CARLISLE, PA. Friday, February 17, 1865.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO. No. 37 Park Row, New York, and 6 State St. Boston, are our Agents for the HERALD in the addition, and are authorised to take Advertise only and Subscriptions for us at our lowest rates.

A.MASS meeting was held on Monday night at St. Lawrence Hall, Toronto, called by the Mayor's proclamation, for the purpose of condemning the Government for providing to refund the money taken by the St. Albans raiders, and also for the passage of the Alien bill. But resolutions unqualifiedly sustaining the Government were passed by a large majority.

A COMPANY of forty-three women recently attempted to flee from the bonds of Mormonism in Utah, but they were overtaken and carried back to their masters. It is said that the females in Utah are becoming so determined to escape from their degrading bondage that a crisis in Mormon affairs will necessarily come soon.

One of the bells which merrily rang in honor of the passage of the anti-slavery amendment, in Fitchburg, Mass., formerly occupied a place in the tower of an Episcopal church in Louisiana, where it ding-donged for the slaveholders.

THE THROAT .- Fau ilies would do well to keep always at home a box of Brown's Bron- known how to do it. In Europe each taxchial Troches, a simple but most marvellously efficacious specific for affections of the throat, affording prompt relief in cases of coughs, colds, bronchial troubles, etc. Singers, and public speakers will find them also excellent to clear the voice and render ar- intervene between its introduction and its ticulation wonderfully easy .- Monthly Mag-

## Grant's Forward Movement.

There seems to be unnecessary feeling about the assumed failure of GRANT's forward movement. There is no evidence that he contemplated any general movement a this time. The whole object seems to have been to cut off one source of supplies to army, and in this he has been successful .-True, he suffered some loss, and there seems out the plan: but there is no reason to doubt that the main object was attained, and that General Grant is now in better condition than he was for resuming offen-ive operations, | and no one is responsible. whenever he shall deem it best to do so.

HASTINGS REDIVIVUS .-- We give here with everything which has transpired officially in the case of Major Hasrings, since the introduction of the subject in the House of Representatives by Mr. DAWES. On the 9th inst., the Speaker laid before

the House a communication from the Societary of War accompanied by the court-martial record in the case of Major Hastings, called for by a resolution heretofore adopted upon motion of Mr. Dawes of Massachusett This latter gentleman said that Major Hastings stands on the record as guilty o twenty-six forgeries, but, according to the commutation of his sentence, at the end of six calender months he will go back into the

army stamped not only with these forgeries but guilty of the embedzlement of \$26,900. man may have been improperty convicted, though he Mr. Daws kie w nothing about not guilty, it seemed to him the War Depart- | GLADSFONES | moral courage has not | dared ; him tried again, rather than release him from the sentence of the court, and commute the suspension from pay and rank for six calen-Hastings was not only convicted of forgery and embezzlement, but that he bribed witnesses to absent themselves from court. The sentence of the court was that he be fined \$5,900 and confined not exceeding five years, until he shall pay the fine, and also restor the \$26,000 embezzled. While this man was thus lightly dealt with, our private soldiers, for comparatively small offences, were sent to hard labor at the Dry Tortugas or the penntiary. He wanted the papers printed, with a view to further action on the subject Mr. COX, of Ohio, remarked that he would not object to the printing. The document should be published, in order that public

opinion may assist in correcting the outrages partments, including the Secretary of War, o come into this House to answer such questions as may be proposed? Mr. COX. We do not want their peculiar

justice brought here.

Mr. DAWES. I desire to lay the documents before the people, that they may pass their judgment on the subject. The endorsement of the document signed by Judge Holt finding and sentence be disapproved." Mr. Dawes concluded by saying: only thing set aside is the sentence. The ver-

The documents were ordered to be printed. Appropos of the above, we clip the following severe strictures on the action of Judge from the Washington correspondence of the Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch:

