deemed by the gentleman from Franklin (Mr. M'Clure), and by his party, that there was not any such thing as seceded States. The meeting was called to form a movement at that time for a compromise of the difficulties. The resolutions stated that the rebellion was a fixed fact, and called on the President and authorities of the United States to enter into some measures for the prevention of this bloody and ruinous war. If the gentlemen will persist in perverting this meeting and in perverting my action with reference to it, he is at liberty to do so after this statement. I will only further say, that at the outbreak of this war, I addressed war meetings, for the purpose of raising volunteers in my county, and published resolutions adopted at three meetings in my own journal.

Mr. M'CLURE. The gentleman still avoids the material point. He may have addressed war meetings, but it was when he could do nothing less, in obedience to the aroused sentiment of the people about him in favor of the suppression of the rebellion. But soon after the outbreak of the war he published, and approvingly because not disapproved, resolutions pointing with unmistakable distinctness to the established success of the rebel confederacy, and then demanded peace. Soul-stirring indeed must have been his war speeches, when at the very threshhold of the struggle he prayed, as Slavery and Treason would have bid him pray, for compromise, concession and ultimate destruction of all government. The tone of the resolutions, as well as the tone that pervaded every issue of his journal, by implication, if not in expressed terms, denied both the right and the power of the Republic to maintain its authority by the arbitrament of the sword.

Mr. PURDY. Not at all.

Mr. M'CLURE. I do not err on this vital issue. However disguised by professions of loyalty, the teachings of the gentleman from Northumberland (Mr. Purdy), and his political associates are aimed to paralyze the power of the government and to strengthen the hands of its deadly enemies. We were told the war was fruitless; that it could not be successful; and faithful men were staggered by the earnest, tireless, mighty current of poison that flowed from the Democratic leaders to make the people their own and their country's foes. I except, as I have always done, the masses of all parties from the terrible imputation of disloyalty to the Government. They have shown it in every stage of this conflict. They have defied their political leaders in the darkest hour of the nation's cause, and rushed to its rescue; but they left behind them the quibbling, craven traitors who were too base to defend their nationality, and too cowardly to assail it manfully.

Need I inquire to whom we are indebted for the turbulence that has blotted our history in the various stages of this struggle for national existence? Whence came disorder, contempt of law and riots in our own free North? Who taught the deluded victims of Democratic leaders to inaugurate anarchy in the chief city of the Union?—Who taught them that conscription was but remorseless tyranny and prepared them, by persistent, malignant hostility to the Government for the appalling scenes which were witnessed there in 1863? And when they had but obeyed the inevitable conviction of Democratic teaching, and ran riot in arson, murder and anarchy for days, who greeted them as "friends" and begged for peace—not to vindicate the violated laws or to save an imperilled Government, but to save themselves from the swift retribution they saw in the bitter cup they had prepared for others. The leaders had not the manhood to declare in favor of Slavery and Treason, but like the gentleman from Northumberland, (Mr. Purdy,) they poured a steady current of treason, the more deadly because it went forth in the thin guise of devotion to the Union. Well did they obey the behests of slavery, and they gave rich fruits wherewith to gladden despairing traitors.

