

LIEUT. GEN. GRANT telegraphs Secretary Stanton on the 5th that "deserters from every part of the enemy's line confirm the report of the capture of Charlottesville, Va., by Gen. Sheridan, and he adds that they report the capture of Gen. Early and nearly all of his command, consisting of 1800 men. The capture of Early may prove unfounded, but there can be no doubt that Phil Sheridan is on the war path in earnest again, and has penetrated within fifty miles of Lynchburg without attracting the attention of the foe. Charlottesville is east of the Blue Ridge, whence he moved from Staunton doubtless, and is on the direct route to Lynchburg, which is certainly his objective point. If he is moving upon that place with the view of capturing it, then he must confidently expect to be joined there by forces either from Thomas or Sherman. His own force we apprehend is inadequate to the speedy reduction of so strong a position, and he could not maintain a protracted siege for want of supplies. A few days will develop the grand combined movement upon Richmond, and when it comes to light we feel assured that it will add greatly to the prevailing confidence of the loyal people in the early and decisive success of their cause.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was again inaugurated President of the United States on Saturday last, with the most imposing ceremonies, and has entered upon a Presidential term that must be fraught with the mightiest consequences to our institutions. Unlike his first inauguration, he was this time free from personal perils, and the batteries which glistened on capital hill on Saturday last were those to proclaim the victory of the Nation over its deadly foes, and not to protect the officers of the government in the discharge of their solemn duties. Four years ago, he was surrounded by skulking assassins, and a population that heartily sympathized with those who sought revolution—now he is inaugurated in a National Capitol made free by his own administration, and he can point to the eventful history of his reign and rejoice with the faithful people of the country that the end of disorder seems so nigh at hand.

Four years ago he had to accept the terrible alternative of war—now he has to grapple with the question of peace, and until he shall have finished this work well, whether he shall be honored or contemned by the people who so generously sustained him, must be undetermined. Great as has been his responsibilities hitherto, they must still be greater hereafter. Cemented as the people have been by the common danger, they will, as peril fades away, subject this administration to the same independent criticism and dispassionate approval or condemnation with which they have vindicated or censured other administrations in times of safety; and in the adjustment of the issues which must necessarily arise as the legacy of civil war, the profoundest skill and unflinching fidelity and heroism will be essential to success. The peril to our institutions from war is past; but the perils of peace are just about to dawn upon us. The government cannot survive either a dishonorable peace or the refusal of peace on fanciful objections; and with these delicate and momentous issues the new administration must deal. We have abiding faith that Abraham Lincoln will henceforth, as hitherto, keep his head steadily fixed upon the safety of the Nation, regardless of the passions which may play around him, and that before his second term shall be closed, he will preside over a restored and honored Union.

THE MILITARY SITUATION.

The movements of both armies are shrouded in mystery. Just where Sherman has directed his steps from Columbia, we are not advised, and the rebels seem to be quite as ignorant of his purposes as we are. They recently announced that their papers would give no information to the public of Sherman's movements until he should be met and defeated; but they will likely reconsider that determination when his plans are developed and his guns thunder at Raleigh, or Lynchburg, or before Richmond. Of Sherman's ability to maintain himself wherever he has marched, we do not doubt. We know that he started northward fully appreciating that he might have to accept battle from the main army of Lee united with that of Beauregard, and he is prepared for such a contingency. His army is as large as any force that can be brought against him; it is composed wholly of veterans who are strangers to defeat, and we regard its disposition as not within the range of possibility. We doubt not that a portion of Lee's force has been sent to aid in arresting Sherman; but Grant has been demonstrating heavily against Lee's extreme right, his most vital point, for more than a week past, and Lee's army cannot now be reduced for any purpose, without opening the door to Grant. It is not improbable that Lee must accept battle from Grant within a very few days, to defend the South-side road—the loss of which would be fatal to Lee, and render it next to impossible to hold Richmond for twenty days.

Lee is therefore confronted with double danger. If he weakens his ranks to arrest Sherman, Grant will sweep around his right wing and compass his lines in his fatal grasp; and if he concentrates his forces to defend against Grant, Sherman will soon thunder in his rear and compel the evacuation of Richmond without a general engagement. In the mean time Sheridan is moving, but where or in what force, we are not prepared to say. It is evident, however, that the various armies which encircle Richmond—Sheridan's on the North-west; Sherman's on the South; Schofield's on the South-east, and Grant's on the East—are moving on in concert to effect the capture of Richmond, and unless all signs prove deceptive, the rebel capital must be abandoned before thirty days, and probably without a sanguinary battle.