Speaking of the President's clemency, am reminded of the pardon of Major Hastings, of the regular cavalry, whose arrest for misconduct while an inspector of cavalry horses is well known in Pennsylvania. was proved—so a court martial decided—that he had committed twenty-six forgeries and had thereby embezzled \$26,000. It was witnesses to absent themselves, those witnesses testifying that he had given them three, and five thousand dollars, and other sums, to go to Canada, where they could not restored the \$26,000, if the confinement did

not exceed five years. So far so good. But when the proceedings reached the War Department, what an But when the proceedoutery there was among the "regulars" there of the annual revenue—four-fifths arising ensconced! Why, he was a Sorgeant of Sapthe First-Dragoons in '48. Surely old Dave Hastings mustn't be fined or imprisoned; oh no! And he wasn't. The War Department, without setting aside the verdict of guilty, the sentence attached to that ver dict, and substituted the paltry West Point sentence of "suspension of pay and reduction of rank for six calender months." Branded as a forger and as an embezzler, he has only to remain quiet for six months, and then re-turn into the army. Hear what Mr. Dawes, a Massachusetts Representative, said about

this case in detector.

The proceedings of the court-martial of Major Hastings, presented to me, was accompanied by the proceedings of a courtfor five years to the Dry Tortugas; and yet nobody in the War Department ever thought that too heavy a penalty upon the poor soldier. But when a horse inspector, or something of that kind, plunders the United States by youchers forged by him, or by offiers used by him, and knowing them to be forged, he is only worthy, in the opinion of the War Department, of six months' susnsion of pay and rank, at the expiration of which period he goes back whitewashed

into the army, LADIES' FURS .- The largest assortment Internal Taxation

The entire applicability and pertinency to he subject matter discussed, is our excuse for opying it entire. There, is some prospect, it seems, of a Commission being sent to Europe, to inquire into the various modes and principles upon which a staff of tax collectors, too highly paid, is national taxation is levied there. If capable

persons are thus sent-men with no foregone conclusions and un wedded to any pre-conceived ideas here-much good may be the result. will come very late. The inquiry ought properly have been made before we commend the imposition of internal taxation. And it is a matter of equal congratulation and surute taxation so as to make its burthen toler

able. Until the war began, in 1861, the United States scarcely knew anything of direct taxation. Sufficient money for liberal national expenditure was raised by the customs duties, y occasional revenue from excise, and by the sale of public lands. The war rendered it indispensable that a large revenue should be raised, to pay the interest on the Debt and to meet expenses—the amount and increase of which no human sagacity could even approximate. That revenue is paid, but a still larger amount might have been raised, in a

manner less burthensome to the tax-payers, had the framers of the Internal Revenue Law bill is framed by or under the supervision of the Finance Minister, whose duty it is to place it before the legislature, explaining its letails and stating the principle upon which it is based. A moderate time is allowed to second reading. In this interval the individuals or the classes who may think their interests likely to be affected by the new imests have the opportunity of submitting their views to the Finance Minister, -- some times this is done in person, -and modifica-

tions are frequently the result. Finally, the measure is discussed, clause by clause, in the legislature, before the proposition passes into the statute-book. Here, our Finance Minis-Richmond and gain an advanced line for his ter has nothing to do with the system of taxation or its details. A Congressional Committee of Ways and Means frames each taxto have been some biundering in carrying | bill, and a measure which would receive a month's discussion in and out of the legislature, in England or France, generally passes here, in a lump, almost as a matter of course,

We appear to have taken up, in our new taxation, the very worst parts of the European fiscal system, and particularly those which, after long trial, British legislation has finally abandoned. For example, England clung, for a century and a half, to the taxes upon knowledge-viz: the imposts upon paper, advertisements, books, and pamphlets, and the stamp upon newspapers. Our Internal Revenue system levies the tax upon paper, print, and advertisements, and virtually will impose an equivalent to the newspaper stamp, if the proposition that publishers shall ; pre-pay their newspapers sent through post become the law. Again, when Sir ROBERT PERL imposed his Income Tax, in 1842, the English complained, bitterly and justly, that The record also shows he made use of forged its operation upon permanent and upon cervonchers, knowing the research. This

> persevered in. When over Income Tax was bility. imposed, did our law-makers, when they studied the details of the English statute, ters—all, in fact, who live by the labor of  $_{\rm f}$  was a good representation present. their brain, whose income depends wholly a fit of sickness, or by an accident which

avocations-these, who literally live from hand to mouth, are squeezed under our inof the War Department.