And who in our own State have taught lavish aness to defeat the strengthening of our armies and protract the war for fresh sacrifices of blood and treasure? Whence has come disorder here? Not from Allegheny, or Chester, or Lancaster, or Philadelphia; but from the sections where Democracy could boast of its greatest supremacy. Whence came this treason? It was not inherent with the people. They are as loyal now as they were in 1861. Who then, by tireless arts and persuasion, made them strangers to their own best inheritance and foes to goverment and law? I saw brave men clad in their country's blue, march from the border when the cannon of Early thundered on the Potomac—not to make the victory of Sheridan more decisive, but to enforce the laws and preserve order in our own then threatened Commonwealth. While treason flaunted its bloody banner on the very border of our State, Democracy, its faithful ally, was attempting revolution in the strongholds of its leaders, to cheer the hearts and strengthen the arms of those who came to thrust the torch of the barbarian, and ply the trade of the free-booter in our happy homes, and make our golden fields desolate by their brutal tread; These are but the currents which flow from the deadly fountain of treason, and where rises its pestiferous head to course its way to every hamlet in the land and leave its fatal impress upon mankind! Who gave this fountain of treason life and power, to threaten a nation's noblest struggle with disaster? Behold the men who at every stage of the war have resisted every measure essential to success. They declared it was in too mighty for the Government to suppress. They appealed to the sordid to arrest staggering taxes and debt by demanding peace, when well they knew that peace involved dismemberment and death. They plead their unholy cause to the fears of the cowardly, and implored them to avoid the perils of the field by resisting conscription, and impair the power of the Government by lawlessness. They aroused the prejudices of the humble, by pointing to the degradation of negro equality, and even men plumed as popular leaders seemed to fear that they were so poorly endowed that the benighted African might outstrip them in the race of ambition. They appealed to every prejudice of the feeble, the venal, the faithless, to array them against the free institutions whose beneficence gave them every social, civil and religious right. But the people, although at times faltering as the dark shadows of disaster enveloped the nation, were still faithful to their Government. Like the disturbed and oscillating needle, that ever settles to the pole, they would rise from the cloud of perfidy that beset them and give their hearts and sacrifices to preserve the Republic of our fathers.

One hope remained for Democracy and slavery. They turned to the court of last resort of Pennsylvania, and, in the name of Democracy, demanded that the only means by which our armies could be filled and enabled to triumph, should be set aside as an infraction of the sovereignty of the State, and therefore void. They hoped that the people would be glad to grasp this pretext to turn upon themselves, their country, their children and their God. It was the task of despair, but it was performed, and the right of this Government to defend its life when treason was fastened upon it in deadly strife, as with hooks of triple steel, was gravely denied by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Then did treason, the twin-born of slavery, triumph in our midst, and compassed the judiciary—the last refuge of the people—in its slimy embrace. But it aroused the people to a mighty struggle. Impelled by the despotism of treason, which mucked them in their perils, to the moral heroism which ever strengthens right in its midnight of gloom, they reversed their court by the decision of the ballot-box, from which there is no appeal, and I thank a just and merciful God that the Court, the State, the Nation, lived, and lived loyally. [Applause.]

This record of unmingled wrong and treachery is the history of the party whose representatives to-day will cast their votes against the ratification of the proposed amendment to the Constitution. It is their work—they were so bidden by slavery and they obeyed. Am I not right, sir, in saying that they are consistent? So far from being surprised that they so vote, I should think it strange indeed did they not maintain the shade of virtue that consistency and fidelity may give them. Slavery, conceived in crime, and faithful to its creation for more than three-quarters of a century, is about to finish its task, and when it turns for the last time to behold its friends in the exercise of power, it would be cruel, most cruel indeed, for them to spurn it and leave it to die unmourned and dishonored. They owe it to the power which they worshipped when it was mighty. They followed its black plume of desolation until it made bondage national and freedom sectional—until it subverted the genius of the government and its fundamental law—until it plunged us into causeless war and brought bereavement to every circle; and now when He who rules over all, in the fulness of his time, has declared that "vengeance is mine, I will repay," and when His last relentless stroke is about to fall upon it—it is fitting in this hour, in this death struggle, that they should be faithful to the institution that in other days made them great. [Great applause.]

Franklin Repository.

Wednesday, February 22, 1865.

THE EXTINCTION OF SLAVERY.

In political affairs the end is not always apparent from the beginning. Both nations and statesmen are sometimes compelled to accept the logic of events as their instructor. The aspirations of the first are often quickened by unexpected realization, whilst the latter are content to shape that whose being they could neither forestall nor create.

How long African slavery would have existed upon this continent, had it not been for the occurrence of the stupendous civil war now drawing to a close, none can say. It might have lingered many centuries, an impediment to our civilization, a blot upon our escutcheon, a cause of disintegration, and an element of death. It might, too, in the ways of an inscrutable Being, have been taken through the process of eradication by some noiseless, gentle means, so that as scarce no man could tell whence it came, none should know whither it went. But as the great Same controls both the zephyr and the hurricane, so doth He rule in the armies of heaven and among the children of men. None can take Him to task for His agencies.

