The Compiler.

OUR FLAG!

The union of lakes—the union of lands—
The Union of States none would sever;
The union of hearts—the union of hands—
And the Flag of our Union forever!

H. J. STAHLE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

GETTYSBURG, PA.

MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 9, 1863.

☞Thaddeus Stevens' negro soldier bill passed the House on Monday, after an animated discussion, the Democrats and Border State men strenuously opposing it, and Stevens, Lovejoy, Dunn, and other Abolitionists, warmly supporting it. The yeas were 84, and the nays 54. All the Republicans voted for it but Messrs. Kellogg, Granger, Hale, Horton and Woodbury, who are conservative. The bill provides that the President may arm such number as he may deem necessary for a term not exceeding five years, their rations, clothing, &c., to be the same as for other soldiers and pay not to exceed present rates. They are to be officered by white or black persons, and governed by the articles of war, but no black officer can exercise authority over white officers and men. [That's an insult to the darkeys.] No slaves of loyal owners are to be enlisted, nor shall recruiting offices be opened in any of the States exempted by the President's proclamation, without the consent of the Governors thereof.

☞In the debate on the bill to raise 150,000 negro soldiers, Thaddeus Stevens showed the necessity of getting more troops from some quarter, as the terms of a large portion of enlisted men were about to expire.

Why, where are the "900,000" Abolitionists who were to spring to arms immediately upon the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln? Why don't they go and fight? They cannot now say that the "policy" of the war does not suit them.

☞Greely proposes "three months more of earnest fighting," and if, at the end of that time, no "serious impression" shall have been made on the rebels, to "bow to our destiny, *and make the best attainable peace.*"

If any Democratic paper had made such a proposition, the editor would have been declared a traitor, seized by a provost guard, abducted from his home and imprisoned in a government bastile. But Greely, being an Abolitionist, makes it, and is sustained by the leading men of the party in power. The plan is, to fritter away three more months in warlike demonstrations, squander a few more hundred millions of dollars, and then, with the declaration that they are unable to subjugate the South, invite the mediation of some foreign power to propose such terms of settlement as they desire. It is a most base and treacherous scheme, but it is theirs', and they will *attempt*, at least, to carry it out.

☞It is now said that Gen. Franklin has been relieved because he is one of the so-called "McClellan Generals." A continuance of this contracted and insane policy will "relieve" the army of almost every good General it has. But what are we not to look for from the madness that controls at Washington?

☞Senator Wade, who has just been re-elected from Ohio, is beslavered by the Abolition press as "glorious old Ben," and is set up by them as the leader in the Senate. Now, to show what sort of patriotism they require in a leader, we annex an extract from a speech made by Wade, at a Republican State mass meeting in Maine, in 1855. He said:

"There was really NO UNION NOW BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH; and he believed no two nations upon the earth entertained feelings of *more bitter rancor* towards each other than the two sections of the republic. The only salvation of the Union, therefore, was to be found in divesting it entirely from all taint of *slavery*. There was NO UNION with the South. Let us have a Union, or LET US SWEEP AWAY THIS REMNANT WHICH WE CALL A UNION!"

A pretty "leader," indeed, for a party which now professes attachment to the Union!

☞Ex-Gov. Morgan has been elected U. S. Senator from New York. Although the Democrats carried the State handsomely last fall, enough Republicans held over in the Senate to elect Morgan. Popular sentiment demanded the election of a Democrat, but what care the fanatical destructives for the voice of the people!

☞Citizens of the Catholic persuasion, in New York, are circulating a paper calling upon Hon. Caleb B. Smith, Judge of the United States District Court, to resign, in view of an alleged insult to their religion, at an Abolition meeting at Masonic Hall, on Monday night week.

☞The Emancipation Proclamation was to stop the war instanter. But has it had that effect? "Not by a long shot." The war seems as large in its proportions now as ever, and peace as far off. Will the people further trust Abolition promises?

☞A darkey in this place was asked, the other day, whether he didn't intend to enlist in one of the negro regiments. "No," replied he, "if Stevens wants any fighting done for the niggers, let him do it hisself."

☞The dwelling of H. C. Pool, near Titusville, N. Y., was burnt on Saturday night week, and his wife, daughter, and a Mrs. Gonzales perished in the flames.

☞Petitions for an armistice and a Convention of the States, are being signed, by all parties, in Dauphin county.

☞Resolutions favoring a reduction of the tariff on paper, have been passed by the Legislature.

☞The fifty cent postage currency has been counterfeited. The paper is thinner and the note narrower than the genuine.

THE LEGISLATURE—ARBITRARY ARRESTS.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Clymer, of Berks, presented the memorial of citizens of this Commonwealth, setting forth their grievances arising from the arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional arrests of their fellow citizens, by orders of the Federal Government, and praying the General Assembly to adopt such measures as may be requisite to secure to the people the rights and privileges guaranteed them by the Constitution of the United States and of the State.

