

Pleading for its Old Masters.

The adherents of the old Locooco Democracy, now called Copperheads, for many years followed with spaniel-like docility the lead of the ruling class of the South, now rebels, are bitterly opposed to the oath of allegiance prescribed in the President's Proclamation of Amnesty. See what the *Pittsburgh Post* says on the subject:

"With here and there an individual exception, the men who would take the oath and be allowed to vote would be the weakest and least energetic portion of the population. The portion of the Southern people who have the most character, and are the best fit to govern and look after the interests of the State or the Union, are precisely those who would be excluded by the test oath."

If the editor's object had been to express his sympathy for traitors and armed rebels; if he had set down to write out a full confession of all that we ever charged upon his party of base subservience to the men whom it invested with the power to tear the Union to pieces; if he had set about to make an *expose* of that cringing sycophancy which inflated those arrogant wretches with a pride and ambition so boundless that they went mad, he could not have succeeded better than he has done in the above paragraph. See how contemptuously he talks of the loyal men of the South—the men who own few or no slaves, but who earn their bread by honest industry, by the labor of their own hands! He calls them "the weakest and least energetic portion of the population," and then says that they are the slaveholders, ruling class, that class who regard labor as dishonorable, and who call the working men of the North "mud-sills." Yet this man calls himself a democrat!

But to say that the non-slaveholders of the South—such, for example as the noble loyalists of East Tennessee, who have suffered and dared more for the Union than any other community in the country—a class of whom Gov. Johnson, of that State, and Parson Brownlow, are representative men—are "the weakest and least energetic portion of the population" is simply a lie. That they have long been wronged and abused, and deprived of their just rights, and privileges, and weight in social and political life, is very true, but they are, nevertheless, a brave, hardy, and energetic class; and now they are beginning to assert their just power; and when they do become the ruling class, as they soon will, good-bye to slavery, treason and copperhead democracy. This the *Post* knows, and hence its rage.

Does the *Post* wish to take back the rebels into the Union with all their emity to our Union, Constitution and Flag, without even an oath of fidelity? We freely admit that they would make very good members of our party, and we doubt not that the poor copperheads would be overjoyed to have their old masters back again; but would they make good or safe citizens? Think of Jeff. Davis or Toombs returning, just as they are, to the Senate; and think of the life that such Southern men as have stood true to the flag of their country through all this terrible rebellion would have under the restored rule of secessionists and rebels.

But will the *Post* tell us why any man in the North except a few officers of high grade, need be "excluded by the test oath"? Is there anything in that oath which any honest man need be either afraid or ashamed of? If so, what is it? If any man who takes it has at any time favored the rebellion in any way, it is a confession that he was wrong in so doing, and it is a promise that he will do wrong in that way no more. Perhaps the *Post* regards such conditions as too humiliating to its haughty old masters. Well, well, if that be so, let them stay out. The country can do very well without them, even if the copperhead democracy cannot. We know very well that that party will die unless those choice old demagogues, who are now at the head of the rebel government and its armies, can be got back again, with their old principles and their "niggers." We know that it is impossible for the "Democracy" to survive the death of slavery; and it is equally impossible for those men who "are the best fit to govern," to do so after they shall have been deprived of the only thing that ever gave them any importance.

The country, it is true, can and will be governed very well after slavery and aristocracy shall have ceased to exist; but alas for copperheadism in those days! This is what troubles the *Post*.—*Pittsburgh Gazette*.