It is now so inevitable, Lee must abandon Richmond this spring we do not think it probable that he will risk a gen-

eral engagement before doing so. If he must retreat, he will do so with his army as strong as possible; and unless a most favorable opportunity occurs he will not deliver battle. He cannot do so when and where he may prefer. If he fights at all it must be in an open field in defence of his lines, and he must be the attacking party, and he will not thus give battle to superior numbers, when even should he gain a temporary success, he must still abandon his capital. We judge therefore that he will wait and watch for opportunities to attack in detail, and when he is compelled to accept a decisive engagement or retire, he will retreat and leave Richmond and Virginia to the conqueror. Where he will go, in that event, has already been discussed in the Richmond papers. Some have predicted that he will move North and make a desperate effort to transfer the war to our own soil; others that he will move South-west to Knoxville and Nashville and open communication with the Trans-Mississippi rebel army, and still others predict that he will establish himself in the Cotton States and attempt to prolong the war indefinitely by avoiding decisive battles. We feel well assured that Lee will never cross the Potomac when he is retreating from superior numbers in Virginia. He is too great for so hopeless an enterprise. Of all things we should prefer that Lee may cross the Potomac with his entire army. He might do incalculable damage to certain sections of Maryland and Pennsylvania—might even penetrate to the Susquehanna and reduce our State Capital to ashes; but it would be the end of this wicked rebellion, and we should willingly accept the consequences for the great end to be attained. But Lee will not thus close the war. He has never assumed the offensive excepting when our army was defeated and greatly weakened by the expiration of enlistments; and he will not now attempt it when he is weaker than ever before, and the Union armies stronger.—That he will attempt a bold movement when he abandons Virginia, we do not doubt, and we shall not be surprised any day to hear that he is marching for Tennessee, where he could be celebrated by movement, and the concentration of his entire forces, open his communications with Texas and Arkansas, and compel a bloody and protracted struggle to dislodge him. True, such a movement would isolate him from all resources from which to replenish his ranks. It would resolve the war to the mere endurance of the army he could retreat from Virginia with, as it would be the end of rebel government and conscription, and when that army should be broken by battle, the war must end, but it seems to be the most feasible of all plans suggested as likely to be accepted by General Lee, and we think its adoption more than probable.

Our forces now greatly outnumber Lee in Virginia—certainly not less than three to one, and the draft is sending thousands of fresh soldiers to the army every day. If the government shall push the draft with the same obstinate energy it is displaying here, there must be one hundred thousand added to our ranks within twenty days, and if so, there can be no more bloody battles in this war. Overwhelming numbers will economize blood and treasure, and before autumn our troops will, we trust, be returned to their homes with the most beneficial government of the world secured to themselves and posterity for all time. Heaven speed the happy day!

COFFROTH EXPLAINS.

Gen. Coffroth has written an elaborate letter to Mr. Weyand, of Somerset, in defence of his vote in favor of the amendment to the constitution abolishing Slavery, and in vindication of his consistency as a Democrat; but he seems to have failed to satisfy Mr. Weyand "or any other man" on that side of the House. From this extraordinary epistle we learn that Gen. Coffroth knew in advance that when he cast that vote, his "political enemies, in order to exasperate Democrats, would be fulsome in their praise," and he adds—"I feared more the praise of my political foes than I did the criticism of my friends." As to the criticism of his friends we cannot pretend to speak advisedly; but we are not perspicacious enough to see where the "fulsome" adulation of his enemies comes in. He will bear us witness that we have not been malicious enough to speak well of him in terms of unusual extravagance, and we are not aware that any of the Union journals of the district have been so ungenerous as to damn him with violent approbation; while, it must be confessed that the criticism of the Democracy has been rather more candid than complimentary. We assure Gen. Coffroth also, by way of "indemnity for the past and security for the future," that we shall be most careful hereafter not to shock his sensibilities with rude commendations relative to his Congressional career. To the best of our knowledge he has cast but one vote on the side of patriotism during two sessions, and that he has been persistently trying to explain into suspicion or positive derelict ever since. Rest easy, General—you shall not fall by the "fulsome" praise of your foes!