On the same day, in the House, Mr. Kaine, of Fayette, read in place the following bill, intended to protect citizens of the State from illegal arrest:

AN ACT

To prevent and punish Illegal Arrests.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That the removal of any person beyond the limits of this State, to answer any charge of having committed here any offence against the laws of this State or of the United States, is hereby declared a misdemeanor; and any person who shall seize or attempt to seize, or who shall in any manner aid or procure, or attempt to procure others to seize any person whomsoever, with intent either secretly or otherwise to confine him here contrary to the law of the land, or to remove him out of the State; and any person who shall in any way whatever remove or attempt to remove, or who shall procure or attempt to procure others to remove any persons beyond the limits of this State, on any charge of having committed here any offence against the laws of this State or of the United States, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and undergo an imprisonment, by separate or solitary confinement, for any period not exceeding ten years, or both, or either, at the discretion of the court; and upon the trial of any person for having committed either of the offences aforesaid, the fact that such seizure, confinement or removal was by order of the President of the United States or of any member of his Cabinet, or other officer of the general government, shall not constitute a legal defence.

At the same time, Mr. Rex read in place a bill to secure to the people of this State the freedom of speech to which they are entitled by the Constitution. It provides that any civil or military officer of the State, or the United States, who shall arrest a citizen of the State, with intent to carry him out of its jurisdiction, without a legal hearing, shall be deemed guilty of a high crime, punishable with a fine of $5,000 and five years' imprisonment. A fine of $1000 and one year's imprisonment is provided for any military officer who may attempt to suppress a newspaper.

The following memorial is being largely signed throughout the Commonwealth, and sent to members of the Legislature, for presentation to their respective Houses.—We would suggest that it be cut out and circulated for signatures in this county. No fair-minded man, having regard for the Constitution and the rights of White men, can refuse to sign it. Let the Legislature, and the Executive, be implored to act promptly. Should arbitrary and illegal arrests not cease, resistance may follow—and if the flame be once kindled, God shield us from civil war at home.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met:

The memorial of the undersigned citizens of said Commonwealth respectfully represents:

That since the commencement of the present war many acts of gross outrage and wrong have been inflicted upon citizens of this State by persons holding office or appointment under the United States, and by virtue (as alleged) of authority from the Executive department thereof, which, in the opinion of your memorialists, require thorough exposure and condemnation, and the establishment of adequate safeguards against the recurrence of similar acts in future.

Your memorialists particularly allude to the arrests made of citizens in civil life, without due process of law, by marshals or provost marshals of the United States, or by the military governor of the District of Columbia, and (in many cases) their conveyance beyond the State limits to foreign fortresses and prisons, followed by their confinement therein for uncertain periods, measured by the mere discretion or pleasure of official power.

These arrests, made in most daring contempt of the Constitution of the United States, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in utter derogation of those principles of liberty which were brought to the new world by our ancestors and left to us by them as a most sacred legacy, challenge most thorough investigation and outspoken rebuke; and their occurrence, exhibiting the fact that our citizens are not secure against being kidnapped and carried beyond the jurisdiction of our tribunals and laws, proves that some steps should be taken by the State Government to prevent like outrages in future. Your memorialists therefore pray:

That the facts in the several cases of illegal arrest in this State, under pretence or color of authority from the Federal Executive, may be investigated and put in official form for the contemplation of the people.

That the Governor of the Commonwealth, upon whom is charged the official duty of taking care that the laws be faithfully executed, be called upon, in due and respectful form, to communicate to the two Houses any information within his power in relation to the said unlawful arrests, and also to state what steps he has taken, if any, to defend our citizens against them.

That if, upon due inquiry, it shall appear that our State laws are deficient in not providing our citizens prompt and efficient protection against arbitrary arrests or kidnapping, the necessary statutes securing such protection may be forthwith enacted.

And lastly, that a formal protest by the General Assembly on behalf of the people of this Commonwealth against the arrests aforesaid, and an explicit, firm, dignified declaration by the said General Assembly on the same behalf, that future arrests of a similar character, involving contempt of constitutional law and of the most sacred rights of personal liberty, will not be submitted to by this State, may be placed upon the Journals of the two Houses and copies thereof be transmitted to the President of the United States and to both Houses of Congress, to the end that it may be known to all that this State is devoted with unfaltering zeal to the principles of freedom, and will consent to no precedents which can be cited hereafter in defence of arbitrary power.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your memorialists.

Democratic Victory in Lancaster.—At the municipal election held in Lancaster on Tuesday last, Mayor Sanderson was re-elected by a majority of two hundred and sixty-five, carrying every ward in the city!

☞A darkey was told, the other day, that the negro soldier bill had passed, and he was now expected to go and fight. The announcement frightened him, but presently, taking a long breath, he exclaimed: "Well, if I must fight, I must *vote* too!"—And the Republican leaders may yet try to have it so. But before they accomplish the degrading scheme, we hope the Democracy "will be there to see."

IS IT NOT TIME,

TO DROP NIGGERISM, AND THINK AND ACT FOR THE COUNTRY, AND ITS WHITE TAX-PAYERS?