REBEL INVASION OF THE NORTH.—A Washington dispatch says:—Gen. Halleck in conversation with prominent public men, has expressed his belief that the best grand and desperate effort will be made in the ensuing spring by the rebels to transfer the real fighting to Northern soil. They cannot submit their armies in their own desolated region, from all the most fruitful parts of which slaves have been withdrawn into the interior Cotton States. It is difficult to determine whether their new campaign will be due north into Pennsylvania again, or across Kentucky into Ohio, using Longstreet's present position as a base of operations. All the secret advices received at the War Department show that a Peter-the-Hermit crusade against the North is now being preached throughout the Confederacy, and that they are conspiring into the ranks with ruthless violence everything human that is able to bear arms.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The following dispatch was received this morning at headquarters of the army: Headquarters Military Division of Mississippi, Nashville, Jan. 29.—On the morning of the 25th inst., the enemy six hundred strong, attacked our garrison of about one hundred, at Athens. After two hours fighting the enemy was repulsed and driven back. Our loss is 20, but that of the enemy is much greater. On the 27th, Col. Miller had a severe fight on this side of Florence, repulsing the enemy. Our loss in this affair was fifteen killed and twenty-five wounded.

JOHN A. RAWLINS, Brig. Gen. and Chief of Staff.

The knitting-mills at Seneca Falls, New York, now turn out ten thousand pairs of army hose a day.

Rebel Plans and Projects.

A letter from a Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, who claims to speak of good information regarding rebel designs, has the following: "It has been decided that Longstreet shall be recalled from East Tennessee, and placed at the head of a new army which is to have its basis at Suffolk, and operate on the south side of James River, in expectation of an attack on that side by the Union forces."

Kirby Smith, well acquainted with the ground now occupied by Longstreet and with the people of Tennessee—which department he commanded when Tennessee was under rebel rule—has been appointed in his place. This choice of the Rebel Government has been determined, it is said, by the popularity which Kirby Smith enjoys in all parts of Tennessee, where the rebels contemplate, as I have told you, a great movement for next Spring. It is also surmised that their army now located at Rodgersville, having been advised that a strong body of Kentucky troops were advancing to reinforce Knoxville, has been ordered to move southward in the direction of Nashville, as a preliminary step to its junction with Polk's forces. As this movement uncovers the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, Early has been advised to keep close watch in that direction, by defending the approaches of the Shenandoah Valley.

The advance of the rebel army in West and South Tennessee, although an article of faith among most of the Richmond politicians, is not, I apprehend, so certain as people affect to believe. I am, on the contrary, assured that Longstreet or his successors have no idea of so soon giving up the safe position he occupies for one not presenting the same advantages. It may be even doubted whether he will feel strong enough to venture upon an isolated expedition either in Tennessee or Kentucky, where he has a thousand chances to one to be surrounded and captured. It is far more probable that his army, now located in Rodgersville, is there for the purpose of threatening the flanks of Gen. Grant, of interrupting his communications, and of cutting off his supplies, and for that alone, until he feels strong enough to march upon Knoxville, and take that city. Until this is done the Rebel army in East Tennessee is simply to remain on the defensive. All its efforts at present are to prevent Knoxville from being reinforced and supplied. The attack upon our train at Charleston, in which he was repulsed, that of Martin at Talbot's Station, and that of Vance at Mossy Creek, in which the latter was made a prisoner, are all unmistakable indications of one and the same design, the capture of Knoxville.

It would not, then, be astonishing to see the rebel army in East Tennessee march before long, with the additional reinforcements it has recently received, upon the latter city, and attempt to carry it by storm. Indeed the critical position in which Longstreet is now placed forbids him to stay long in a passive attitude. As the *Richmond Dispatch* of the 26th inst. says, every day spent in inaction, adds to his weakness, and increases his danger. Placed as he is between two Union armies, one of which, that gathering at Cumberland Gap, is only waiting for reinforcement to march upon him. Longstreet has no other alternative than to push forward upon Knoxville or to fall back upon the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, which has just been put in running order by the repairing of the Wasaga Bridge, on the Wasaga River. But as a retreat at the present moment would materially disturb his plan of operation, if not destroy his prestige, the probability is that he will attempt a forward movement before he is compelled to fall back by the advance of the Union forces.—*Pittsburgh Gazette*.

THE TAX ON SPIRITS.—The investigations of the Committee of Ways and Means on the taxation of spirits has developed much interesting information. The annual consumption of spirits, as shown by the New York trade, is about 100,000,000 of gallons. By the census of 1850, 86,781,557 gallons were produced in the loyal States alone. Under the Excise law, tax was paid up to October 31, 1864, on 32,610,000 gallons.

