

we know already desire peace and re-union and the number of such may increase. They can at any moment have peace simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution. After so much, the Government could not, if it would, maintain war against them. The loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain, we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conference, courts, and votes, operating only in constitutional and lawful channels. Some certain, and other possible questions are and would be beyond the executive power to adjust. For instance, the administration of members into Congress, and whatever might require appropriation of money. The executive power itself would be greatly diminished by the cessation of actual war. Pardons and the remissions of forfeiture, however, would still be within executive control. In what spirit and temper this control would be exercised, can be fairly judged of by the past. A year ago general pardon and amnesty, upon specific terms, were offered to all except certain designated classes. And it was at the same time made known that the excluded classes were still within contemplation of special clemency. During the year many availed themselves of the general provision, and many more would, only that the signs of bad faith in some, led to some precautionary measures, which rendered the practical process less easy and certain. During the same time, also, special pardons have been granted to individuals of excepted classes, and no voluntary application has been denied. Thus practically, the door has been, for a full year, open to all, except such as were not in a condition to make free choice; that is were in custody, or under constraint. It is still open to all; but the time may come, and probably will come, when public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that in lieu, more rigorous measures than heretofore shall be adopted. In presenting the abandonment of armed resistance to the national authority on the part of insurgents, as the only indispensable condition to ending the war on the part of the government, I retract nothing heretofore said, as to slavery. I repeat the declaration, made a year ago, that while I remain in my present position, I shall not attempt to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation or by any act of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means make it an executive duty to re-enslave such persons, another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it.

In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say, that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Sizing Down the Age of Man and Woman.

The man that dies youngest, as might be expected, perhaps is the railway baggage man. His average age is only 27. Yet this must be taken with some allowance, from the fact that hardly any but young and active men are employed in the capacity. At the same age dies the factory workman, through the combined influence of confined air, sedentary posture, scant wages, and unremitting toil. Then comes the railway baggage man, who is smashed on an average at 30! Milliners and dressmakers live but little longer. The average of the one is 32, and the other is 23. The engineer, the fireman, the condenser, the powder-maker, the well-digger, and factory operative, all of whom are exposed to sudden and violent deaths, die on an average under the age of 35. The cutter, the dyer, the leather-dresser, the apothecary, the confectioner, the cigar maker, the printer, the shoe outer, the engraver and the machinist, all of whom lead confined lives in an unwholesome atmosphere, do not reach the average age of 40. The musician blows his breath out of his body at 40. Then come trades that are active or in a pure air. The baker lives to an average age of 54, the butcher to 49, the brickmaker to 47, the carpenter to 49, the furnace man to 42, the mason to 48, the stone cutter to 43, the tanner to 49, the tinsmith to 41, the weaver to 44, the driver to 40, the cook to 45, the ink-maker to 49, the laborer to 41, the domestic servant (female) to 43, the tailor to 42, the tallener to 41. Why should the barber live till 50, if not to show the virtue there is in personal neatness and soap and water? Those who average over half a century among mechanics are those who keep their muscles and lungs in healthful and moderate exercise, and not troubled with weighty cares. The blacksmith hammers till 51, the cooper till 52, and the wheelwright till 50. The miller lives to be whitened with the age of 61. The roper-maker lengthens the thread of his to 55. Merchants, wholesaler and retail, to 52.—Professional men live longer than is generally supposed. Litigation kills clients sometimes, but seldom lawyers, for they average 55. Physicians prove their usefulness by prolonging their own lives to the same period. The sailor averages 43, the caulker 64, the sailmaker 52, the stevedore 66, the ferryman 65, and the pilot 64. A dispensation of Providence that "Maine Law" men may consider incomprehensible is, that brewers and distillers live to the ripe old age of 61.—Last and longest lived comes painters, 67, and "gentlemen" 68. The only two classes that do nothing for themselves and live on their neighbors, outlast all the rest.

A Modern Apostle.

We clip the following from the English correspondence of the *Watchman and Reflector*.
A young fellow of the name of Lyne, who seems to be about three-fourths fanatic and one-fourth fool, took it into his head that if he called himself Father Ignatius, dispensed with shoes and stockings, dressed himself in a long woolen night-gown, dyed black, shaved his crown, and founded what he calls a Benedictine Monastery, he would check the tide of pauperism and infidelity which come like a flood upon the populous cities of England. Mr. Lyne has succeeded in creating much laughter, and has gained a celebrity by his fantastic exhibitions, which he never attains on the quiet pathway of common sense. The jest reached a climax the other day, when, at a congress of the clergy at Bristol; Father Ignatius suddenly appeared, barefooted, shaven crowned, and in sacerdotal vestments. He insisted on addressing his reverend brethren. At first they howled and hooted at him, but at length the English instinct of fair play prevailed, and they listened to him while he demonstrated the admirable fitness of bare feet and serge night-gowns for converting the millions of England.