The Hon. Robert J. Walker, in a recent publication on Finance and Currency, says:

"Our national finances are involved in extreme peril. Our debt exceeds $720,000,000, and is estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury, on the 1st of July next, at $1,744,685,586. When we reflect that this is nearly one-half the debt of England, and bearing almost double the rate of interest, it is clear that we are approaching a fatal catastrophe."

Again:

"That the danger is imminent, is a truth which must not be disguised. Here lies the great peril of the Government. It is not the Rebel armies that can ever overthrow the Union. It is the alarming increase of the public debt and expenditures, and the still more appalling depreciation of the national currency."

Again:

"Indeed, should the war continue, and there be no other alternative than additional treasury notes, they will, before the close of the next fiscal year, fail to command forty cents on the dollar in gold, and our debt exceed several billions of dollars."

And again:

"We are upon the verge of ruin. We are hanging over the gulf of an irredeemable paper system, and its spectral shade, Repudiation, is seen dimly in the dark abyss. The present Congress may save us: but what of the next? Would they, if they could? Who can answer? Can they, if they would? No! no! It will then be too late."

In a speech of Mr. Spaulding, a prominent Republican member of Congress, made a few days ago, he said:

"We could not shut our eyes to the vastness of the volume of DEBT that was open before us. It was very soon made apparent that our national debt would, *at an early day*, reach TWO THOUSAND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS—equal to half the debt of Great Britain."

If (says the N. Y. *World*) Mr. Spaulding had conceived the full significance of this comparison to the enormous public debt of Great Britain—a debt which has so long been the financial wonder of the world—he would have added that, in the pressure of the burden, our debt would be *not half* equal; but *fully equal* to that of England, inasmuch as *the interest on ours is at twice as high a rate*. And this staggering result will be reached by the end of the fiscal year for which it is the duty of Congress at this session to provide; that is to say, on the 30th of June, 1864.

The following brief paragraph from Mr. Spaulding's speech embodies statements on which every reflecting man in the nation will do well to ponder:

"The time has arrived when our finances must engage the earnest and united attention of all loyal representatives. We were in great peril last year, but our dangers are now two-fold what they were then. It was very difficult last year to provide the money to meet the large appropriations made for the support of the army and navy. It will be still more difficult to meet the enlarged requirements of the current and the next fiscal year. The army bill alone appropriates over $731,000,000, which, added to the estimates of all other expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, amount to the enormous sum of $1,095,431,183 56, to which must be added the amount still required for appropriations and deficiency of the year ending June 30, 1863, and which, according to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, amounted on the 1st of December to the sum of $551,221,131.59, making the whole aggregate required to meet appropriations during the next eighteen months, $1,640,634,315, 15."

Dividing this enormous sum, which the Government must raise within the ensuing eighteen months, by the twenty millions of inhabitants on whom the burden will fall, gives something more than eighty-two dollars for each individual of the population. The significance of this result will not be adequately perceived unless we consider that only a fraction of the population either own property or earn wages. We will assume that the average type of our population is a family made up of the two parents and three children; that is, of one person who earns money to every five consumers. This estimate of the ratio of non-producers is doubtless too low; every town has a large number of aged and decrepit people; spinsters, confirmed invalids, students, and young professional men who have not acquired a business sufficient for their maintenance, to say nothing of paupers, the inmates of asylums and other public institutions, transient foreigners in our large cities, and the soldiers that make up our brave armies. But taking the low estimate we have adopted, which makes the average type of our population a family of five persons, of which only the head owns property or earns money, the share of each such individual in the expenses of the next eighteen months is $410. If every such head of a small family where notified to-morrow that he must give to the Government within that period the sum of $410, there would be sad faces at the frugal family dinner.—To furnish such a sum would be felt to be entirely impossible. If it fell only on one such family in ten, or one such family in five, by dint of scraping together and borrowing, the requisition might be met. But when every frugal family in the land is under an equal necessity of borrowing, selling superfluous articles, or appealing to the lenity of creditors, a man cannot depend on his neighbors to help him through, as he would in an emergency which fell on him alone.—It may be said that the Government does not ask him to *pay* that much, only to lend it; but it really amounts to the same thing. Pay it he ultimately must, together with the interest on it, unless the nation disgraces itself by repudiation; and if procured as a loan, *somebody* must lend it.—Those who neither pay nor lend are in the condition of a man who has given his note, which is a mortgage on his income or his earnings until it is paid, the obligation of which he can no more evade than he can that of a note of hand. Such, then, is the share of each man in average circumstances of the public expenses of the next eighteen months, with a great debt already accumulated, and a depressing future, certain to bring its own burdens, stretching beyond. Such immense sums as those exhibited in the authentic figures of Mr. Spaulding merely awaken a vague feeling of astonishment, until they are separated into fragments and each man's part of the burden brought home and laid at his own door.

* * *

☞ Hon. W. McSherry, of the State Senate, and Col. Hopkins and H. J. Myers, Esq., of the House, have our thanks for Legislative documents.

Mr. Myers was absent from Harrisbur several days last week, having gone t Washington as one of a committee to te der to the government League Island f the erection of a Navy Yard.