Mr. GANSON, of New York. Why not come tax as much, and no less, as the millionpass the bill which requires the herds of de- aire whose personal revenue is derived from with his rich neighbor whose eternal income cannot fail, for it is the permanent interest is as follows: "It is recommended that the or profit out of permanent capital. We grant printers, have operated to raise the price of that this is also the evil of the English income tax; but one thing we have done which the

never would and never could have sanction-cal-we enacted, contrary to every recognized-we enacted, contrary to every recognized principle of taxation, that the income tax Holt and the War Department upon this case, for 1863' which was duly paid once, should be paid over again. Such an ex post facto gence of the masses; therefore, enactment cannot be found in any statute-

The proper principle of taxation is to press is lightly as possible upon the necessaries, and to draw liberally upon the luxuries of a nation. When Sir Robert Peel undertook the duty on paper, in order to hinder competo remodel the British system of taxation he to remodel the British system of taxation he also proved at the trial that he had hired found twelve hundred articles subjected to various duties. He remitted nearly all of these duties. The amount realized from them was small (a trifle over \$2,500,000 per ansummoned. The court believed that he | num), but an immense number of vexations was guilty of a great crime, and they sentenced him to pay a fine of \$5000; to be custom house restrictions were swept away, be forwarded to the Senators and Representations. and a little army of tax-collectors was disconfined two years in prison; to restore the and a little army of tax-collectors was dis-\$26,000 that he embezzled; and to remain pensed with. At present, in round numbers, in confinement until he had paid the fine and \$120,000,000 are annually raised by the customs duties upon cocoa, coffee, corn, fruits, hops, spices, spirits, sugar, ten, timber, tobacco, and wine. From the excise, \$100,000, from the consumption of home-manufactured liquors, hops, and the license-duties for selling liquors. The remainder is made up of license duties, payable by some professions and trades, tobacco-dealeas, soap-makers, vendors of

quack-medicines, letters of horses and carriages, game-killers, distillers, vinegar-makers, legacy-duties, &c. To subject lucifer-, matches, bill-heads, pins, wood-screws, and such small wares to ad valorem taxation, shall be levied on all sales of produce and would be received in any European legislature as a sorry joke. Taxation ought to visit personal property (but not including bullion our domestic productions very lightly, or not or coin, nor securities, evidences of debt, at all. Upon luxuries-of food, dress, furn- nor sales at auction,) one-half of one per martial upon a poor soldier who, being drunk, iture, fashion, travelling—the taxation ought to be large. If people want superfluities, let the amount of sales to be returned by the vender monthfor five years to the Dry Tortugas; and yet them pay for their whistle. The amount of of sales to be returned by the vender monthtaxation must be paid, and can be readily raised; the objection is to the mode, which by law for the returns of manufacturers augments the price of the necessaries of life.

Taxation upon a great variety of small nal revenue act relating to the assessment articles produced in this country, at once disarticles produced in this country, at once dis-, courages enterprise and industrial labor, and creates a necessity for a large number of persons to assess and collect the impost. There are, in Philadelphia alone, as many as four Collectors of Internal Revenue—each receivations shall be required to pay an additional license, tax or duty where the rate is grad-Collectors of Internal Revenue—each receivat Charles Oakford & Sons, Continental Ho ing a large income, with a per centage on the insted under existing law by the amount of sale of stamps. When one gentleman is cu- sales or receipts.

pable of performing all the duties of Collector of Customs in New York, it may be question whether four Collectors of Internal Revenue are necessary in Philadelphia. Whonever our system of national taxation is remodelled, no doubt considerable alterations will be made in this respect. Too large

not to be commended. If possible, the money raised by custom and internal taxation should rather com-The misfortune is that this, if it comes at all, from a few great than from many insignificant articles of consumption. Those who can best afford it should contribute most t the public necessity. Taxation, which is for the benefit of all, should reach the pockets prise that the precipitate and frequently ab- of all, but in a degree proportionate to their surd system which went into operation when means of payment. We should like to see the expenses of the war had to be provided our national taxation based upon the broadfor has not been even more annoying and est principles, and anxiously await "the good burthensome than it is. A fact it is, which | time coming," when our system will be ju- | The Rebels Suggest a Combiner lawmakers seem to have overlooked, that it diciously revised and carefully adapted to the requires great financial ingenuity to distrib- means of every citizen.—Philadelphia Press.