Many a true word is spoken in jest. Our idle squib, a month or two since, to the effect that Sherman's future march could be safely prognosticated from the flight of the unhappy *Memphis-Hernando-Grenada-Jackson-Morton-Atlanta-Griffin Appeal*, turns out to be more accurate than some wiser predictions. Griffin was the last Arrarat where it hoped to rest its weary feet. Griffin in effect has been captured by our forces and the peripatetic Appeal has winged its way still further to the sunny South. It is surely the fate of this paper to be always "on the rampage," and its printing-cases ought to be established in wheelbarrows. We do not yet learn where next the Appeal will pause; and perhaps if we did, it would be contraband news, so sure an indication would it furnish of Sherman's line of march. We wish it *bon voyage*,—till we meet again.

The Richmond papers are jolly over "reduced prices" of provisions. The *Whig* goes into ecstasies of delight over the prospect of a good dinner at cheap rates. "Corn meal" it says, "went off freely at \$40 per bushel; dressed turkeys sold at \$15 apiece; and chickens, with the feathers on, brought \$10 a pair; pullets, full size, sold at \$5 and \$6 each; and eggs were only \$7 per dozen."

A detective in New York, rendered partially insane by the difficulty of tacing the hotel incendiaries, is said to have exclaimed: "Those black bags and bottles produced a great deal of fuss-for-us."

Timothy Doody was killed on the track of the Central Railroad in Buffalo, on Saturday morning. His body was literally cut in two, the wheels of the cars having passed over his stomach.

The American Citizen.

THOMAS ROBINSON,
CYRUS E. ANDERSON, Editors.

M. W. SPEAR, Publisher.
BUTLER PA.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 14, 1864.

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

Our second storm of cold weather is now upon us. Winter has, indeed set in in earnest. We believe most of the people would prefer hard weather for a couple of months.

The country is all in expectation as to the success of present military movements.

Sherman is certainly accomplishing much, but as he has not yet reached the coast, we are left to glean news from him through Rebel sources. A heavy column has moved from Petersburg Southward—destination not known. At Nashville, the armies of Hood and Thomas, still confront each other. Upon the whole, the situation is very interesting; and promises great results.

The Message.

On the first page of our paper to-day, will be found, the President's message.—No former message in the last twenty years has been looked for with such intense interest as this one. Immediately after the election, Gen. Butler intimated his convictions as to what might be proper to do at this particular time.—Others, still more anxious for a peace of whatever kind, went further, even than Butler, and some would have us believe that immediate offers of peace would be made by Mr. Lincoln, to the Richmond cable—that a mongrel commission, Republicans and Democrats, would soon be on their way to the Rebel capital, to negotiate for peace. These intimations were received by some as the dawning of a better state of things, while others—those who have stood by the administration, feared that, if there was any truth in these statements, they only indicated a receding on the part of Mr. Lincoln, a going back to that compromise policy, which had proved so fatal to his administration in the earlier days of its existence—hence, the greatest anxiety was felt for a fresh avowal of the President's views. That anxiety is now over, and those who believe that the present policy of the Government is that, which, while it best protects the honor of the nation, is at the same time the shortest road to peace and re-union, have the satisfaction of knowing that it will not be disturbed. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that we congratulate the readers of the *Citizen*, that Mr. Lincoln has taken no step backwards—the message is at once concise and comprehensive, and is, without just such a document as we had a right to expect from our "second Washington."

The Lowry Case.

Seldom has there been as much feeling and interest manifested in the termination of a difficulty as has been in this. Col. Lowry has for quite a number of years past, (with the exception of a short period when he was out of business) kept a hotel in our borough. His house was formerly the acknowledged headquarters of the Republican party, and himself an avowed Republican. In the summer of 1861, he accepted a position on the "Union" ticket, as it was called, which was made on the 4th of July of that year, and after the regular Republican ticket had been put in nomination. We recollect very well remonstrating with the Colonel in reference to the propriety of his acceptance of the position—assuring him that it would certainly change the character of his house politically—that he would be defeated in the canvass, and that it would in all probability result in driving him into the Democratic party. His reply was that he had given a friend of his (whom he named) a pledge that he would not withdraw—that he therefore could not, but at the same time assured us that it could never unsettle his, then, political opinions and sympathies. We were then among the Colonel's warmest friends, although utterly opposed to his political position. No one can doubt, however, that "the Colonel" had a perfect right to do what he did politically, and we were not much surprised to find, that through the course of time, he became an ardent Democrat, supporting Woodward in 1863 for Governor in preference to "the soldier's friend" Governor Curtin, and Gen. McClellan last fall against Lincoln.