This is, of course, largely below the years consumption, and is to be explained by the confusion incident to the earlier working of the act, and particularly by the difficulty of discriminating between stock produced before and after September 1, 1863. The monthly collections of revenue have steadily increased and for the months of July, August, September and October, 1863, the receipts on spirits averaged \$822,992.28, or at the rate of \$9,875,907.96 per annum, representing \$483,795.40. For November and December the returns were much larger.

SENATOR COWAN'S RECENT VOTE.—Speaking of Mr. Cowan's recent vote on Mr. Sumner's resolution in the case of Senator Bayard, of Delaware, the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* very justly remarks: "Mr. Buckalew, of this State, was of course in the opposition; but we are surprised to find his colleague, Mr. Cowan, voting with him. The course of Senator Cowan has several times excited surprise. He has disappointed the high hopes that were entertained at the time of his election, not only by his eccentricities in voting, but by his failure to show the distinguished ability as a statesman and a debater, which his friends declared he possessed. He has carried the ideas of the Greensburg bar to Washington, and he lets a legal quibble weigh more heavily in his mind than a great political principle. If he had done any great public service as a Senator, or had in any way acted as a worthy representative of a State like Pennsylvania in a situation like that into which the rebellion has brought us, we might overlook his professional propensity to vote on technical grounds where national questions are to be decided. But there has been no such compensatory service rendered by him, and for all practical purposes, Mr. Buckalew is about as good a Senator for Pennsylvania as Mr. Cowan. But the large majority for Mr. Sumner's resolution shows that Mr. Cowan is harmless in the Senate."

Bishop Simpson has gone to Chattanooga to look after the interests of Methodism.

The American Citizen.



THOMAS ROBINSON, CYRUS E. ANDERSON, Editors. BUTLER PA.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 1864.

Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable.—D. Webster.

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1864:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Day Breaking.

The dead lock that has kept the State Senate inactive so long, is about to be removed by a special election in the Indiana district, which has now been ordered, and the people of the State may feel relieved at the thought, that the time is at hand, when the factious copperheads, can no longer prevent the passage of a Resolution by the legislature of our own State, complementing Gen. Grant, and his gallant army, which they did a few weeks ago.

The Call for 500,000 Men.

In our issue of to-day will be found the call of the President for the above number of men. When the intelligence reaches rebeldom that half a million of men in addition to the veteran army now in the field, are coming upon them, it will strike terror into the rebel ranks, and cause their wicked leaders to tremble for fear of the destiny that must shortly come upon them. They will now be able to realize the fact, that our government is really in earnest and intends to crush the unholy rebellion which has been instigated and carried on by rebels and traitors.—The hand writing is visible on the wall. The decree has gone forth, and will, ere long, be fulfilled.

The Opening Campaign.

The Democratic State Central Committee met at Philadelphia, on the 13th of January last, and after attending to some preliminary matters, appointed a sub-committee on resolutions. The resolutions are such as might have been expected from a committee of which "Beef Bigger," was chairman; and representing, as it does, a defunct party—soured by repeated defeats. As is common with "conservative" resolutions, we notice the absence of any expression that might be construed into a declaration of decided disapprobation to the course pursued by even the leaders of the rebellion. The most they ever do in that way, is to draw a comparison between the loyal people of the nation, and their chosen rulers on the one side, whom they are pleased to call Abolitionists, and the rebels at the South, including Jeff. Davis & Co., whom they gently term secessionists.

When we look at the frequent and stunning rebukes which that cowardly party has received at the hands of the people, for its treachery to the Government, and its almost unmasked sympathy with armed treason, we are astonished at its foolhardiness, in again going before the people on issues that have been already decided against it.

But they assume to believe that the last election was carried by Military power, and fraud on the ballot box. Shame on them, thus seeking to evade the weight of the verdict, which they, in their very hearts know was rendered against them.