HOW NEW YORK FILLS HER The developments in New York show how that city and State have heretofore filled their quotas. What with bounty jumpers reenlisting half a dozen times, credits for naval enlistments that were never made, and forged certificates of enlistment got up to order, she has managed to get credit for

nished. Her quotas have been filled; but her regiments in the field remain the mere skeletons they were a year ago. That game being now exposed, it is not likely an attempt to repeat it will be made; but as the quota is to be filled in some more easy way than by delivering the required number of men, some new and easy method must be found of dodging the draft. The President has been importuned into holding one fourth of the quota is abeyance; and

an immense number of soldiers never fur-

now there is a vigorous amount of cypher-The city, for instance, was found to be growing with immense rapidity, up to the date of the last call; but since then it has F. P. Blair, Esq.: been discovered that there are not near so many men there as had been supposed. A or three times at the Presidential election, cannot now be found, after the most careful search; and a thorough revision of the enrollment is demonstrating that New York is a much smaller city than Philadelphia, and i that instead of growing and prospering, she is on the high road to ruin. Mr. Super-

visor BLUST expects to be able, by thinning out the enrollment lists, to bring the quotadown to a mere nothing, and so earn another grant of \$50,000 from the impoverished treasury of that decaying city. The time was when the American people thought it an honor to engage in upholding ence, with a view to secure peace to the two the national honor, and yied with each other in their heal to fill up the army. Now the grand effort of every one seems to be to keep out of the army, and localities claim credit for sharpness in proportion to the skill delivered to Mr. Blair a letter as follows to shown by them in cheating the Government out of its dues of men. If this war is to be brought to a speedy and honorable conclu-

sion, there must be a change in all this. A return of the patriotic spirit that prevailed during the early part of the war will put an end to it in six months; but if this New York system is to be persisted in, there can be no other result than an indefinite propersevered, and the tax was imposed as 150 longation of the contest. New-York claims that He is either guilty or not gorty. If desired, and a great public wrong, which Mr. to be the Empire State; let her show her not guilty, it seemed to him the World Control of the cont cinim to the title by a patriotic effort to fill up the army, and an after abane all tricks to avoid her fair share of responsi-

dar months. The record shows that Major take notice of its unjust and unequal operator of the publishers of newspapers in this State Convention of Publishers .-- A meeting tion? They did not. With their eyes open, was held at the Buehler House on the 9th tain and uncertain income. The lawyer, the B. Y. Hamsher, of the Chambersburg Valmedical man, the clergyman, the man of let- , ley Spirit, was appointed Secretary. There

After a call of the representatives present on their own exertions, whose sole means of on motion, a committee of seven were apsubsistence may be suddenly swept away by pointed to draft a series of resolutions expressive of the sense of the convention upon would prevent them following their usual the repeal of the duty upon printing paper. The committee submitted the following

which were unanimously adopted: WHEREAS, at the commencement of the War, the price of printing paper was from the interest on mortgages or other investments | 71 to 9 cents per pound: And whereas, the which preserve his ample capital in full, what-ever may happen to himself. The man whose ever may happen to himself. The man whose ing an increase of 300 per cent, not withincome is actually an accident, for it may be standing the price of the raw material used lestroyed in an hour, is taxed here equally in the manufacture of paper has not increased more than 50 per cent: And whereas, the high price of printing paper, and the en-chanced value of everything consumed by books and newspapers in such a degree that a large portion of the reading community British Parliament, had it been proposed, subscribe for the latter, and have in many Grant's absence. can no longer afford to buy the former or for my action, I refer ts you, in Lieut. Gen. cle in the way of the dissemination of wholesome reading and striking at the very foun-

dation of our republican system, the intelli-Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to our Senators and Representatives in Congress the repeal of the duty on printing paper.