It was not strange that, as the Colonel changed his politics, the political complexion of his patrons changed—as his position became known, Democrats gathered around him—his house was soon recognized as the headquarters of the opposition—not only Democrats, but inveterate Copperheads were found in abundance in the bar, in the office, and occupying the benches in front of the house during last

fall to the annoyance of Republicans who called on business or otherwise. Besides being a Hotel, the "Lowry House" is both a stage, and a Telegraph office. The business community thought they had a right to free ingress and egress in the premises, without reference to whether they were patrons of the house or not. It is perhaps proper to remark that as Democrats concentrated their patronage on the house, Republicans gradually withdrew; this seemed to offend the Colonel very much—he should have reflected that "it is a poor rule that don't work both ways," but he did not. Those who, having declined patronizing his house, when they called on business connected with the Stage or Telegraph office, often believed themselves treated with undue coldness. In addition to this, we believe it is generally admitted that the Colonel was frequently, to speak moderately, considerably excited. Under these circumstances it is not strange that some inconvenience was felt by many Republicans. Some, feeling more aggrieved than others, declared that they would not go near a house where they felt apprehensive that their presence might be the means of exciting the Colonel and possibly result in personal difficulty. We have heard some of our best citizens say that they would never cross his door—that they would never even patronize the stage as a means of travel while it stopped at his house, simply because it was unpleasant to come in contact with him. While boarding at Mr. Jack's and Mr. Magee's respectively, we have heard travelers complain that they were treated coldly by the Col. when they called on him to pay their fair, preliminary to taking passage in the stage.

We have heard those Landlords too, both complain of their guests being thus treated by the Col.

We have good reason to believe these complaints were well grounded. This being the state of the case, as was to be expected, the coldness thus exhibited gradually increased. The canvass for President opened warmly and for the first time in the Colonel's life, we believe, he became a partisan. On several occasions he became excited, and on such occasions he would never fail to express his anathemas on Abolitionists, generally using names—and on some occasions, making beligerent demonstrations. The McClellan chivalry rallied around him, until before the close of the campaign his loud huzzah—like the voice of Roderick's horn, would people the town with a warlike clan. This was the state of the case, when on election day he posted himself in front of the election window, as his own friends said, for the purpose of stirring up a row. All efforts at that time failed however, and he retired, doubtless, under the impression that he could not get a quarrel out of any body. In a former article we noted the proceedings of that night, as also, a summary of the incidents of the next day, including the celebrated raid on the Magee house. Our readers will recollect that our neighbor of the *Herald* and we differed as to whether a poker had been used upon the Colonel by Mr. Magee—we called on that paper to take back its false charge, but we were only answered by hard names. For the purpose, therefore, of setting this matter at rest, we determined to give our readers the testimony in the case, should it ever be tried; but by its settlement, we have been deprived of this means of vindicating our statement of the affair.

In this respect however, we are neither surprised nor disappointed. We scarcely ever saw such a continuous effort made by the friends of any man, as was made by the Colonel's friends to keep this difficulty out of court; it was not to be expected that they would not succeed. The Colonel too, for once, overcame his naturally haughty air, and began to make confessions and apologies; extending his hand to gentlemen, with whom, up till now, he would not have deigned to speak—accompanying it too with ample apologies—how could they refuse its acceptance?—Indeed, we intimated to Mr. Magee, our self, that it seemed to require more cold independence than any man ought to have, to withstand such advances. The matter was therefore, finally settled. The following is a copy of the paper filed with the Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, containing the terms of settlement, and signed by the parties. From it our readers can judge whether we were in error in our statement of the affair:

Commonwealth vs Alex. Lowry—Assault and Battery.

Commonwealth vs Alex. Lowry—Surety of the Peace.

Commonwealth vs J. C. Sharp, et al.—Surety of the Peace.