Was it military power that beat Vallandigham in Ohio, over 100,000?

But the most important declaration in these resolves, is to the effect that if the Administration at Washington, don't get frightened at them and at once abandon its policy of bringing back the rebel States by a vote of its loyal citizens, instead of allowing "their friends," the rebels, to participate—that then they will resist the Government by all "the means that God and nature has placed in their power." It is to be feared this threat will be too much for the Administration, brave and patriotic as it is.

Shame on any party, thus attempting to annoy a patriotic administration in its efforts to save the unity of the country, but more especially a party like that which now claims to represent the conservative elements of the country, that cannot boast of having the control of a single State from Maine to California. Keep cool gentlemen. Remember your attempt to resist the Government in New York, Detroit, and elsewhere. Thanks to the over-riding Providence, that sustains us, we are not dependent upon that class of traitors and forgers, for our future national life.

Persons who may wish to be posted in the doings of the Legislature during the present session, should subscribe at once for the *Harrisburg Daily Patriot & Union*. It is a well conducted, neatly printed journal; gives full reports of the Legislative proceedings, and handles the Abolition, Wolly-head Worshipping Shoddyites, in a proper manner. If you want a good paper subscribe for it. Terms, five dollars per year.—*Herald*.

We can well remember seeing a copy of the above paper, so emphatically endorsed by the *Herald*, issued immediately after the fall of Sumpter. The President

having called out seventy-five thousand men for the defense of Washington, an editorial in the *Patriot & Union*, declared that the Democratic party could have no sympathy with the government in the war; that not a Democrat should shoulder a musket or pull a trigger; that was the extent of that Journals patriotism at that time. After two years of war almost exclusively on the policy suggested by the Democracy, the rebellion was still defiant and the loyal millions discouraged. At this time a change of policy was being debated. It was proposed that, instead of detaching a portion of the Union army to suppress the slave insurrection and protect rebel property, the whole army should be used for one single purpose—the overthrow of the rebellion; leaving rebels to take care of their property and negroes too. It was also proposed to invite all who were willing to do service for the union, under the old flag, into our armies without restriction as to color. It was at this period of our own troubles that the Patriot & Union established gained still more notoriety by the issuing of posters calling for the mustering of negro soldiers at Harrisburg, hoping by this means to get up a prejudice against the policy, which, if adopted, was sure to strike a stunning blow to the rebel cause.

One of its editors suspected of complicity with this act, was arrested, and for a time, imprisoned, but on further examination it was found that he was not the author of this cowardly act of treason, and he was therefore released. He afterwards denounced the act; left the concern, and the Party, and took the stump for Curtin. It is quite natural that the *Herald* should recommend such a sheet to its readers.—"Birds of a feather flock together."

The Beaufort District, S. C.

This once opulent and productive portion of the Sea Island region of South Carolina, is undergoing a strange transmutation. Previous to the Rebellion it was occupied by the proudest of the aristocracy of the South, whose many broad acres were covered with thousands of those anomalous beings who were regarded and treated partly as men and partly as things, and whose labor in the cultivation of sea-island cotton, the most valuable variety of that staple, enabled the proprietors of both the acres and the chattles to riot in wealth and luxury.

Now those cotton princes are poor, homeless wanderers, made so by their own folly and wickedness, and their magnificent estates are being divided into small lots and sold for unpaid taxes (not confiscated) under the auctioneer's hammer, to the soldiers and sailors who wrested them from their rebel owners, and to the very slaves whose unrequited toil had long been expended upon them. A new and strange, but far better civilization has succeeded the cruel bondage and barbaric pomp of former days. On this comparatively small tract we see a beginning, an epitome, of the mighty change which has begun to pass over the domain of slavery and cotton. Let us hope that a pure Christianity and an intelligent spirit of law-abiding Liberty will mark the progress of this great revolution; and that all classes there will be lifted up together, so that no one class shall ever have either the will or power to get their feet upon the necks of the others.—*Pitts. Gazette*.