Notwithstanding the present incumbent of the Presidency had years ago declared that the States of this government could not remain permanently half free and half slave: notwithstanding his premier had declared that between the two systems—free and slave labor—there must ever be an irrepressible conflict; at the very commencement of hostilities it was authoritatively announced by both the executive and legislative branches of the government, that the object of the war was solely to compel obedience to the national authority under the constitution and laws.

Thus whilst the insurgent leaders avowed the object of rebellion to be the establishment of an unrestricted system of enforced labor, the power they were about to engage as unhesitatingly disclaimed past encroachment and future interference with the unclean thing.

It may be interesting now for a moment to leave the giants interlocked—to let the strife progress—whilst we consider for a moment the probability of the eradication of slavery by other means than through the war.

Its extinction may at any time have been effected by one of three means—war, either on the part of the enslaved or by those favorable to abolition; a constitutional amendment providing for its prohibition or voluntary emancipation.

As regards voluntary emancipation, alas! the cupidity of human nature rendered it almost impossible. The evil had its origin in a love of gain. The same insatiate desire caused it to thrive. Tears and blood were no obstacle to its inhuman barters. Its advantages were reciprocal. Coffers were filled at the North, where the crack of the lash and the sigh from the block were unheard; coffers were filled at the South, where both were equally unheard. There could be no hope for voluntary emancipation when the demands of avarice never ceased to be met and the national heart was growing harder.

For the same reasons a constitutional amendment was equally out of the question. Arrayed against progress was every sordid and selfish interest, every besotted and brutalized instinct, every debasing and unchristian sentiment. Men in their own estimation proclaimed the African as not of human kind, but allied to his own native gorilla. Even such as admitted his humanity insisted that he was accursed of God. The argument then was not confined to a street car, but they insisted upon perpetually and systematically debasing him upon earth and finally excluding him from Heaven. The aid of the highest judicial officer in the government was invoked, and it was announced from the Bench that he had no rights a white man was bound to respect. What wonder then that both voluntary and constitutional emancipation were out of the question.

But slavery had been doomed. Permitted originally for some wise purpose, it was not intended that it should have a perpetual lease, nor never be called to settle an account. The enslaved it is true were helpless. Long years of oppression and neglect had fitted them more for servitude than for freedom. Bestial masters and their allies had often paraded this as a reason why their bondage should be continued. Death they said was the best antidote for death—the virus that produced the disease should be used in its cure.

It was just here, when all hope seemed to have died out, when the heart of the lover of justice to all failed within him, that a ray of light appeared, a speck in the heavens no bigger than a man's hand. Mr. Lincoln was elected. He was about to be inaugurated. The revolution of slaveholders was begun. At first to human perception it seemed of trifling importance, easy to be quelled. The retiring President let it severely alone. It waxed strong. The new President soon found himself in the midst of a tremendous convulsion.

It is not necessary to detail events. None fail to remember how the present Chief Magistrate has from the beginning sought to win the South back by appeals to duty and patriotism—how every ulterior measure of war has been anteriorly proclaimed and opportunity afforded to return to a cast-off allegiance.

Slavery is now dying, not by the hands of those who long since favored a prohibitory constitutional amendment, not by the hands of abolitionists so called, not by virtue entirely of the executive proclamation, but by war, cruel war, provoked and made by its friend. Had not a syllable of the emancipation proclamation been uttered the result had been all the same; for the present conflict will scarcely close before our armies shall have overrun all parts of the South and given practical freedom to the slaves.

Our own measure resorted to for the purpose of weakening the enemy is about to be adopted by him with the view of adding strength to his armies. It is proposed now in the South to put the slaves into service and mammit them for anticipated heroic efforts. It is not a matter of surprise that such a proposition meets much opposition there. Few thinking men can have faith in the idea that the negroes will fight for their oppressors under the promise of freedom when these very oppressors have failed in a contest, the object of which was by a separation from the old government to insure the permanency and enlarge the area of slavery. The idea is preposterous. It is as if a Pacific adventurer returning with his hoarded dust when shipwrecked and utterly without hope, should first cast his treasure into the yawning sea and leap into its jaws for a perpetual sleep.