But Gen. Coffroth goes into the future. When no one was accusing him in any public manner of a derelict compact with rebel Republicans to secure a seat in the next Congress, in the face of his defeat by the people, he rushes to his own vindication and insists that if any person should happen to think he was so influenced in his vote, they must be at once undeceived. He gives the world to know that he don't affiliate with Republicans, or Abolitionists as he calls them. He did not mean to give vitality to the Republicans by his vote, but he launched it forth upon them armed with death and widespread destruction. He says—"I assure the Abolitionists that we are now pursuing me. I did not vote for the amendment on account of any love I had for their party or their principles, but it was to stab them!" Thus will Coffroth be seen censured by thoughtless friends for supporting a favorite dogma of the Republicans, he was in fact playing the part of political assa-

sin and meant by one grand sweep of political strategy to kill and entomb the opposition to the Democracy. So far from being an apostate to Democracy, he would prove himself the Brutus of Republicanism, and go down in history as the hero who bought gifts to weave in chaplets for the dead. When the impartial liner comes to paint the startling events of the last Congress and the death of the Republican organization, the central figure of that panorama must be the Brutus of the 16th district, with the dying party uttering its last sad words—*El tute Coffroth!*

Two reasons are given in detail by Gen. Coffroth for the vote in question. He voted for the amendment to destroy the Republican party by destroying slavery, and again he tells his constituents that he voted for it to run a corner on the President because the States would inevitably follow his adoption! Profoundly logical! Since both propositions cannot be accepted, will the General oblige us with a brief letter of not over several columns telling us just what he did mean when he cast the vote for the amendment? Had he been silent, his vote would have needed no explanation. It would have stood forever as a record of which himself and his children could have been proud; but since he has given half a score of reasons for it at different times, no two of which harmonize with each other, and all of which confront the vote itself, we beg the General to give us one sensible explanation of his explanations, and then—stop!

The bill authorizing the collection by taxation of the additional \$200 of bounty paid to volunteers last year in this county, had passed both branches and is now a law. It provides that the additional sum shall be collected in accordance with the provisions of the general law authorizing the collection and payment of \$300. The special law passed in the House by Mr. McClure, authorizing Guilford and Green to pay \$300 to drafted men or their families at such times as the School Directors may deem proper, has not yet passed the Senate. It has been delayed because of the probability of the passage of a general law to the same effect. If the general law does not pass, the special law will be passed, and so amended as to embrace all the districts of this county. Surely no man can be so indifferent to the interests of his fellows as to deny to drafted men, or their families, the sum of \$300.

There was but a single change made in the cabinet of President Lincoln as constructed for his new administration, and that was necessitated by Secretary Fessenden's election to the Senate. Hon. Hugh McCulloch, of Indiana, succeeds Mr. Fessenden to the portfolio of the Treasury, and his appointment seems to inspire unbounded confidence that the finances of the government will be most wisely and frugally managed under his direction. The cabinet now stands as follows: Secretary of State—Wm. H. Seward, N. York; Secretary of the Treasury—Hugh McCulloch, Ind.; Secretary of War—E. M. Stanton, Washington; Secretary of the Navy—Gideon Welles, Conn.; Secretary of the Interior—John P. Usher, Ind.; Post Master General—Wm. Donaldson, Ohio; Attorney General—James Speed, Kentucky.

The draft has been made for a number of the districts of this county, and those who have been conscripted are now reporting. It has fallen with peculiar harshness upon our people, and it has been the more keenly felt because of the widespread conviction that our quotas are unreasonably large. Considering the sacrifice this county has made—the loss of property by military occupation, and the fearful draw now made upon the classes which can be least spared, the promptness of our citizens in their responses to the call of the government displays the highest measure of patriotic devotion to the Republic.

The Union men of Franklin county should not fail to be fully prepared for the Spring Elections to be held on Friday the 17th inst. Often the supineness of our friends has given the Democrats easy victories in our strong-holds and the effect of it has been felt by their control of the Election boards at the fall election. Let Union men be ready for every struggle with the foe, and secure their just supremacy wherever it can be honorably achieved.

MAJOR DODGE, Asst. Post Marshal of this State, was relieved last week, and Gen. Hinks, a wounded soldier, appointed in his stead. We think that Maj. Dodge might be safely trusted at the front at this stage of the war, and trust that he will be afforded an opportunity to win a soldier's honors there since he has failed to win them in the peaceful channels of military life.

We give in to-day's paper the second inaugural address of President Lincoln. It is remarkable alike for its simplicity and brevity, and will commend its author to every devoted friend of the government for the plain, frank and earnest tone of patriotism that pervades it.

Gov. CURTIN, we learn, has been prevented from going to Savannah and Charleston by the pressure of public business.

Both branches of the legislature have agreed to adjourn on the 24th inst.