GEN. BANKS has made a change greatly for the better in the programme he set forth in his recent proclamation. The election for delegates to the Convention to alter and amend the State Constitution is not to be put off till April, as at first proposed.

At the instance of the Free-State General Committee he has ordered that an election for Delegates to a Convention to frame a new State Constitution, as well as for State officers, shall take place on Washington's birthday. This will considerably hasten the restoration of Louisiana to her proper place as a State of the Union.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Jan. 31.—Just arrived here from Chattanooga, and before leaving Gen. Palmer had returned from a reconnaissance to Ringgold and Dalton. The main force of the enemy had undoubtedly left, Gen. Palmer thought towards Longstreet, with the purpose of invading Kentucky.

Since arriving here I have obtained information which satisfied me that Hardee has reinforced Mobile. An attack was undoubtedly made on Mobile within five days past. Persons here have solicited permission to go through the lines to attend relatives wounded at Mobile. Positive information may be soon expected of an attack on that place, and its probable fall.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 1, 1864.—A letter of resignation from Senator White has been received, dated Liberty prison, Nov. 1863, and addressed to John P. Penney, Speaker of the Senate. It was placed in the hands of his father-in-law, who withheld it until all hopes of his exchange was gone by. It is eloquently written, and full of patriotism. A writ for a special election has been issued. Senator White is now in Salisbury, North Carolina. He was brought away by an officer under shoulder straps. Mr. Warfield, of Baltimore, who went as special Commissioner to procure White's exchange, brings back a reply from Commissioner Ould, declining an exchange of Major White temporarily.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—The *Herald* says the bombardment of Charleston was going on quite briskly up to the 25th. On that day twenty shots were fired into the city.

The *Herald* gives some very interesting accounts of the state of affairs in Charleston, from a lady refugee. Nearly one half of the city is damaged and abandoned in consequence of Gen. Gillmore's bombardment.

Jeff. Davis' Body Servant.

Our Washington dispatches have already given the more important statements made by Jim Dennison, the negro body servant of Jeff. Davis, who recently made his escape from Richmond to Washington, where the information of which he is the bearer has seemed of such importance as to have occupied many hours of the attention both of Gen. Halleck and of the Secretary of War. After all, the most interesting of his statements is that touching the weakness of Lee's army, when Meade made his late advance movement. It seems Lee had but 30,000 men to confront at that time to the whole army of the Potomac. The following additional items, however, will interest our readers:

The cupola roof of the President's house leaks badly, he says, so that during the recent rain storm all the tubs from the kitchen had to be taken up to save the ceiling of the lower floors. Mrs. Davis, who often says that if they had known how it was going, they never would have left Washington with her consent, was calling Mr. Davis' attention to the state of the roof, and asked him to send to the Quartermaster's Department and have it repaired.—Mr. Davis, who has grown very petulant and irritable of late, replied: "I reckon we will be out of this before another rain storm. Don't fuss yourself and me about these trifles."

He says that Jefferson Davis, in private conversation, is unreserved in urging the abandonment of Virginia, as a line of defense no longer tenable. That he has heard Mr. Davis, in conversation with confidential members of the so-called Government, declared frequently that Virginia had been used for all it was worth, that it had proved a shield of immense value, in fending off the devastations of war from the rice and cotton States, which were the heart and body politic of the new government. Steps have been already taken on various pretexts of their labor being needed on the public works to send all the valuable able-bodied negroes and breeding negro women from Richmond along the railroad to Lynchburg, and also south into Georgia, which Mr. Davis declares to be the next base of operations. But General Lee, whom Jim declares as looking very old, with his hair now snow-white, is perceptibly opposed to the abandonment of Virginia, and declares that Virginia soldiers will lay down their arms, if their State be given up to the Yankee despotism.

The talk is not about going to Columbia, South Carolina, but to some city in Georgia. Jim heard gentlemen say Mr. Davis at the table, where Alexander Stephens was, who has not attended Congress this session, and who is said not to have visited Mr. Davis' house or office for over a year. Davis replied, that he had heard that Stephens had gone to Europe, but had not thought it worth while to inquire what had become of him.