HONORS TO GEN. McCLELLAN.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—The delegation from Portland had an interview with Gen. McClellan last evening, inviting him to visit that city. Gen. McClellan expressed his thanks for the flattering honor, and alluded with satisfaction to the conservative feeling he saw in New England. He remarked that he saw in this conservatism the hope and strength of the nation. He promised a written reply to the invitation.

The committee from Concord also called on the General. He responded to their address, and said he felt highly honored, but expressed his great regret that he was unable to accept their invitation, having already exceeded the time devoted to his visit East. He further said he was preparing a history of the Peninsula campaign; but at some future time he however hoped to meet his fellow citizens of Concord. A delegation from Lowell also visited him and tendered the hospitalities of the city, but he was likewise compelled to decline their invitation.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—General McClellan, accompanied by his wife and several friends, visited Lawrence to-day in a special train. His reception was the most hearty of any demonstration in the history of that city. Thousands of citizens greeted him, amid the firing of cannon and ringing of bells.

After passing through the various operating rooms of the Pacific Mills, he was conducted to the hall of the company, where three thousand school children, who were assembled, greeted him with hearty cheers and sang several songs—"Marching Along" and the "Star Spangled Banner;" with which the General and his companions seemed much pleased. Afterwards the party partook of a collation in one of the Pacific buildings. Early in the evening the party returned to Boston.

☞ Wonder if the "military board" at Washington, who have been so earnest in their attempts to crush the gallant McClellan, *feel* this indirect, but crushing, rebuke of their selfish and ruinous schemes?—Halleck, Stanton & Co. ought to take the fact to heart, that "Little Mac" is in the hearts of THE PEOPLE everywhere.

"Time makes all things even," as the "board" will yet discover, to their utter discomfiture.

* * *

☞ The remnants of the Eighth, Twelfth and Eighteenth Iowa infantry—four hundred and eighty men, all told—have arrived at Davenport. It is stated that they are to be re-organized for further service. These regiments were fearfully cut up at the battle of Shiloh, and have since been further decimated by disease and the casualties of battle.—*Exchange.*

Where are the remnants of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps—the regiments of which have been more terribly cut up than those of Iowa? Why are they not sent home to be re-organized? those brave men who fought at Drainsville, in every battle of the Peninsula, at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and other places, and always with the most unflinching valor. Why are they not sent home? Will the President or Secretary Stanton answer?—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

☞ The War Department has at last been forced to "come down" a little—to yield to a proper kind of "pressure" for once. Though the Reserves will not be allowed to come home—a privilege which has, it seems, been extended to three Iowa regiments—they will be drawn from the field, and placed on duty in the fortifications around Washington. "Half a loaf is better than no bread."

* * *

☞ "*The Union as it was,*" has outraged the common sense of the country long enough. The Union as it was, is buried in a grave from which there is no resurrection. No Union is now possible, except of free States.—*Lincoln's Organ, at Washington.*

The author of such a sentiment is an infamous disunionist and traitor to his country, and he who endorses it is no better.—The people will teach the Union destroyers of this administration what it is that "has outraged the common sense of the country" as fast as time can give them the opportunity.

FROM THE 165TH.

SUFFOLK, VA., Feb. 2, 1863.

FRIEND STAHLE:—On the evening of the 29th January, orders came for two companies to report to the Colonel of the 6th Mass., with three days' rations and fifty rounds of ammunition. Everybody, of course, knew there was something up. "Another trip towards the Blackwater," passed from mouth to mouth. Capts. Funk and Gilliland were the lucky ones and were ordered to report with their companies. An expedition, consisting of about seven regiments and two batteries, started in the direction of Blackwater in search of the rebels. The column got in motion about 1 o'clock, A. M., on the 30th. All seemed impatient to see "what they could see," and marched rather faster than was comfortable to their feet. After marching eight or ten miles, very suddenly and, as it seems, unexpectedly, they came on a force of the enemy stationed in an open space at the edge of a dense wood, which in these regions occupy most of the ground, a tremendous volley of shell poured into the woods, trees falling and limbs flying in all directions. The boys thought it was the "elephant" sure enough. The road was soon cleared. The men were ordered to fall right and left into the woods and lie down. Considerable confusion occurred on account of the darkness, (the moon had just set and it wanted several hours of daylight,) and a good many lost themselves. As soon, however, as the locality of the enemy could be found out and a good position was obtained our artillery was brought into play. With a view to this, as well as to save our men from the great danger to which they were exposed, we retreated about half a mile. A brisk fire was kept up on both sides till daylight, when reinforcements were sent out, and the rebels retreated towards the Blackwater. The reinforcements only reached the ground in time to join the chase. Capts. Plank's and Warren's companies had the privilege of a hand in it. They were attached to the 13th Indiana, which is a crack regiment in these regions. There was no further engagements with the enemy except a sharp fire of about fifteen minutes between this last mentioned regiment and a detachment of mounted riflemen, who were perhaps left behind as a rear guard to the enemy. Our boys describe the bullets as falling around them as *thick as hail.*—The rebels retreated to their old position on the other side of the Blackwater, and our forces returned home. They reached camp about midnight the same day. Our boys, it being the first time they were under fire, did well, and were complimented by the Col. of the 13th Ind. I am satisfied that under our own officers Adams county will never have cause to be ashamed of the 165th. We had four slightly wounded—three of Capt. Funk's company and one of Capt. Gilliland's.