A. H. COFFROTH, Esq., Member of Congress, from this district, has written a long and able letter in defence of his recent vote in favor of abolishing slavery, by a Constitutional amendment. He concludes his letter with the following paragraph, viz: "The only denunciation I received has been through the press, and all started at Harrisburg. If I had looked over the black man, I presume would not have been abused from that source."

Will the Compiler and other Copperhead papers in the district be good enough to explain.

We are indebted to Capt. J. R. Gilmore, of this place, for a copy of the Charleston Courier of the 20th ult. It is a little four-column half-sheet, printed on coarse, dingy paper, and seems to be neutral in politics, religion and on the war. Its tone has been immensely subdued by the advent of "Old Tecumseh Sherman," as his soldiers call him.

We are indebted to Messrs. Olmstead and Brown of the legislature for public documents.

ARLINGTON PLACE

The Home of the Traitor Robert E. Lee—Salutes for the Capture of Charleston—Soldiers' Cemetery—The Building and Grounds—The Distribution.

Editorial Correspondence of the Franklin Repository. ARLINGTON PLACE, Va., February 21, 1865. Arlington Place—the home of Robert E. Lee! What a flood of memories crowd upon the visitor to this beautiful spot! Alas! how pride and ambition have cheered and crimsoned their handiwork in these venerable halls! Here it would seem that there was every incentive to fidelity, to honor, to peace. The Old Mansion was sanctified to its occupants by the beneficence of Washington. Here his adopted child, George Washington Parke Custis, made his home nearly three-quarters of a century ago. The same deep blue Potomac flowed serenely by its portals, and the same native forest surrounded it, that now breaks the storm as it stings its plaintive dirges in the deserted halls of Arlington Place. But as you stand amidst the colossal Grecian pillars which grace the immense portico, the sullen booming of artillery breaks the painful silence that reigns here. The bright gun had scarcely ceased to reverberate along the bluffs of the Potomac, until it seemed as if Heaven itself had responded with its fiercest thunders. The very earth trembled, and the walls which had gathered on the corners and niches of Arlington waited responsive to the deafening roar of a thousand guns, as they shook the ancient mansion to its very foundation. Hard by on every side; farther still on right and left, and rear, the horse armor came, and from the opposite shore rose the fitting smoke that told how loyal hearts were there to defend a common capital and rejoice over the triumph of a common country.

Charleston has fallen! The home of treason—where it was nursed in its swaddling clothes and nourished by perjury and treason until it became mighty, had but a few days before yielded to the triumphant tread of Sherman, and its banner again flaunted the old flag that traitors had just stricken down in the mad triumph of crime over peace and government; and the various batteries and forts of the defenses of Washington saluted the victory at twelve o'clock today. We held that Gen. Lee could have stood with me here in front of his idolized home, and heard the loyal artillery play their "wild melody" in honor of the restoration of Charleston to the Union. It was in Charleston that the first overt act of rebellion was committed. Judge McGrath, the Presiding Judge of the United States Court in Charleston, adjourned the court sine die the day after the election of President Lincoln, and displaced the National flag from the building to fly the Palmetto banner to the breeze! Four years later he is chosen Governor of South Carolina, and before he held his office one month, Sherman made him a fugitive, and hoisted the stars and stripes over his capital. It was there, too, that the first appeal was made to the terrible arbitrament of the sword, and it was made most causelessly. In the face of the proffer of the loyal commander to evacuate Sumter in three days, because of his exhausted provisions, the mercenary spirit of treason flung grim visage war upon a people whose whole thoughts, hopes and efforts were for peace. When the thunders of Forts Moultrie, Pinckney, and Sullivan's Island, proclaimed fraternal war, Gen. Lee was here in a house consecrated to the Union by the name, the fame and the hallowed patriotism of Washington. He had been the child of a noble nation had educated and honored him; as accomplished wife had brought him fortune; from his own green lawn the National Capitol, founded by Washington to be for all time the fountain of political power of a united people, looked up in view, and the many monuments of National greatness with which it has been adorned, must have struggled with the mad pride and ambition that made Robert E. Lee a fugitive from his home, a stranger to his noblest inheritance, and a foe to liberty and free government. Long did he hesitate, and earnestly did his faithful wife—true to her patriotic ancestry—plead for fidelity to the best of civil governments. But Virginia filtered and was swept into the vortex of treason, and will it be swept Gen. Lee.