Jim accompanied Davis in his recent tour around the Confederacy, and describes the following scene as having occurred on the summit of Lookout Mountain. Looking down one bright day from the lofty eminence commanding a clear view into four States, and a very distant view into fifth, Davis saw the Yankees beneath his feet, across the valley, working like bees around their fortifications. "I have them now," said he, "in just the trap I set for them." To which Lieut. Gen. Pemberton, who was sitting on horseback beside him, replied, "Mr. Davis, you are Commander-in-Chief, and you are here. You think the enemy are in a trap, and can be captured by vigorous assault. I have been blamed for not having ordered a general attack on the enemy when they were drawing around their lines of circumvallation at Vicksburg. Do you now order an attack upon those troops down there below, and I will set my life that not one G—d—m man of the attacking column will ever come back across that valley, except as a prisoner."

When Davis was passing through North Carolina, he only stopped at Wilmington to consult with Gen. Whiting. While there he was pressed by a numerous delegation of Confederate office-holders to stop in Raleigh for consultation with Governor Vance. This he angrily declined. It appears that the health of Mr. Davis is rapidly breaking down under his nearlly attacks, in so much that he can no longer see his only good eye by candle light.—He continues his old habit after dinner of stretching himself on the carpet before the fire in a room otherwise unlightened, and it is fast becoming dangerous for any one to approach him.

Always of a violent and fretful temper, he is becoming greatly aggravated by his misfortunes, and Jim describes him on one occasion as flinging about the chairs and furniture when so disturbed. About four weeks ago a pistol exploded in his room when he was loading it, and the whole family rushed up, feeling confident that, as they had long decided, he had committed suicide.

Jim says that Mrs. Davis, in conversation with female friends, frequently talks of the Confederacy as hopeless, and is loud in regrets for the lost pleasures of Washington.

There is no forage except in the Mississippi Department, and the allowance for Mr. Davis' two horses is two quarts of corn each per day, on which, says Jim, they are growing thin. Not long ago Mr. Davis received a present of twenty turkeys, the food for which now comes from the corn rations of the quadrupeds, making them still thinner. A turkey, says Jim, lasts the family three days—roasted or boiled the first day, cold the next, and hashed the third.

Mr. Davis receives no company—has no wine in his cellar, but has several gallons of brandy sent from blockade runners at Wilmington. Jim says that Mr. Davis told him that the Yankees had killed all the people whom they found on his Mississippi plantation, and that they were all found lying pigletly pigletly in a hole, their legs and arms cut off, and in some cases, their heads bloody and beaten, protruding from the ground. Jim says he believed this story, until one of his fellow-servants, who could read, told him it was a lie to deceive them. Then Jim determined to leave.

When he did leave he was hidden in a hole in the earth at Charles City for three days before he was found by his wife, the last female slave owned by Mr. Davis in the Presidential Mansion. Jim wore an overcoat, and in it the autograph name of

Mr. Davis, and the date 1860. "How do you keep your coat so good?" we asked him. He answered, "Oh, golly, Massa Davis gave it to me a year ago, and I know I might never get another, so I took care of it." He had on his feet new but very coarse brogans of untanned leather, which "Massa Davis got from the quartermaster, and he told me to take care of them for they cost him \$50."

The utmost distress prevails in Richmond for food, there not being more than two or three hives killed in the city per day for private consumption. The beef was about \$4 a pound when he left. For a string of three perch, weighing less than a pound each, he paid \$13. Oyster were \$25 a quart, as they could only be obtained in the night on account of the Yankee occupation of the James River with gunboats.—*Pittsburgh Gazette*.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette. WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1864.

BOUNTIES AND CLAIMS.