Whilst slavery dies by the war as an element of strength in the rebellion, if we seek a more remote and moral reason for its extinction we find it in the prevading sentiment of patriotism and pride of nationality of the loyal North. So long as the institution did not strike directly at the vitals of the government it had its friends, but when it sought to disrupt the Union and overturn the constitution, ambition, party spirit, prejudice, cupidity, hatred of the negro—all obeyed the behests of a true patriotism and came to the rescue. The large majority of the people notwithstanding the seditious appeals of enemies of the government and rebel sympathizers, are desirous to conduct the war in such a way as will deal the hardest blows upon the enemy and most quickly and thoroughly re-establish the national authority. The result of the late election shows that the government has met the expectations of the many, whilst for its double work it has called down upon itself the benedictions of mankind.

NAPOLEON'S POLICY.

After the rebellion in the United States had assumed frightful proportions, and to our enemies had presented the aspect of success, the French Emperor, ambitious of getting possessions on the American continent, availed himself of this opportunity, and to carry out his designs undertook, single handed, the conquest of Mexico. He was weak enough to believe that the twenty millions of the free, loyal States of the Federal government had not patriotism enough to meet the foe of their Union, and in a bloody war sustain themselves as a brave and chivalrous people. Thinking that the people of the Northern States had sunk into a condition of apathy so cold and indifferent as to the danger of a dissolution of the union of their government, that not only would the confederacy be permanently established upon its ruins, but that he would have seated a ruler in the capitol of Mexico, and have, in the name of France, some of its richest provinces before they would discover what they had lost, or be in a condition to prevent the complete execution of this magnificent programme.

Three years ago the Emperor broke faith with England and Spain as members of the tripartite expedition, wishing to bag the game himself, and the moment he landed a soldier upon the soil of Mexico he sounded the key-note of a policy that challenged the earnest heed of the American people.

If we trace the conduct of the Emperor since 1854, we find that he had his eyes upon the rich province of Sonora then, and has been intriguing ever since to obtain possession of it. He favored that unfortunate expedition of Count Raouset de Boulbon, until it was evident that it could not succeed, and then fearing to make himself known in this weak and small affair, permitted its leaders to die the death of filibusters. From that day to this he has not taken his eye from Sonora, but has labored zealously to get some plan by which he might control and receive its vast wealth into its own coffers. It doubtless was his intention to possess Sonora when the expedition against Mexico was first planned.

The Emperor is now under the impression that the Mexican Republic is extinct, and that the monarchy established by himself under European auspices is a success. Maximilian is a scion of the house of Hapsburg, and evidently chosen by Napoleon because of the military power of his family alliances, and for the express purpose of insuring the support of one of the strongest nations of Europe in the event of his ursurpation being challenged by the Government of the United States. Napoleon is ambitious and loves success. Any amount of duplicity and base intrigue will be resorted to by him, in order to carry out his purposes. He seems to have the spirit of his illustrious Uncle, and will sacrifice human life like things of worthless character, rather than yield when once a scheme is undertaken. He loves the French nation, and wishes to have for it, the fear and envy of the nations of the earth. At Orizaba he rid himself of the English and Spanish by making fools of their representatives, and openly entering into an anti-Mexican alliance. He then proclaimed to the Mexicans that he entered their boundaries simply to pacificate, that he desired not conquest. He vowed to the world that their institutions should be held sacred, and the public vote fully respected. This was no sooner done, and the ink scarcely dry with which these promises were written, until he himself chose a ruler for the people, and compelled their vote at the point of the bayonet. What can all this mean, unless it is, that he has a great policy to work out, which he is resolved to crown with success at any cost. By his own acts and declarations he has consented to degrade himself, and has stooped from his high position to acts of treachery, falsehood and tyranny that demand the careful consideration of the American People. He has not chosen a ruler for the Mexican people because their discordant condition required it, but it is simply to rob the country of much of its glittering wealth. He pretended to place a prince of their own choice over them, and yet keeps the entire control of more than one-third of the country. If Maximilian is competent to administer the government of Mexico for the good of this distracted people, why should he not be trusted by the Emperor of France? If the prosperity of the Mexican people will be so largely increased and the happiness of the people augmented, why doubt the ability of this people to compensate the Emperor for the vast services rendered by his army? It is strange indeed, that more than one-third of a wealthy country must be pawned as security for this outlay. It is without precedent, to occupy and possess the territory of another government for services rendered in pacification. Nations generally rely upon customs, duties and internal taxation, and always borrow upon bonds sufficient to show an intention to liquidate national debts. In this case, nothing of this kind is asked, no schedule of debts presented, but simply, without the consent of the people, the territory is required, entered upon and occupied. In all this there is a purpose. It is not only treading down the Mexican nation, but is defying the Monroe doctrine of the United States. We can clearly say that Mexico has been conquered, not for its own sake, but to serve as a base of operations for carrying out a French policy on the American Continent. Whether he will aid the sinking cause of the Rebellion at some future day, remains to be seen. If it will result in advancing his deep design, it will doubtless be done. He is not playing the part of a spectator in the great drama now being enacted upon this continent. He has his ends to accomplish, and as he has already conquered the Mexican government and exercises absolute sway over the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Durango and Lower California, he evidently expects to lay hold of the Southern States at no distant day, or derive some benefit from our Pacific States, which will place him as an Emperor far above in wealth and power any of the crowned heads of Europe. The duty of our Government is plain, and its course well understood. Another campaign will break down the strongholds of the Rebellion, and then we ask that the Monroe doctrine be clearly defined, as the doctrine of our government. It will require but an army Corps of our brave fellows to dislodge both the scion of Hapsburg and the vain Napoleon from the position they have so ingloriously obtained upon the American continent.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