I would, that he were here today to take a retrospect of his murderous, blood-stained work, amidst the deafening thunders coming up from his own once bio-sounding fields, to tell a faithful people that a brother link is broken in the chain that would have been woven in the chaplets of the relentless despot upon thirty millions of freemen, but for the unexampled heroism of the sons of the North.—Sadly indeed would these salutes fall upon the heart of the once happy master of Arlington Place. They would come as the terrible proclamation of vindicated justice—

"And make the key-note of the saddest dirge That fancy ever played to mortality." But, although far off at the head of his shattered and despairing army of crime, he is there greeted with the same salutes coming from the shotted guns of Grant. Nor there alone, for from the green Savannah of the South to the farthest gun on the North-East coast; from the Atlantic shore to the sunset side of the Father of Waters; from the Northern Lakes to the very heart of the land once enveloped in the deadly grasp of treason, there are salutes this hour proclaiming that the day of our National Deliverance is nigh at hand. Filly, indeed, might he look out from his deserted home to the thousand graves which are laid by his old-time walks, each of which is an eternal monument to his perjury. Should he enter the beautiful grounds of Arlington now, he must pass beneath a graceful arch, on which is woven in evergreen—HERE SLEEP OUR PATRIOTIC DEAD, and turn whence he might, the mournful track of war would confront him.—Thousands of the brave defenders of the Republic rest in the very shades of Arlington, and now the warblings of heaven's sweet cherubim who people this lovely forest in spring time, must be lone for the heroic dead, or the sad visitor who lingers in the country's woes.

When he passed on here upon his home and his country, tremed held supreme away in all the Southern and Border States; and the cowardly treachery that was smouldering in the North, proved an easy victory to those who would have dismembered the Republic. Since then four years of terrible, exhausting, devastating and bloody war have been crowded into history, and the fair land of the South is one vast cemetery; mourning and wendashover every home-hold; despair reigns in the councils of crime, and soon I pray and trust an allowance and ever just God will crown the Right with decisive victory. Around me on every side may now be heard the voices of the oppressed who have been freed in the throes of civil war, and those who confessed the lord of Arlington as master, now return thanks to Him who accepts alike the praise of the honored and the lowly, as the gunners of Fort Whipple shock the neglected halls where they lived in servitude.

But a trace to painful memories. George Washington Parke Custis was a grandson of Mrs. Martha Washington. She was the widow of Mr. Custis when she married to Gen. Washington, and G. W. Parke Custis was the son of her only son by her first husband. He was adopted by Gen. Washington and raised and educated by the Hero-Statesman of the Revolution. He became proprietor of Arlington Place, whether by purchase or by devise from Washington, I am not informed, and lived here until he had more than attained the age allotted to mortals. He had but one child, who married Robert E. Lee, and thus Captain Lee (as he was then) became the possessor of the finest estate on the Potomac, and also of a large estate known as the White House on the James River—a place that has figured largely in military operations on the Peninsula. I am not familiar with the history of this estate, but

the old mansion looks as if it had braved the storms of a century.—Everything seems to have been in harmony in and about it. The sanctity of venerable age is stamped upon every feature of the house and grounds. The colossal pillars on the large portico are nearly six feet in diameter; the spider has woven his silken net in the crevices and on the tiny columns apparently undisturbed by the tidy servant for a decade, and the bat may have roared here as generations have departed without resistance to his daily repose. The tall columns support a plain roof covering the portico, and rude but elaborate carvings finish both the external and internal ranges of the massive structure. The house is entered by a wide hall, on the walls of which are a series of very old paintings, mostly representing revolutionary battles. They are but indifferently executed, displaying very moderate artistic skill, and the frames are vanity, stained pine, and have been innocently of vanity for a quarter of a century. The doors inside of the hall, and the angles toward the stairway, are graced with huge deer antlers, probably trophies of some gay sportsman days in the early history of Arlington Place. Over the windows, and irregularly in various places in the hall, are indentations in the plastering, on which the art of free-writing seems to have been in vogue. Here a few words are in full chase on a line, and a troop of deer, and various other chronicles of sporting life, are dashed in the rudest style. In the large rooms are but few evidences remaining of the once liberally furnished house of Gen. Lee. The paintings are still on the walls, and a few sofas and chairs, all the worse of use and age, are here; but nearly everything that could be carried off has gone as a memento of the rebel General-in-chief. This curiosity seems to be irrepressible with the American people. An intelligent contraband, formerly one of Lee's slaves, informed me that when Lee left took only the furniture that belonged to Gen. Washington, and "My Lady Lee's" silver ware. A portion of the furniture and articles left behind at any time in the Office, but vandalism has done much to make vacant places in Arlington.