The whole loss on our side in killed, wounded and missing will be a trifle over a hundred. About thirty were killed, among whom were several officers. The Col. of the 167th, it is supposed, is mortally wounded. The loss of the enemy I have no means of ascertaining to any degree of certainty, but it is generally thought that their loss will not be as great as ours', because they had the advantage of ground, and their force was not as great as ours.—We took but few prisoners. The rebels are reported to be back at the same place again, so I expect we will soon have another tramp, when you will probably hear from us again.

BIGGS.

☞ It is reported that the Confederates have again crossed the Blackwater river, having received reinforcements. Gen. Peck, at the head of the Federal forces, has gone out to meet them.—*Balt. Sun of Saturday.*

LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

☞ Common Deeds, Administrator's Deeds, Common Bonds, Judgment Bonds, Judgment Notes, Promissory Notes, Notes waiving exemption, Amicable Actions, Subpœnas, Summonses, Executions, School Statements, Naturalization Papers, &c., &c., printed on good paper, for sale at the COMPILER OFFICE.

LAST NOTICE.—We have erased a few names, but shall postpone striking off the most of our delinquent subscribers for a couple of weeks more, in the hope that within that time they will pay in whole or in part what is honestly our due. A number have already paid and many others are probably waiting an opportunity to do so. We hope that all who wish to continue the *Compiler* will see the necessity of complying with our terms, at least so long as we are compelled to pay the present enormous price for paper.

DEDICATION OF A NEW CHURCH.—The new German Reformed Church, recently erected in Pinetown, will be dedicated, the Lord willing, on the first Sabbath in March, (March 1st.) Divine services will begin on Friday evening previous and be continued over Saturday and Sunday. A number of clergyman from a distance are expected to be present. The community generally is respectfully invited to attend.

E. H. HOFFHEINS, Pastor.

SALE POSTPONED.—The sale of Town Lots advertised by Hon. Moses McClean, Executor of George Shryock, deceased, for Friday week, did not take place, on account of the inclemency of the weather—and has therefore been postponed to Wednesday, the 11th of February inst., at 2 o'clock, P. M.

VALENTINES.—Our enterprising neighbor, Mr. E. H. Minnigh, informs us that he is just opening a very large stock of comic and sentimental Valentines for the accommodation of the public, who always wish to have something of the kind ready for St. Valentine's day. And those who happen not to have their thoughts run in that way, *will find every other kind of "good things"* ready for their tastes. Give him a call.

☞ The following is a list of the exchanged prisoners of Capt. Hunter's Company: Lieut. W. Horner, M. J. Coble, M. H. Plowman, Samuel Bostick, Jas. A. Scott, Oliver Welsh, Hiram King, Jas. McCullough, Jacob E. Myers, E. W. Maring, Reuben A. Flohr.

LITTLESTOWN.—The citizens of Littlestown will hold an election on the 28th inst., to determine whether that town shall be incorporated as a Borough or not. The Court has appointed Hon. Wm. McSherry and Dr. R. S. Seiss, Judges; and Dr. Edmund F. Shorb and Joseph Barker, Inspectors of said Election.

☞ The "Franklin Literary Association" will celebrate its second Anniversary in the Church at Mummasburg, on Saturday *evening*, February 21st, 1863, with appropriate literary exercises. They respectfully invite the public.

☞ Wm. Crawford, son of John Crawford, of this place, and brother-in-law of Hon. E. McPherson, has been appointed a Cadet at West Point. He was with the Anderson Troop in the battle of Murfreesboro, and behaved creditably on the occasion, it is said.

☞ The "Americans of African descent." connected with the A. M. E. Church in this place, intend holding a Festival for the benefit of their Church on the evening of the 23d inst., in a large room on Washington street, near the Church. It will doubtless be patronized by a full house.

☞ The next Orphan's Court will be held on Tuesday, the 24th of February inst.

☞ The "Constitutional Union," heretofore published in Philadelphia by that sterling Democrat and prince of clever fellows, Hon. Thomas B. Florence, is to be removed to Washington city, where its issue will be resumed, under the same management, on the 22d of February. A Daily, Weekly, and Monthly paper will be published. The price of the Daily will be $8 per annum; of the weekly $2; and of the Monthly $1. The latter will be an octavo pamphlet of 48 pages. To clubs the price of the weekly will be two copies to one address, $3.50; ten copies, $17.50; twenty copies, $30. A generous support of this paper is recommended by all the conservative members of the present Congress, including the venerable Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky. In order to place the enterprise in the outset on a solid basis, Mr. Florence invites all persons favorable to the establishment of a first-class daily Constitutional newspaper at Washington, to become personally interested in the enterprise by subscribing to the fund such sums as they shall think proper. These sums will be credited to them as stock in the concern, and they will be entitled to receive therefor newspapers or advertising, whenever desired, at the usual rates.