The parties in the above cases have agreed upon terms of settlement, as follows:—

That the said Alex. Lowry is to pay all costs in the above cases, and the counsel fees of the Commonwealth's private counsel; and whereas, the *Butler Herald* published an article stating that F. S. Magee, the prosecutor, had struck the said Lowry, with a poker, &c, relating to this difficulty, and it is hereby agreed that the above statement in the *Butler Herald* was untrue, and founded in mistake or misapprehension—that the said Lowry went into the house of Magee, at the time this difficulty occurred, and

was treated with respect and courtesy, until he made the assault upon him.

F. S. MAGEE,
A. LOWRY.

While there is ample provision in the above for the cost, including the counsel fees of Mr. Magee's attorney's, there seems to be no guarantee for the observance of the peace. It is true that most of those who had been objects of the Colonel's vengeance have become, at least nominally, reconciled to him, and need therefore, apprehend no further trouble. We, however, are still in the cold—and of course write at our peril.

But if we are not fortunate enough to be embraced in the Col's Amnesty Proclamation, we have the proud satisfaction of knowing that we are still free—untrammelled by any compromise policy which might prove a barrier to the proper independence of our columns. And while treating this difficulty thus at length, we don't wish to be suspected of a factious or meddling interference in this matter; we claim to have an interest in it as well as others. We will not stop to give special reasons at present, believing that our relations to a large and respectable portion of the citizens of the county as a journalist, is a sufficient one. We are aware of the great personal inconvenience we are required to undergo, in consequence of thus freely criticising this matter; but while we conceive it to be our duty, we will not hesitate on that account.

Unless we should be compelled by some unforeseen contingency, we now take our leave of the political canvass of 1864, with all its incidents. And while we have nothing to retract, it is no satisfaction to us to know that we have ever written a single line that proved offensive to any. Almost four years will have passed away before we shall be called upon to enter upon another. Our faith is strong, that long ere then, we will under the guidance of Divine Providence, be allowed to enjoy peace throughout our entire border, based upon the homogenous principle of impartial freedom, from the lakes to the gulf, and from ocean to ocean. Endeavoring to forget the past, so far at least as anything unpleasant is concerned, we shall address ourselves to the duty of the hour—the sustenance of the government in the patriotic discharge of its responsibilities in this great crisis of our history.

Army Correspondence.

The following letter has been kindly handed us for publication—it shows how the army feels:

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, VA.,
Dec. 1, 1864.

KIND FRIEND—I have just been thinking I would like to hear from old Butler. I will therefore, scribble you a few lines, and inform you that I am in excellent health, and have been ever since I entered the service, although we have seen some hard service. We are now stationed at Fairfax Court House, and are putting up Block houses; our company has taken possession of the court-house, and will put a stakeade around it.

Our regiment forms the outer line of fortifications of Washington city—the first battalion is near the Chain Bridge, the second is at Vienna, and the 3d (ours) is here. I understand it is to be a permanent line of defense, if so, we may stay here. The boys are all in good spirits, and proud of being so nobly supported in the last election, by the patriots at home. This has been a long and bloody war, much longer and much more bloody than any of us dreamed of three years ago, but "the end draweth nigh." If a spirit of reckless despatch should nerve the traitorous leaders of those Rebel bands to a super-human effort, still the end *must* be near. They have made their last levy of men fit for military service months ago; and are now garrisoning their Forts with boys of 15 and 16 summers, and old men of 50 and 60 years of age, "robbing alike the cradle and the grave."

On the other hand, there has swept from the mountains of New England, the hills and valleys of the Middle States, and the plains of the North and West, an avalanche of citizen soldiers, who know no such word as fail, to fill up the decimated ranks of our veteran armies in the field. The beacon light of foreign intervention, which bound up in the distance with such flattering promise of aid to treason, has sunk from their vision without bringing to these base traitors, the realization of that hope which so long sustained them. Added to this, the triumphs which must certainly, await the National cause in the re-election of President Lincoln, and it cannot be in all human calculation that the rebels will ever seriously attempt another four years war. I think it is morally certain that the reelection of Mr. Lincoln will sound the death-knell of Rebellion. Evidently from their own journals, the only hope they had, was in a change of the Administration, which would re-organize their bogus concern. In short, I do not believe that the justice and goodness of God will ever permit a Rebellion, whose corner stone is Slavery, and whose highest ambition is despotism, to culminate in a success that would again rivet the manacles of hopeless Slavery on millions of our fellow men. The Idea is too monstrous to be entertain-

ed for a single moment. I thank God I am a soldier in so glorious a cause.