There are manifest signs of dissolution in the dominions of treason. The Raleigh *Progress* confesses, in an elaborate article that the capital of that State is at the mercy of Sherman; that the last rebel legislature is now in session there, and that Charleston, Columbia, Wilmington and ultimately Richmond must be surrendered to the Union armies. Part of the prediction has already been fulfilled. Sherman entered Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, unopposed, and the Richmond papers confess that the occupation of Columbia necessitates the surrender of Charleston. The *Progress* adds that when Sherman does come the people of Raleigh and North Carolina will accept him as conqueror, and imitate Savannah by making the best terms possible with him. It also frankly admits that the rebel government cannot maintain the war, and that justice and humanity demand its early termination on the basis of re-union.

In the mean time Sherman is pursuing his victorious march practically unopposed. Had it been in the power of the rebels to defend Columbia and Charleston, it would have been done. If Sherman cannot be defeated in detail, how is he to be beaten when his immense army is concentrated? When he moved upon Columbia, he had two other columns operating in different directions, while Beauregard had the interior lines and could have concentrated against any one of Sherman's wings; but he failed to do so solely because he was too feeble to meet any considerable force in battle. We do not apprehend that there can be any better point at which Beauregard can give battle than the positions already surrendered. Every day's march Sherman makes brings him nearer to heavy co-operating columns. The 23d corps is in North Carolina, and must now be acting in direct support of Sherman, and soon the grand armies of Grant must be in supporting distance of each other to compass the reduction of the rebel capital.

Outside of the general aspect of military affairs, there are the strongest evidence of the dissolving strength of treason. The speech of Secretary Benjamin made recently in Richmond, admits that Richmond must be surrendered unless the slaves are put into the field, and he admits that unless they are induced to go voluntarily by offers of freedom, they will fight *against* the rebels. He admits that the white population of the South now subject to the despotism of Davis, is unequal to the contest, and puts the issue squarely to the people that unless the slaves come to the rescue of traitors, the rebellion is crushed. It is most remarkable, too, that Vice President Stevens, although several times announced, has never spoken since his return from the conference at Fortress Monroe. He was understood as desiring peace before he came there; but it was freely stated that he would now take the stump and advocate the maintenance of the war at every sacrifice. But he is still reticent as ever, and seems to have retired again to allow the madness of treason to expend itself in the most wicked and hopeless war of history.

On every hand the cause of the government seems to promise decisive and early success; and we hope that the day is near at hand, when the last army of crime—that of Gen. Lee, will be compelled to seek uncertain refuge in the Cotton States, and the authority of the government be resumed in Virginia and North Carolina, as in Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.