Resolved, That we condemn the conduct o such book and newspaper publishers, as are engaged in the manufacture of paper and are now endeavoring to prevent the repeal of

Resolved, That we hereby pledge ourselves to oppose the re-election of every Senator and Representative in Congress, who unites with the monopoly of the paper manufacturers, in preventing the passage of the bill for the re-peal of the duty on printing paper.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolution tatives in Congress from this State On motion, the convention then adjourned

to meet at the call of the President. After the adjournment of the convention, Mr. Bolton, proprietor of the House-who peace commissioners. Shall they be admitknows how to do the right thing at the right ted? They desire an early answer to come time, and always does it-invited the mem- through immediately, and would like to bers to a splendid collation, consisting of a reach City Point to-night, if they can. If State with the following instructions, Major variety of substantials and delicacies, which they cannot do this, they would like to tome Eckert, however, going ahead of him: he had caused to be prepared for their re- through at 10 A. M. to-morrow morning. freshment. We need not add that they accepted the invitation, and drank the health of their liberal host with enthusiasm.

Tax on Sales. Mr. Morrill's proposition for a tax on sales provides that after next April there merchandise and other articles, including all ly, in the manner and at the time provided and all the provisions of the existing interpertaining to manufacturers shall be applied to sales of produce and merchandise; this amended section to remain in force for one tions.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT His Account of the Events that Led to the Meeting.

Letters of the Rebel Commission ers and Jeff Davis. Grant Instructed that the Conference m

not delay the War. The Commissioners about to be Sent Back

—Grant Telegraphs that he Believes
they Desire to Restore Peace
with the Union.

THE PRESIDENT THEN CONSENTS TO THE CONFERENCE. THE MEETING AND ITS RESULTS. SEAWRD'S REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW

Action of both Armies to

Enforce the Monroe Doctrine To the Hon, the House of Representatives: In response to your resolution of the 8th a card, written on as follows: "Allow the

south, and return. "December 28, 1864."

Correspondence between the Government and Jeff. Davis. sought the card as a means of getting to return and report to me. Richmond, Va., but he was given no authorty to speak or act for the Government, nor was I informed of anything he would say or R. M. T. Hunter: do on his own account or otherwise. Afterwards Mr. Blair told me that he had been to Richmond, and had seen Mr. Jefferson per in your hands, with the information that ing going on to bring the figures of the quota Davis, and he (Mr. Blair) at the same time if you pass through the United States mili-

RICHMOND, Jan 12, 1865.

Sin: I have deemed it proper, and probagreat many able-bodied fellows between 20 the substance of the remarks made by me cure the commanding general to pass you

forms, and now, as heretofore, to enter into in due time by some person or persons for am ready to send a commission whenever I and further that you shall have protection have reason to suppose it will be received; safe conduct, and safe return in all events. or to receive a commissioner if the United States Government shall choose to send one. that, notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers, I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister, or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately and renew the effort to enter into a confer-

Yours, &c., JEFFERSON DAVIS. Afterwards, and with the view that it should be shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and

WASHINGTON, January 18, 1865. F. P. BLAIR, Fsq.—Sin: Your having hown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst., you may say to him that I have constantly been, am now, and shall continse ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person now resisting the national authority may informally send me with the view of securing peace to the peeple of our common country.

Yours, &c., thorized me to make an entry on myretained copy of the letter last above recited, which entry is as follows:

"To-day Mr. Blair tells me that on the our "Ways and Means" followed Peel's inst. Col. W. W. H. Davis, of the Doylesplan, and made no distinction between certown Democrat, was called to the chair, and original of which the within is a copy, and left it with him; that at the time of delivering it Mr. Davis read it over twice in Mr. Blair's presence, at the close of which he is I have sent directions to receive these Mr. Davis' letter about the two countries, structions. to which Mr. Davis replied that he so understood it.

" A LINCOLN." Afterwards the Secretary of War placed in my hands the following telegram, endorsed by him, as it appears:

Office United States Military Telegraph War Department.

The following telegram was received at Washington Jan. 29, 1865;

Headquarters Army of the James 6.20 P. M., Jan. 29, 1865. Hon. Edwin M. Siouton, Secretary of War: The following dispatch just received from Major General Parke, who refers it to me

E. O. C. ORD, Major General commanding. Headquarters Army of the Potomac, 4 P. M., Jan. 29, 1865. Major General E. O C. Ord, Major General Army of the James :

The following dispatch is forwarded to you for your action. Since I have no knowledge of Gen. Grant's having had any understanding of this kind, I refer the matter to you, as the ranking officer present in the two armies.