Hard by the mansion are the negro houses, and a little to the rear is the stable—all bearing the same evidences of effort at display in architecture. The negro houses have frescoed pictures over the windows—some of which represents an eagle with its wings in its claws, and the stable has the massive pillars of the mansion in miniature, and all bear the same marks of age and ravages of time. It would seem as if no repairs had ever been made.

The large estate of some hundreds of acres seems to have been devoted wholly to pleasure. "Master Lee," said one of his old slaves, "didn't raise nothing here, and he kept only sixty slaves on this place. He mised all he used at de White House—dere he kept over three hundred slaves." This was the whole story in a few words. Arlington Place was peopled with consumers—with sixty menials to minister to the wants of half a score of whites, and indolence has left its tracks in wide-spread decay. Now, however, a village of freedom are quartered on the place. Much of the native forest has been felled to clear the sweep for the guns of the forts, and the long worn-out and neglected fields are now made to bloom and give golden fruits by the labor of the same slaves who hastened its decay. A portion of the estate, enclosing the mansion on the left and in the rear, is devoted to a soldier's cemetery, and there are thousands of graves in regular rows to tell the story of this wicked rebellion.

Terrified indeed has been the retribution that followed the efforts to establish slavery by an appeal to war. Lee yielded to the mad current of perjury that swept the South in 1861, and drew his sword against the most beneficent government of the earth to make human bondage eternal.—Since then four long years of bloody, appalling war have crimsoned our history. At times the tide of victory has seemed to swell toward us, and joyfully we have seen the flag of our country upon either side of the unnatural conflict; but at last, after years of agonizing doubt, of fearful sacrifice, of abject submission alike in behalf of right and wrong, the fulness of His time seems to be reached and the life of the government to be fully assured. The slaves who once exulted the fields of Arlington as enemies, now make them rich with the fruits of industry inspired by freedom; and their once proud master is driven to the sorest extremity to defend the capital of treason, and appeals in vain to those who plunged him into war, to emancipate their slaves and send them to his side to save the remnant of his shattered army. Truly—

"The mills of the Gods grind slowly, But they grind exceeding fine!" —But enough of Arlington, and I must hasten from this grand theatre of retribution and death to deal with the future and the living. A. R. M.

HARRISBURG.

Adjournment to Attend the Inauguration of President Lincoln—The Claim Bill Report—The Appropriation Bill—Gov. Curtin—Removal of Major Dodge—Pennsylvania and the Cabinet.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository. HARRISBURG, March 4, 1865. The legislature adjourned on Wednesday evening last Monday next, to enable the members to attend the inauguration of President Lincoln. Notwithstanding the known fact that there will be few changes in the appointments in the gift of the national administration, there are innumerable axes to grind at Washington, and the members of the legislature take their hand at this interesting operation. I presume that two-thirds of the Union members of both branches will be in Washington to-day.

The bill authorizing the collection by taxation of the \$200 paid as bounty to recruits last year in excess of law, in Franklin county, has passed both branches, and is a law. It provides for the collection of the additional sum in accordance with the provisions of the general bounty law under which the \$300 is authorized.

Since the passage of the bill in the House by Mr. McClure authorizing the School Directors of Green and Guilford townships to pay \$300 bounty to drafted men, most of the townships of Franklin county have petitioned for the same law. The bill has not yet passed the Senate, as a general law much of the same character has passed that body, and it will doubtless be passed finally. If it does not pass, the special law for Franklin county will pass next week. Considering the peculiar hardships of the present draft and the scarcity of substitutes in the agricultural districts, it is but fair that a reasonable bounty should be paid to conscripts. By the provisions of Mr. McClure's bill the bounty to drafted men is to be disbursed by the School Boards to the drafted man himself, or to his family, as they may deem just.

The bill providing for the adjudication of claims for military damages in the border counties, has been reported to the House by the committee on claims, with a proviso that the State shall not assume the payment of any part of said claims.—The bill was held in committee until last week, notwithstanding the earnest efforts of both the Franklin members to have it reported; and it finally came with a proviso appended, by the committee that precludes payment. The bill will be considered at an early day, and the border members will make a test struggle on striking out the proviso. If the House refuses to strike it out, then is all hope of appropriation dissipated.