This is a great as well as a commendable enterprise, and Col. Florence is just the man to put it through. May he have the biggest kind of success, say we.

SUBSCRIBERS SHOULD PAY UP.—The Watertown Reformer thus concludes a well written article on "Money, Produce and Newspapers"—and we commend the suggestion it embodies to the careful consideration of a certain class of our subscribers: "There is one thing the people can do while printers are testing their ability to outlive the crisis, and that is to pay promptly and cheerfully their subscriptions. There is abundant means in the country now for doing this, and if done, it would go far to prevent the necessity of advancing the rates of newspapers. But a black cloud at mid-day is not more obvious to the eye, than that publishers of country newspapers cannot endure the present disproportion between outgoes for stock and income for subscriptions, except patrons exercise a sensible degree of nobleness in paying promptly at present rates."

* * *

☞ An intensely shocking murder has been committed in Columbia county, Pa., a woman having massacred her three step-children, aged seven, nine and fourteen years.

* * *

☞ The programme of the administration is said to be:—A vigorous prosecution of the war; Maj. General Hooker to attack Richmond; (he had better get there first;) Rosencrans to be heavily reinforced; Vicksburg and Port Hudson to be attacked by overwhelming forces; the Mississippi to be cleared of the enemy; these plans failing, the Administration will accept the mediation of Napoleon and recognize the Independence of the Southern Confederacy, they agreeing to gradual emancipation. This is what Bennett says.

* * *

☞ It is reported in Washington that the committee of ways and means have agreed to recommend a large increase in the tax upon whiskey and tobacco; in the case of the former at least 50 cents per gallon. It is also reported that Mr. Chase will ask the committee to recommend an increase upon each article sufficient to make the duty $1 per gallon and $1 per pound.

* * *

☞ Gold is now commanding a premium of *fifty-five* per cent. in Philadelphia and New York. In other words, it takes *one hundred and fifty-five* dollars in paper to buy $100 in gold! What glorious times we have!

* * *

☞ **Saturday next, the 14th of February, will be St. Valentine's day.**

THE 165TH IN A BATTLE.—The rebel General Pryor crossed the Blackwater on the night of the 28th. with three regiments of infantry and five detached battalions of infantry, nine hundred cavalry and fourteen pieces of artillery. On the next night General Corcoran, under orders of General Peck, advanced to meet them, with six regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and two batteries (six guns each) of artillery. The rebels were found about ten miles from Suffolk. Our forces had gone within two hundred yards of the enemies' concealed batteries, when they opened, and having perfect command of the approach, our men suffered much: but by changing position, and a dashing charge by the infantry, the rebels were driven to seek another position, which they were soon forced to leave. They were then driven across the river, when it was deemed advisible that our men should return to camp. Four companies of the 165th Reg. P. M. were in the fight. Capt. Funk's and Capt. Gilliland's Companies were attached to the 6th Massachusetts, and Capt. Plank's and Capt. Warren's to the 13th Indiana. None were killed, we are happy to state—and but five wounded, and they only slightly, viz: John Holders, Adam Spindle and Wilson Brown, of Comp. A., (Capt. Funk's,) and Daniel Forney and Washington Hankey, of Comp. F., (Capt. Gilliland's.) It was thought all would be able to resume their duties in a day or two. Our troops behaved with great courage. The 167th Reg. P. M. refused when ordered to go into the fight, it is reported.

A dispatch to the New York Herald gives the total loss on the Federal side at 24 killed and 80 wounded—rebel loss not stated, but supposed to be heavy.

The Herald says, the fight occurred by moonlight, early in the morning. Colonel Knoderer, of the 167th Pennsylvania Regt. was dangerously wounded in the hip by a piece of shell. Captain Taylor, of the 113th New York, was killed, and General Corcoran made a narrow escape. Captain Blodgett of his staff was slightly wounded.

Capt. Kelly of the 69th New York was wounded in the arm, and amputation is thought to be necessary. Among the officers wounded is *Capt. Lead of the 113th New York, slightly*; Adjutant Brittan, same regiment, slightly; Lieut. Baily, 11th Pennsylvania cavalry, slightly; Adjutant Allen, of the 6th Massachusetts, Lieutenants Wood and Marsh all of the same regiment. Lieut. Santelle, of the 6th Massachusetts, was killed. Rebel sources of information state that Col. Page, of the 5th Virginia regiment was killed. Among the rebel regiments engaged were the 54th, 63rd, 50th, and 29th Virginia regiments. The rebels received reinforcements.

☞ Since writing the above, we have seen a letter from Capt. Gilliland to his brother, from which we are permitted to make the following interesting extracts:

"The shells came over and amongst us thick, and fast; the most part just above our heads, about two feet, when we were flat on the ground. One shell killed and wounded three men about ten feet from me. I had two men slightly wounded—Alexander Jacobs, hurt on the nose, pretty badly—and Joseph Redding, in the back—a limb or part of an exploded shell fell on him. He is much better. None of them dangerously hurt. On our side we had about 75 or 80 killed and wounded; as for the other side, the same I suppose.