MAJOR DODGE.

Major Dodge, the Assistant Provost Marshal of this State, and commandant at Harrisburg, has been gravely censured by the legislature, and also by the heads of Departments connected with the military service at the capital, for wanton cruelty and shameless disregard of the wants of soldiers sent to Camp Curtin to be organized into companies. A committee of the legislature was appointed, upon the complaint of sundry soldiers, to investigate the condition of affairs of Camp Curtin, and they reported that the recruits, just from their homes and not inured to the rigors of the camp, were left there without adequate shelter or protection from the excessive cold, when Maj. Dodge had not only ample authority but ample recources to supply every want of the men. The same committee, or a part of it, also confered with Maj. Dodge on the subject, and found him entirely indifferent alike to the wants of the soldiers and the efforts of the State authorities to remedy his cruel negligence. The result was a joint resolution demanding his removal, which passed the House by an overwhelming majority, and was passed to third reading in the Senate by the decisive vote of 17 to 10, and even those who voted in the negative took especial pains to state that they did not mean to justify the conduct of Maj. Dodge.

The government is now in want of men, and particularly in need of volunteers, who can be placed in the field with much more facility than can be attained by the enforcement of the conscription. Harrisburg is the rendezvous for such volunteers, and Maj. Dodge is the commander there. One company from Lewistown—the first to respond to the call for fifty companies—tried Maj. Dodge for a day or two, and then disbanded and returned home. The next lot of volunteers that reached Camp Curtin enjoyed the luxury of standing out in the snow day and night during the excessively cold weather of two weeks ago, and had their feet and ears frozen because Maj. Dodge prefered to have them so exposed. The result is that volunteering has been almost wholly arrested, as men do not appreciate the system of Major Dodge, whereby they are made the victims of every atrocity his ingenuity can devise. How long this state of things is to continue, the authorities at Washington must determine. Gov. Curtin has repeatedly demanded the removal of Maj. Dodge without indicating his successor or caring who he might be, so that he should come prepared to discharge his duty, and the legislature, certainly in no factious spirit, has seconded the request of the Executive in the most positive manner. Will the authorities at Washington disregard these demands? If so they must prefer that Pennsylvania shall not promptly furnish volunteers to strengthen our armies. No matter who Maj. Dodge is, or who wants him here, or don't want him at the front. If he can't be used advantageously elsewhere, let him report to a pile of brick or his arm-chair at home if need be; but we submit that his insolent disregard of the wants of our volunteers shall not be perpetrated at Harrisburg to chill the ardor of our young men who are prepared to swell the ranks of our armies.

Two bounty bills have passed the House relating to this county. Mr. Sharpe read in place and passed finally a bill authorizing the collection of the additional $200 bounty paid in most of our districts by taxation in accordance with the provisions of the general bounty law—or, in other words, authorizing the collection of $500 instead of $300 for each recruit put in under the last call. A general law was contemplated, but it was found impossible to frame one to suit the various systems adopted in different localities to raise bounties. Mr. M'Clure also read in place and passed a bill authorizing the townships of Green and Guilford to pay $300 to drafted men in those townships. This bill merely confers the authority, but is not mandatory. The School Directors, therefore, may or may not pay the bounty to drafted men as the citizens may desire. By the provisions of the bill the Directors can pay the bounty to the drafted man himself, or to his family, and at such times and in such sums, as they may deem just. The people of these townships have indicated a desire by public meetings and petitions to have such a law. Both bills will pass the Senate this week and become laws.

WE give in to-day's paper the remarks of Mr. M'Clure on the proposed amendment to the Constitution, providing for the abolition of slavery, as phonographically reported by the chief reporter of the House.

HARRISBURG.

Franklin County Bounty Bills—Bounties to Drafted Men in Green and Guilford—Removal of Major Dodge Demanded.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, February 18, 1865.

Two local bounty bills of interest to the people of Franklin county passed the House on Wednesday. One read in place of Mr. Sharpe authorizes the collection of the additional $200 bounty paid to recruits last year in the several districts of Franklin County, by taxation, to be levied and collected in accordance with the provisions of the General bounty law authorizing the collection and payment of $300. This bill will refund by taxation the money subscribed and borrowed to pay the excess of $200, which was paid in most if not all the districts in your county. A strong effort was made to get at a general law to provide for the excess bounties paid without anything of law last year, with such discriminations as might be just; but it was found impossible, and where discrimination should begin or end, if attempted at all, was a question that the most astute could not solve.