The appropriation bill was taken up on Wednesday afternoon and passed through in a single session, while an unimportant local bill often times elicits more extended examination. It is unexampled in the history of legislation that the general appropriation bill, involving millions,

should be disposed of by the House in less than the legislative day. One important section, however, is left after that was made safe, it would seem that the House was willing that all the \$200 should go through. I refer to the increase of the pay of the members from \$700 to \$1000, which was carried by a bare majority. It will probably be stricken out in the Senate.

Gov. Curtin is about to go to Charleston and Savannah to visit the Pennsylvania soldiers, and he will be absent about ten days. He is necessary in his care for the brave sons of Pennsylvania wherever they are to be found, and they justly honor and love him.

Mr. Dodge has been removed, and will probably be transferred to some more northern climate where soldiers will stand freezing better than they do in this State. Although a regular army officer, it has never been thought best to send him to the front. His successor is Gen. E. W. Hinks, who has seen active service and bears honorable wounds.

It is understood that Pennsylvania will not be represented in the new cabinet of President Lincoln. A feeble effort was made some weeks ago to put Gen. Cameron into the Treasury Department, but it had a short life, and a more earnest effort was made for Forney but it will not succeed. Pennsylvania is fearfully dwarfed at Washington, and ever will until her best men are sustained with more unanimity than has been manifested heretofore. HORACE.

NEGROES AS SOLDIERS.

When the proposition was first made as part of the North to arm the negroes and use them as part of the military force to suppress the rebellion, it was stoutly resisted by a large class in our own midst, and condemned as savagery by the foe. So strong was the feeling against the measure, that the government had to employ other and various projects, and get them into the military service by indirect means. Time, reflection and experience, however, gradually dissipated the prejudices in the North, and now no party could sustain itself on the proposition to withdraw the negroes from the loyal ranks.

At last which themselves have opened their eyes on this question, and now they are demanding that their own slaves shall be put into their shattered army to strengthen it. Davis is in favor of it; Lee strongly urges it, and the rebel press is nearly unanimously demanding it. In a recent speech delivered at Richmond, Secretary DeLong declared that unless the slaves were employed Richmond must be abandoned; and the Richmond Enquirer, of the 23d ult., charges that the Gulf States have deserted the Border States by defeating the bill to arm the slaves in the Senate.

The following is the article from the Enquirer: "Virginia did not commence this war, nor did Tennessee, Missouri or Kentucky. Its magnitude and losses were perceived by those on whom the brunt of battle would fall. The States farthest South, protected by those on the border, held aloof, rejected conscription, and with benign curiosity, cut the fastenings which bound us together, and cast Virginia and her children, on the exposed western frontier, amidst a terrific and increasing war. In vain did these States forestall the future, and by the purchase of slaves, and the raising of those who expected by the misfortunes of others to escape the calamities of civil strife. We told them that the storm would engulf us all in its fury. We pictured to them a devastated country, pillaged and burning; towns, insurance, slavery, and a hired soldiery inflamed to crime by the 'smooth-skinned woman on the ottoman and the silver plate on the board.' Neither did these just appeals, nor the terrible scenes which were daily passing before their eyes, selfishly impressing upon those who should be endeared by others. We were told we must follow our own people, or be against them. The alternative presented an abhorrence to common sense, or the abhorrence of common blood. The choice was at once made, under a solemn compact, to stand faithfully together until complete victory blessed or a single fate sealed the struggle. Amid all the calamities of nation-wide war, and the horrors which attended it, and by sacred oaths pledged all the lives, all the interests, all the property, in mutual support and general reliance, from the nature and motives of the cause, and by the bonds which exist between us, we were struggling to save all that is prized among men, there was nothing too sacred to approach or abandon, except the blighted hand and her frontier children, and the millions of slaves. The lives of their people are now in the trenches, with a daily sacrifice equal to the necessities of defence. Nearly all their property has been devoted to the cause, in accordance with the request of strategy. The slaves have been emancipated, and losses advanced according to the demands of the advancing enemy. This appropriation of territory and slaves by these States was so much a voluntary contribution by them to the wants of the war as if bills of grant and emancipation had been passed by their separate sovereign conventions. They were a part of the price contemplated at the time the struggle commenced, to be paid for the maintenance of the Union. The tide is now rolling toward those States who made the fight, who affirmed success or universal destruction, and who swore the oath. This oath has been broken, and they by whom the first blow was struck are the first to desert. These slaves, breast bare, so far, receive the fury of the storm raised by others. After the Border States have offered lands and slaves, as necessary sacrifices to success, they still declare that wife, child, bride, and home are an inviolable sanctuary, and they to be fought for. They say to the States of the Gulf, 'now make the same contributions of lands and slaves that you forced us to make, and sentiments, relations and people will be secured.' The Border States have been deceived, and the Union broken. The bill to appropriate the negroes, so as to secure honorable existence, was defeated in the Senate chiefly by the votes of the Gulf States. The Border States had previously contributed their share to the common defence. If there is no difference whether those shares were lost to their owners by the strategy of war or by the action of Congress. They were equally sacrifices of property to national defence, sacrifices foretold by some, and which all swore to share alike. The vote by which this bill was lost must be reconsidered. The slave must be given or we may perish. They who watch the destinies of the State declare its wants and demand the relief. He for whom the lives of the people are daily sacrificed, and whose own pure affection for his country, and the twenty victories and the conqueror of every ignoble aspiration, implores the recent States not to abandon the glory won for them at Chancellorsville, and to refuse to refund the same. The Border States insist that such laws as are necessary to save the State shall be passed, even though those laws affect the slaves in the South as the war has affected them on the frontier. That vote must be reconsidered. Forgive property and all the luxuries of profit, but we will protect our social existence and our pride as freemen. We prefer to do this by many battle, but if they demand to share our success, now we use the means to win that success, they can so act, but our wives and our homes must still be safe. The difficulty in obtaining a peace has been slavery. The appropriation by the Border States of their slaves to the public use has removed that difficulty, and we are now engaged in a struggle. There is not a slave in the hands of the Border States. Slavery has disappeared in one-half of Virginia, and practically exists no where in her limits. Let such appropriation of interest be at once made to give to each State the rights of all unaccounted people. If this be refused, and the sacrifices of war are so imposed on some as to imperil relations, without which life is intolerable, then let provisions of safety be immediately made by those who value family honor and individual pride above the welfare of the nation. Let us be willing to have masters above, that they live upon the hope of having slaves beneath them, seal their fate with the enemy now thundering at their gates. Forgive that it would be said for the Gulf States to reconsider their vote, and let us see if we are not slaves in order that the incontinentaries of the war may not be felt on the Congress and Tennessee."