The House Military Committee to-day agreed upon the following as the proper disposition of a great number of claims for bounties referred to them: WHEREAS, Doubts have arisen as to the intent and meaning of the 3d section of the act approved July 17, 1862, entitled an act to amend the act calling for the militia to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrection, and to repel invasion, approved February 28, 1745, an act amendatory thereof, and for other purposes. That said act shall be so construed as to entitle men who are called out under the provisions of said section, whether enrolled as militia, or volunteers, to a bounty of twenty-five dollars, as provided in the aforesaid section, and the proper accounting officers of the Government are hereby authorized and directed to pay the said bounty to all who have not yet received the same; the said bounty shall be paid out of any money appropriated for the payment of bounties to volunteers.

ARKANSAS STATE GOVERNMENT.

The following is the President's order for the reorganization of Arkansas government: RECONSTRUCTED MASSONS. WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1864.

To Maj.-Gen. Steel: Sundry citizens of the State of Arkansas, petition me that an election may be held in that State, at which to elect a Governor—that it be assumed that election and thenceforward that the Constitution and the laws of the State as before the rebellion are in full force, except that the Constitution is so modified as to declare that there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in the punishment of crimes, whereof, the party shall have been duly convicted. That the General Assembly may make such provisions for the freed people as shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, and provide for their education, and which may yet be construed as a temporary arrangement, suitable to their present condition as a laboring, landless and homeless class. That said election shall be held on the 28th day of March, 1864, at all the usual places of the State for such voters as may attend the last polls. And the voters attending at each place at eight o'clock in the morning of said day, may choose judges and clerks of election, for that purpose. That all persons qualified by said constitution and laws, and taking the oath prescribed in the President's proclamation of December 8th, 1863, either before or at the election, and none else, may be voters. That each set of judges and clerks may make returns directly to you on or before the day next. That in all other respects said election may be conducted according to said modified constitution and laws, and that on the receipt of said return, when 5-6 votes shall have been cast, you can receive said votes and ascertain who shall thereby appear to have been elected. That on the day of next, all persons so appearing to have been elected, who shall appear before you at Little Rock, and take the oath to be by you severally administered, to support the Constitution of the United States, and the modified Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and be declared by you qualified and empowered, to immediately enter upon the duties of the offices to which they shall have been respectively elected.

You will please order an election to take place on the 28th of March, 1864, and return to be made in fifteen days thereafter. A. LINCOLN.

GEN. ROSECRANS ASSIGNED TO DUTY.

War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, Jan. 28, 1864.—General Order No. 28.—By direction of the President of the United States, Maj.-Gen. W. S. Rosecrans of the United States Volunteers, is appointed to the command of the Department of Missouri. Major-General J. M. Schofield on being relieved from his command by Maj.-Gen. Rosecrans, will report for duty to Maj.-Gen. Grant at Chattanooga, Tenn.

DESERTIONS FROM THE REBEL ARMY.

Deserters from the rebels still continue to arrive at all points of our lines. They express great dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in the rebel army, and are both willing to take the oath and enter the service of the United States.

REVERDY JOHNSON ON SLAVERY.

Reverdy Johnson remarked in Convention to-day that the abolition of slavery was foreordained. Some men supposed they were doing all the work to get rid of it, while really it was the work of God. He was rejoiced to see this day.

GEN. GARFIELD'S SPEECH.

The members of Congress have subscribed for an edition of twenty-five thousand copies of Gen. Garfield's speech—considerably the largest number yet ordered, of any speech this session.

FROM LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Private intelligence from perfectly reliable sources says, the Convention at Little Rock has postponed a new Constitution, which will make Arkansas a free State.

A DRAFT FOR 500,000 MEN ORDERED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The President has issued the following order: Executive Mansion, Washington, February 1st, 1864.—It is ordered that a draft for 500,000 men, to serve for three

years or during the war, be made on the 10th day of March next, for the military service of the United States, including and deducting therefrom so many as may have been enlisted or drafted into the service prior to the 1st day of March, and not heretofore credited.