"I have since learned that there were 104 killed and wounded—27 killed, the balance wounded. I saw 22 horses that were killed close by where we lay.

"None of our Regiment were killed; four or five were slightly wounded. It is a great wonder that half of them were not killed, for we were in the thickest part of the engagement."

* * *

STAMPS ON PROMISSORY NOTES.—As the season for sales of personal property is rapidly approaching, when large numbers of promissory notes are executed, it may be interesting to the public to know the scale of stamp duties which the law of 1862 imposes upon such notes. It is as follows:

From $20 to $100	$ 05
" 100 to 200	10
" 200 to 350	15
" 350 to 500	20
" 500 to 750	30
" 750 to 1,000	40
" 1,000 to 1,500	60
" 1,500 to 2,500	1 00
" 2,500 to 5,000	1 50

The penalty for violating the law is fifty dollars, and the instrument is rendered invalid and of no avail. These stamps can be procured, we believe, from Col. John L. Tate, Collector for this district.

The following are provisions of amendments to the Revenue Act:

Sec. 1. Empowers the assessors, assistant assessors, collectors and deputy collectors, appointed to administer oaths or affirmations in all cases where the same are required, provided that *no fees* shall be charged or allowed therefor.

Sec. 2. Refers to the collection of the Taxes in California and Oregon, and is of no importance here.

Sec. 3. Provides that no instrument, document, writing or paper of any description, required by law to be stamped, shall be deemed or held invalid and of no effect for the want of the particular kind or description of stamp designated for and denoting the duty charged on any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, provided a legal stamp, or stamps, denoting a duty of equal amount, shall have been duly affixed and used thereon: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to any stamp appropriated to denote the duty charged on proprietary articles.

Sec. 4. Provides that all official instruments, documents, and papers, issued or used by the officers of the United States government shall be and hereby are exempt from duty.

Sec. 5. Provides that no instrument, document or writing, made, signed or issued, prior to the 1st of March, 1863, without being duly stamped, shall for that reason be deemed invalid and of no effect. Provided, that no such instrument or document, required by law to be stamped, issued prior to the day aforesaid, shall be admitted, or used as evidence in any court until a legal stamp shall be fixed thereto, and properly cancelled with the initials of name and the date. And the persons desiring to use any such instrument, or his agent or attorney, is authorized in the presence of the court to stamp the same.

* * *

☞ In the State Senate, on Thursday, Mr. Clymer presented a petition from Berks county for the passage of a law preventing blacks and mulattoes from coming into the State. Three petitions of the same character were presented in the House.

Mr. Patton, of Greene county, presented a preamble and resolutions asserting that the present civil war might have been prevented by the adoption of the Crittenden compromise, and for the defeat of which the dominant party is responsible; that the war has been conducted as against the institution of slavery alone, and not for the restoration of the Union; that unless the Administration recedes from its inflammatory proclamation of emancipation and returns to the prosecution of the war under the Constitution, it can have no further claims upon the loyal State of Pennsylvania for men or for means to carry on the war. Laid over for a day.

* * *

☞ Resolutions have been introduced in the Indiana Legislature declaring that the people of that State shall never be taxed to pay for the emancipation of negroes. Put them through!

* * *

☞ The New York Tribune thinks the blockade of Charleston has been effectually broken, and that our Government must give sixty days' notice to the world before it can be resumed. The New York Herald, on the other hand, does not suppose that the Confederates can establish legal grounds for their claim.

* * *

☞ Don't fail to read Chandler's letter, on our fourth page.

WAR NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Bold and Dashing Raid of the Confederate Gunboats at Charleston.

Dispatches from Charleston give accounts of what appears to be a serious disaster to the Federal blockading vessels off that harbor. It is stated that a Confederate naval force, consisting of two iron-clad gunboats, accompanied by three steamers, moved out from their anchorage at an early hour on Saturday morning week, and attacked and sunk two of the blockading fleet and set four others on fire and drove the rest away. The Confederates were under command of Commodore Ingraham.

The engagement commenced at 4 o'clock. The Palmetto State, with Commodore Ingraham on board, opened fire upon the Federal gunboat Mercedita, carrying eleven guns and one hundred and fifty-eight men, which was soon sunk in five fathoms of water. Her commander, Capt. Stellwagen, with a boat's crew, went on board and surrendered. One shot pierced her boiler, going clear through. Capt. Stellwagen and crew were paroled by Commodore Ingraham.

Captain Tucker, of the Chicora, reports sinking another Federal gunboat and the disabling of the steamship Quaker City.—The latter was set on fire by the Chicora, and hauled down her flag to surrender, but afterwards managed to escape, using only one wheel. She was very seriously damaged.

The number of the blockading fleet outside at the time of the attack was thirteen, with two first-class frigates, the Susquehanna and Canandagua.