The following is Gen. Lee's letter on the subject: "HARRISBURG, Pa., August 15, 1862. "Hon. E. Burdick, House of Representatives. "Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., with reference to the employment of negroes as soldiers. I think the measure not only expedient, but necessary.

WASHINGTON, March 4. The procession reached the capital at about a quarter to 12 o'clock, escorting the President elect. At a subsequent period the President and Vice President, together with the Justices of the Supreme Court, members and ex-members of Congress, foreign and domestic ministers, and a distinguished assembly in the Senate Chamber. There the Vice President elect took the oath of office, preceding it by an address.

Chief Justice Chase administered the oath of office on the Capitol steps, when the President delivered his Inaugural Address. There was a very large attendance, and the scene was one of much interest. The weather cleared off bright and beautiful. As the President and others reached the platform the band played "Hail to the Chief," and salutes were fired. The President was cheered by the immense throng, composed of civilians and military, and after the delivery of his address was again and again cheered and saluted by cannon and music.

WASHINGTON, March 4. FEW COURTESY.—The President elect, appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there was an occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. This a statement somewhat in derogation of a course to be pursued assumed during the inauguration, which was a public declaration being constantly called forth on every point, and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, it is that it could be so long. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it can be made. On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. Who could have foretold that the great Emancipator of America was being delivered from the hands of his enemies, together with saving the Union without war; insurgents agents were in the city seeking to destroy it; and others were seeking to dissolve the Union and divide among themselves the lands of the dead. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish; and the war came.

One condition upon which the population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow connected with the success of the Southern army, and that the insurgents would read the Union, even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes his aid against the other. It may be said that by this I mean only that each side sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The Almighty has his own purposes. "We were upon the world because of offences; for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we have any righteousness to boast of, let it be that we have not sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The Almighty has his own purposes. "We were upon the world because of offences; for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we have any righteousness to boast of, let it be that we have not sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The Almighty has his own purposes. "We were upon the world because of offences; for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we have any righteousness to boast of, let it be that we have not sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The Almighty has his own purposes. "We were upon the world because of offences; for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we have any righteousness to boast of, let it be that we have not sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The Almighty has his own purposes. "We were upon the world because of offences; for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we have any righteousness to boast of, let it be that we have not sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The Almighty has his own purposes. "We were upon the world because of offences; for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we have any righteousness to boast of, let it be that we have not sought to give the victory to the man who should ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge so that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered. The