JOHN G. PARKE, Major Guneral Commanding. From Headquarters 9th Army Corps, Jan 29-Maj.-Gen. G. Parke.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac. Alexander H. Stevens, R. M. T. Hunter, and W. J. A. Campbell desire to cross my lines, in accordance with an understanding claimed to exist with Lieutenant General Grant, on their way to Washington, as

O. B. Wilsen. Maj.-Gen. Commanding 9th Corps. Respectfully referred to the President for such instructions as he pleased to give. EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of war. 8.30 P. M., Jan., 29, 1865.—It appears that about the time of placing the foregoing tel- things are indespensible, to wit: egram in hands the Secretary of War desnatched General Ord as follows, to wit: War Department,

Washington City, Jan. 29, 1865-19 P. H. Major General Ord: This department has no knowledge of any late annual message to Congress and in preunderstanding by Gen. Grant to allow any | cooling documents. person to come within his lines as commissioner of any sort. You will, therefore, al-

Arbant was EDWIN M. STANTON ... Secretary of War. [Sent in cipher at 2 A. M. 30th.] Afterwards, by the directions, the Secretary of War telegraphed General Ord as fol- The Conference not to Interfere with the War. lows, to wit: War Department, Washington, D. C.

10 A. M., Jan. 30, 1865. Major General E. O. C. Ord, Headquarters Army of the James : By direction of the President you are in-

structed to inform the three gentlemen, Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, or plans, that a messenger will be dispatched to them at or near where they now are, without necessary delay. EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War. Afterwards I prepared and put into the hands of Major Thomas T. Eckert the following instructions and message : Executive Mansion, Washington, Jan. 30 18651 Major T. ECHERT-Sir :- You will pro-

hands, and on reaching General Ord will deliver him the letter addressed to him by the Secretary of War. Then, by General Ord's assistance, procure an interview with Messrs Stevens, Hunter, and Campbell, or any of them, deliver to him or them the panstant, requesting information in relation per on which your own letter is written -to a conference recently held in Hampton Note on the copy which you retain the time Roads; I have the honor to state that on the of delivery and to whom delivered. Receive day of the data I gave Francis P. Blair, Sr., their answer in writing, wait a reasonable time for it, and which, if it contains their bearer, F. P. Blair, Sr., to pass our lines, go decision to come through without further condition, will be your warrant to ask Gen. Ord to pass them through, as directed in the their answer they desire to come, or propose other terms, do not have them passed At the time I was informed that Mr. Blair | through. And this being your whole duty,

> Yours truly, A. LINCOLN. Messes. Alex. H. Stevens. J. A. Campbell, and | Major Mckert:

GENTLEMEN: I am instructed by the President of the United States to place this paleft with me a manuscript letter as follows- | tary lines it will be understood that you do so for the purpose of an informal conference on the basis of that letter, a copy of which is on the reverse side of this sheet and that f you choose to pass on such understand. bly desirable to you, to give you in this form | ing, and so notify me in writing, I will proand 15, who were out and able to vote two to be repeated by you to President Lincoln, through the lines and to Fortress Monroe under such military precaution as he may deem I have no disposition to find obstacles in prudent, and at which place you will be met negotiations for the restoration of peace. I the purpose of such informal conference

> THOS. T. ECKERT, Major and A. D. C. CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 1, 1865.

Geenral Grant's Action. Afterwards, but before Major Eckert had departed, the following despatch was reecived from Gen. Grant:

Office U. S. Military Telegrah, War Department. The following telegram was received at Washington Jan. 31, 1865, from City Point. Va., 10.30 A. M. January 31, 1865

His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States: The following communication was re

ceived here last evening : Petersburg, Va., Jan. 30, 1865. Lieut, Gen. U. S. Grant, Commanding the Armies of the United States : Sin: We desire to pass your lines under

with a view of ascertaining terms it may be terminated in pursuance of the course indicated by him in his letter to Mr. Blair of January 18, 1865, of which we [In cipher.] presume you have a copy, and if not, we wish to see you in person, if convenient, and to confer with you on the subject.