BRADEN PORTER.

Below we give a letter from an old and much esteemed friend, who, some twelve or more years ago, bade adieu to old Butler, for a prospective home in the far west—the best wishes of his many friends went with him, and we are pleased to say that their most sanguine hopes have been realized in his subsequent history. The fact that he has informed us that it was not for publication, we think does not preclude us from publishing it, as we know it will be gratifying to his old friends to thus hear from him—the news which it brings from the truly loyal state of Iowa too, will be welcome to our readers, he will therefore, we trust, excuse us for producing it. The following is the letter:

MARION, Nov. 28, 1864.

DEAR TOM—I see in your issue of the 23d inst., you put Iowa down at 25,000 for Lincoln.

Now, you will pardon the "Hawkeyes" for guarding reports in election matters, as she claims to be the banner State of the Union, both in the field and at the polls, and she votes as she fights—for the Union and against traitors, whether North or South, her majority for the Union is about 40,000. Could we have had a few more Mahoney's and Jones', we would have cast an almost unanimous vote for Lincoln. But we have done our duty, and cannot be put off with no 25,900.

I am glad to say that I receive the *"CITIZEN"* regularly, and only regret that you could not send a larger majority from the old "Keystone." Still you have no cause to be discouraged—keep up the fight—day is dawning, and all will be right. As one of the Electors at large for this State, I was through the principal parts of it, "stumping," and never before, has public opinion been so completely set in opposing a traitors peace, as at present; in fact the unprecedented Union majorities show this beyond a peradventure. The Cop's have failed in every thing. Our Congressional Delegation, six in number, is all right, by heavy majorities. The North-West, although cursed with a few assassins, is true to the Union, and will take care of all Fillibusters.

This, you understand, is not for publication, but for your own perusal. I would be glad to hear from you at any time.

As ever, your Friend,
WM. G. THOMPSON.

HEADQUARTERS 102D PA. V. V.,
Nov. 12th, 1864.

MR. WILLIAM STODDS.—You may think I have forgotten to write you, but no; I hope you will pardon my negligence when you fully understand my circumstances; will you not? You have heard of our activity in the Valley, since September 19th, and knowing you understand a soldier's duties, I feel confident you will not think me negligent in not answering your last letter. We are at present between Winchester and Middletown, near Newtown. Came here day before yesterday, I think for the purpose of drawing Early down the Valley after us. His cavalry has reached our picket line. What his intentions are, and whether he will attack us again, is not for me to say. I suppose he has got another requisition of Artillery from Richmond.

Well, to-day as I was writing, we received orders to pack up immediately. Packed up, but remained in camp, and put up tents again. Saturday evening, all quiet, cold and windy. Early is moving as though he was going to attack us soon. Hope he may allow us a quiet Sabbath to-morrow. We hope to get a mail to-morrow when the train comes from Martinsburg, and I want to have this letter to send out in the mail. I suppose you will have received the returns of our late election ere this reaches you. By it you can see the sentiments of Co. "H," and had it not been for recent battles, many more of our *braves* would doubtless have given their voices for *Liberty and Union*; but we trust they are content in their circumstances, notwithstanding many of them are suffering excruciating pain from wounds received in battle.

ELI COEN.

The Electoral College.

The Electoral College of this State met in the Senate Chamber, at Harrisburg, on Wednesday, the 7th inst. The Hon. Morton McMichael was called upon to preside, and made a short address relating to the circumstances under which they, the electors, were assembled. He concluded as follows:

At this very hour, gentlemen, in all the parts of this immense republic, except in those which are excluded by the folly and wickedness of their own inhabitants—at this very hour, by the shores of the far off Pacific; on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, beside the waters of the magnificent Mississippi, and along the margins of our illustrious lakes; in the very heart of our boundless prairies, and the clearings of our late unbroken forests, and near the sounding Atlantic where its never-ceasing surges sweep from Chesapeake to Passamaquoddy—at this very hour as assembled, as we are here assembled, representatives of the men whose enterprise, and energy and diligence, have built up and developed this superb empire, with its cities rivaling in numbers and wealth and all the appliances of art and luxury the most famous capital of Europe; its mountains teeming

with all the precious metals and all wealthy minerals; its valleys swelling with varied and exhaustless richness—sembled together to register the irreversible decree of this stupendous constituency. And, gentlemen, as, not without effort, we grasp the conception of this huge nation, stretching from sea to sea, spreading over an entire continent, engaged in manifold industries and pursuits and employments, and reflect that the decree which we, and those who have been similarly delegated as soon to register, has not alone saved its life, but in saving it has saved also to the oppressed of all lands the opportunity of sharing in the liberties we possess; to the poor of all lands the opportunity of sharing in the bountiful domain we shall acquire; when we reflect on all these things, have we not cause to be proud and thankful that to us has been allowed the privilege of recording our names among the names of those chosen to give form and shape to the noblest purposes that ever inspired the breasts and the grandest utterance that ever broke from the lips of this or any people.