Upon the return of the Confederate gunboats to the Charleston wharves, the British, French and Spanish consuls were taken out five miles beyond the usual anchorage of the blockading vessels, and seeing nothing of them, pronounced the blockade raised in their opinion. Commodore Ingraham and Gen. Beauregard, commanding the naval and land forces in that department, then issued a proclamation, "formally declaring the blockade by the U. States of the said city of Charleston, S. C., to be raised by the superior force of the Confederate States, from and after the 31st of January, A. D. 1863."

The Confederates claim that they did not lose a man—their boats not having been struck—whilst they state the Federal loss of life as heavy.

On Sunday twenty of the blockaders had re-appeared. Confederate advices from Charleston to the 3d inst. were received at Fortress Monroe. At that time the port was again thoroughly blockaded, the Federal iron-clads lying inside of the wooden vessels. An attack upon the city was momentarily expected. Richmond papers state that the Confederate Secretary of State had notified the foreign consuls in that city, that official information had been received of the opening of the blockade at Charleston. It is also stated that a steamer was dispatched from Charleston to Nassau conveying to the British authorities there the same announcement.

☞ The reported loss of the Federal gunboat John P. Smith, on the Stono river, is confirmed. About eight miles from Charleston, Lieut. Col. Yates placed twenty-one cannon, in a semi-circle, stretching on both sides of the river, around the gunboat John P. Smith, and at four o'clock in the afternoon of Friday week, opened a concentrated fire upon her. She replied with broadsides. The engagement lasted one hour, when the gunboat hauled down her flag and surrendered unconditionally, with 130 prisoners. The rebels put their loss at one wounded, and the Federal loss at eight killed and fifteen wounded. The John P. Smith had one Parrott gun, ten eight inch guns, and one thirty-four pounder. The rebels are getting her ready for sea.

☞ A dispatch to a Richmond paper states that another attack was made on Fort McAllister, on the Ogeechee river, near Savannah, on Monday, by the iron-clad monitor Montauk, assisted by four gunboats and one mortar boat. The attack was commenced in the morning and the fighting was kept up until after two o'clock in the afternoon, when the Federal vessels withdrew.

Confederate advices from Tennessee report that General Wheeler's cavalry attacked a fleet of twenty five Federal transports on the Cumberland river, and destroyed five, on Friday week. The fleet was accompanied by two gunboats. On coming down from Nashville, on Saturday, General Wheeler's cavalry destroyed a locomotive and five cars at Lavergne, and captured the guard of fifty-two men.

Gen Pryor, commander of the Confederates in the recent engagement on the Blackwater, claims that it was a success of the Southern forces, and that they did not lose fifty in killed and wounded.

The report from Paducah, Ky., is that Fort Donelson was attacked early on Tuesday morning, and that the fight was still going on at four o'clock P. M. Reinforcements were arriving.

The opening of the canal near Vicksburg is progressing, but the Confederates have planted a battery opposite its lower end, which commands it. Gen. Grant has arrived there. Gen. Longstreet is said to have gone to Tennessee with thirteen brigades.

Gen. Rosencrans has issued orders forbidding the issue of passes to civilians to travel south of Louisville, and the fact is taken as indictative of an intention on his part to renew active operations at an early day.—Large reinforcements are continually arriving at Louisville and being dispatched South.

A dispatch from Nashville states that a camp of Confederates at Middletown, fifteen miles west of Murfreesboro', was surprised and captured on the 2nd inst. The colonel commanding and all his officers were made prisoners.

The Alabama is reported to have been seen off the mouth of the Mississippi week before last.

The Confederate attack on Fort Donelson proves to have been a failure. One of the Federal batteries was captured, but was afterwards retaken. The Confederate loss is reported at one hundred and thirty-five killed and wounded and fifty prisoners.—The Federal loss is supposed to be between forty and fifty. The Confederate Gen. Forrest was among the wounded.

* * *

OUT OF ORDER.

It is stated that General Grant has ordered General McClernand to leave Arkansas, because that State belongs to another Department. In consequence of this, there can be no further captures made on the Arkansas and White rivers, by the forces that so distinguished themselves at Arkansas Post, St. Charles, Duval's Bluff and Des Are. It turns out to be wholly out of order to achieve all these victories. The forts were destroyed, the guns were captured and six or seven thousand prisoners were taken in violation of regulations.—General McClernand, in going beyond the red-tape bounds, has been guilty of insubordination, and he must get back as fast as possible. All this looks very absurd. Are geographical lines to control the movements of our armies? Is a corps belonging to one military department forbidden to operate against a hostile force a few miles over the boundary of another department? If such is the peremptory and positive regulation in our army, the sooner it is modified the better. A military force ought to be at liberty to fight an enemy wherever it can find him. As it happens, the only important successes we have had for nearly a year, in the Southwest, have been obtained by violating regulations. Let us have a few more such violations, and the country will be better satisfied.—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

* * *

☞ It is stated that Burnside strenuously and persistently recommends the reinstatement of Gen. McClellan as the Commander-in-Chief of the army of the Potomac.