Signed, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The following dispatch has been received at the Headquarters of the army:

Headquarters of the Military Division of the Mississippi, Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 29.—Major Gen. J. G. Foster, telegraphs from Knoxville, Tenn., on the 26th of Jan. 28th, 9 a. m., as follows: I have the honor to report that the cavalry under Gen. Sturges gained a decided victory over the enemy yesterday near Fair Fairs, ten miles east of Zieverville. Gen. M'Cook's division drove the enemy back two miles, after a stubborn fight, lasting from daylight to four o'clock, p. m., at which time the division charged with the sabre and with a yell, routed the enemy from the field, and captured two steel rifles guns, and over two hundred prisoners. The enemy's loss was considerable, sixty-five of them being killed and wounded. We charged Gaillard and Wolford's divisions, and came up after a forced march in time to be pushed in pursuit.—Although their horses were maddened, Gen. Sturges hoped to be able to make the rout complete.

Signed, JOHN A. RAWLINS, Brig. General and Chief of Staff.

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—The Federal steam corvette Kersage is cruising in the Brest Roads. The corvette Florida is still in that port.

The Hartford (Conn.) Times says that it is understood among military men in that city, that another call for troops will be made about the first of February for 400,000 men for three years, and 400,000 for nine months. This information is said to come from sources entitled to credit.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Evening Republican has the following: It is now certain that a serious episode occurred in the rebel camp near Stevensburg, on Saturday last. Heavy musketry and artillery firing was heard in so much that a message was sent to the cavalry pickets from the headquarters to ascertain what was going on. Deserters who come in state that a regiment had attempted to desert, and a serious affair occurred. There was some firing on Friday, and the insurrection in the camp came to a crisis on Saturday.

The cause of Jeff. Davis is getting more and more shaky.

GEN. BURNSIDE TO LOCATE AT HARRISBURG.—Gen. Burnside's A. I. de-Camp arrived at Harrisburg on Saturday, and is now arranging affairs preparatory to the arrival of the General, who is about to establish his headquarters in Harrisburg, where he will receive recruits to the number of 50,000 for the Ninth Army corps.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 29.—HOUSE.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the judicial executive and legislative appropriation bill.

Mr. Carson, of Iowa, introduced the following joint resolutions, which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Resolved, That the Senate enacting, Congress has received with the profoundest veneration the information of the purpose entertained by certain European powers to subvert the neighboring republic of Mexico, and to impose upon the people of that republic and the hemisphere an unaccustomed system of government, practically unknown to the people of North America, and alien to their principles, customs and usages; and be it further

Resolved, That Congress regards this proposition with the deepest regret, and expresses its conviction that such an enterprise will be universally regarded in America as a menace to the dignity and permanence of popular governments, and that it will only result in adding a new life to the causes which have retarded the prosperity of that republic, and will provoke complications continually perilous to the tranquility of this continent.

The death of Mr. Noell, of Missouri, being announced, the House adjourned.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 27.—Information from Gen. Dodge at Pulaski, Tenn., under date of 26th, says that the enemy crossed the Tennessee river last night, attacked Athens this morning and were defeated. They are now trying to get back. The troops at Athens had mostly gone to Florence to attack Johnson's force crossing there, and Col. Harrison with six hundred rebels, and two pieces of artillery, took advantage of their absence, and were badly defeated.

Still Later.—Advices say that Dodge badly whipped Johnson at Florence. In all probability the raid is at an end.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 30.—The Commercial special, five miles north of Tunnel Hill, Georgia, on the 29th, says:

Gen. Palmer, with Davis' division, moved here yesterday on a reconnaissance. The 28th Kentucky and 4th Michigan, drove in the rebels' advance pickets, and captured a company of rebel cavalry.—The rebels retreated from Tunnel Hill during the night. They lost 32 killed and wounded.—Our loss is two wounded.—The object of the reconnaissance was effected.

Claiborne's division is above Tunnel Hill, on the Dalton road. The balance of the rebels have disappeared. They have probably gone to Mobile or East Tennessee.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 30.—The Journal has further advices about the Scottsville affair:

Capt. Gillum, of the 18th Kentucky, was commanding at Scottsville with 150 men. Hamilton, with 500