Mr. M'Clure read in place a bill providing that the School Directors of the townships of Guilford and Green shall have authority to collect by taxation in accordance with the provisions of the general bounty law, such sum of money as may be necessary to pay drafted men a bounty of $300 as well as volunteers, with the addition that every citizen of the townships subject to draft shall pay a *per capita* tax of fifteen dollars in addition to the tax upon property. By this law those townships can put in such a portion of their quota as they can procure, and such of their citizens as may be drafted will be on the same footing as volunteers. The act provides that the School Directors may pay the $300 bounty to due to drafted men to their families or to the conscripts in such sums and at such times as they may deem just, thus enabling the Directors of those townships to appropriate the whole fund to the families of conscripts if they think proper. This obviously just provision will prevent men from squandering their bounties, and leaving their families as a charge upon the charities of the people. Both bills will pass the Senate and become laws next week. They had evidently been matured and were offered with the approbation of both the Franklin county members.—The bill providing for bounties to drafted men is restricted to but two townships for the reason that none others have indicated a desire to have such a law. The citizens of Green held a public meeting and petitioned for it.

The chief legislative excitement of the week was the passage of a joint resolution requesting the President to remove Major Dodge, the Assistant Provost Marshal General of this State. He had made himself singularly odious before the meeting of the legislature by his want of courtesy and inattention to the interests of the State; but his insolence culminated last week in a new system, purely original with himself, for inuring recruits to the rigors of war. He is the commandant of this post and has charge of Camp Curtin. During the very severe cold spell of last week a number of volunteers arrived here, and he concluded to make them veterans at once, as far as endurance can accomplish it, and he therefore made them spend the night in shelter tents, without straw, flooring, fire and in a number of instances without blankets. The experiment was but partially successful, and in the morning many of the soldiers protested against the atrocity of Major Dodge's system, and exhibited their frozen feet and ears as, in their judgment, conclusive evidence that it might be improved. Naturally enough such wanton brutality on the part of an officer charged with so important a trust, aroused intense indignation. A joint committee of the legislature was appointed, which visited Camp Curtin, confered with Major Dodge, and reported unanimously that he was unfit to have any command of the kind—that he deliberately exposed the soldiers to the terrible inclemency of the winter, when he had every means for making them comfortable, and insolently refused to perform his duty when called upon and requested to do so. The result was that the legislature branded him as a brute and demanded his removal by an overwhelming vote, and the President cannot retain him in his present position.

The appropriation bill will be reported week after next, and then the important legislation will begin. It is not likely that the legislature can adjourn by the 24th of March, although both branches have fixed on that day. HORACE.

WASHINGTON.

March of Gen. Sherman—Congress—Important Bills yet to be Passed—Death of Senator Hicks—Murder in a Hotel—Re-Arrest of Baltimore and Washington Merchants, &c., &c.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 19, 1865.

Sherman and his army, like the soul of old John Brown, "goes marching on." We have evidence to infer, without much supposition, that before the publication of this letter, the city of Charleston, that hot-bed of treason and cradle of the present rebellion, will have fallen, or at least be so completely encircled by our army as to insure as speedy a surrender as that of Savannah. Then there will be nothing to prevent a triumphant march through North Carolina, reinforcing his army with Union men hid in the mountains of that State, taking Wilmington on his way and re-inforcing Grant on his left with an army of over 100,000 men, which will be sufficiently large to completely surround Lee, or compel an immediate evacuation of his present position.

Though the present session of Congress is nearly at an end, only eleven more working days left, there is yet an enormous amount of work to be done. The Internal Revenue bill; Bankrupt bill; army and navy appropriations bills; and many other miscellaneous bills, are any of them in itself large enough, to occupy half of the remaining time. Yet they must be acted on. It is absolutely necessary. It is a great pity that sufficient time cannot be had to make them as nearly perfect as possible.