Geo. W. Hammersly, Esq., was elected Clerk of the college.

John A. Small and W. W. Hays, Esqrs., were elected Assistant Secretaries.

On motion, Wm. J. Stees was appointed Messenger, Jacob Stivers Doorkeeper, and W. Hooper, Messenger.

The Rev. John Walker Jackson opened the meeting with prayer.

A committee, consisting of three, was appointed to wait upon the Governor and inform him that the Electoral College is in session ready to receive his communication.

After a short interval the Secretary of the Commonwealth was introduced and presented a message of the Governor, deploring the gentlemen, whose names have already been before the people, duly elected electors.

All the electors except John Wister having answered to their names, the college went into an election to supply the vacancy, and the Hon. John P. Clark, of Perry county, was chosen to supply the same.

The College then proceeded to vote by ballot for President and Vice President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson receiving, respectively, 26 votes.

John A. Hiestand, Esq., was appointed as bearer of one of the packages of votes and certificates, directed to the President of the United States Senate.

Elias W. Hale, Esq., was appointed the bearer of packages directed to John Cadwalder, Judge of the District Court of the United States, of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles H. Shriner, Esq., was appointed to deliver the certificates directed to the President of the Senate of the United States, Washington City, D. C., to the Postmaster of the seat of Government of this State.

A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to the presiding officer of the college, to which he responded in a few well timed parting remarks. A unanimous vote of thanks was also tendered to the Secretaries of the college.

On motion of Mr. Patton, it was unanimously resolved that the pay received by the Electors and Messengers to Washington, Philadelphia and Harrisburg, be appropriated to the Sanitary Commission.

After signing the necessary certificates the College adjourned sine die.

St. Louis, December 11.—The steamer Maria, from St. Louis for Cairo exploded at Carondelet, six miles below St. Louis, early this morning. The pilots, clerks and other employees say that while the boat was laying without steam in her boiler, an explosion took place on her boiler side, the explosion going upward making a hole in the boiler deck, through which several persons fell. They say that the explosion may have been caused by a box of ammunition in the hold. There were eighty soldiers of the 3d and 4th Iowa, and 16th Wisconsin cavalry, with one hundred and eighty-seven horses and mules aboard. The soldiers positively say that the explosion was caused by an insufficiency of water in the boiler which burst. The boat was cut loose, and grounded on a bar, and was entirely consumed by fire. All the horses and mules were lost. It is reported that twenty-five men were killed, thirty wounded, and twelve missing. The soldiers lost everything. The boat was entirely new, and valued at \$40,000.

New York, December 10.—The *Tri-une's* Washington special says: "A few days ago Gen. Stevenson, commanding at Harper's Ferry, sent out a scouting party of thirty men, in the direction of Waterford, Loudon County, to watch Mosely, who was reported by citizens to be preparing for a raid into Maryland. At Waterford our cavalry struck the head of Mosely's force, and a skirmish immediately ensued in which we lost seven killed, wounded and captured. Among their killed was Captain Mountjoy, one of Mosely's ablest Lieutenants. At Leesburg, on their return, the party gobbled a number of the rebel Gen. Gordon's staff, who were visiting a lady.

The reports from Sherman indicate that an abundance of provisions has been found on the route. The rebels report an immense destruction of stock, grain, &c. How utterly inexcusable, then, is the barbarity which condemned our prisoners at Andersonville and elsewhere, to slow starvation, and how inhuman the declaration of the Savannah *Republican*, "that it was their own (the Federal) Government that put it out of our power to take better care of them, and continued the cruelty of keeping them here, after we had given full notice of their suffering condition." As prisoners, they were entitled to humane treatment—to a sufficiency, at least, of food and clothing. Yet the want of them is charged upon the Federal Government, though it was in the power of the Confederate authorities to furnish both.

Four hundred paroled prisoners arrived in Philadelphia, on Monday. The terms of enlistment of many had expired, but they pretty generally expressed a determination to re-enlist.