Very respectfully, yours, ALEXANDER II STEPHENS. A. CAMPBELL R. M. T. HUNTER.

(Mr. Blair) remarked that the part about our gentlemen, and expect to have them at my one common country related to the part of quarters this evening awaiting your in-

Lieut. Gen. Com'g Armies of the U.S. This message, it will be perceived, transferred Gen. Ord's agency in the matter to General Grant. I resolved, however, to send Major Eckert forward with the message, and accordingly telegraphed General Grant as follows:

Executive Mansion, Washington, Jan. 31, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. Grant, City Point, Va.: A messenger is coming to you on the business contained in your dispatch. Detain the gentlemen in comfortable quanters until he arrives, and then act on the message he brings, as far as applicable, it having been made up to pass through General Ord's hands, and when the gentlemen were supposed to be beyond our lines.

A. LINCOLN. (Sent in cipher at 1.30 P. M.) When Maj. Eckert departed he bore with him a letter of the Secretary of War to Gen Grant, as follows, to wit : War Dep't, Washington, Jan. 30, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. Grant, &c., GENERAL: The president desires that you will please procure for the bearer, Major follows: Thomas T. Eckert, an interview with Messra. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, and if, on his return to you' he requests it, pass them through our lines to Fortress Monroe, by such route are under such military precaution as you may deem prudent, giving them I can get there. protection and comfortable quarters while

any effect upon your movement or plans: By order of the President: E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

Initructions to Mr. Seward. Supposing the proper point to be then reached, I despatched the Secretary of Executive Mansion, Washington Jan. 31. Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State: You will proceed to Fort Monroe, Va. there to meet and informally confer with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell on the basis of my letter to F. P. Blair, Esq., of January 18, 1865, a copy of which you have. You will make known to them that three

First, The restoration of the national authority throughout all the States. Second, No receding by the Executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the

On the day of its date the following telegram was sent to Gen. Grant:

War Department Washington, D. C., Feb. 1, 1865 Lieut, Gen. Grant, City Point, Va: Let nothing which is transpiring change, hinder, or delay your military, movements

[Sent in cipher at 9:30 A. M.] Afterwards the following despatch was eccived from Gen. Grant:

Office U. S. Military Telegraph,

[In cipher.] The following telegram, received at Washngton, 2:30 P. M., Feb. 1, 1865: From City Point, Feb. 1, 12:30 P. M.

His Excellency A. Lincoln, President United ceed with the documents placed in your Your dispatch received. There will be no armistice in consequence of the presence of Mr. Stephens and others within our lines. the shortest notice if occasion should justify | nated honorably. Our instructions con-U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen. To notify Major Eckert that the Secretary of State would be at Fortress Monroe, and

despatch was seat: War Department Major T. T. Eckert, care Gen. Grant, City upon, and we are prepared to receive or to Point, Va: Call at Fortress Monroe and put yourself letter of the Secretary of war to him. If by under direction of Mr. Seward, whom you

> On the morning of the 2d inst., the following telegrams were received by me respectively from the Secretary of State and

Fort Monroe, Va. Feb. 1, 11:30 P. M. The President of the United States: I arrived at ten this evening. Richmond party not here. I remain here. W. H. SEWARD. City Point, Va. Feb. 1, 10 P. M.

His excellency A. Lincoln, President United I have the honor to report the delivery of this afternoon, to which I received a reply at 6 P. M., but not satisfactory. At 8 P. M., the following note, addressed to Gen. Grant, was received :

City Point, Va. Feb. 1. To Lieut, Gen. Grant: Sin: We desire to go to Washington City to confer formally with the President per-

sonally in reference to the matters menof January. Without any personal comhave the permission to do so from the au- but which course we thought would amount the night of the 2d of February. thorities in Richmond.

Very respectfully, yours, ALEX. II. STEPHENS, J. A. CAMPBELL.

At 9:30 P. M. I notified them that they could not proceed further unless they . omplied with the terms expressed in my letter The point of meeting designated in the above note ought not, in my opinion, to be itsisted upon. I think Fort Monroe would be acceptable. Having complied with my instructions. I will return to Washington to morrow, unless otherwise ordered.

T. T. ECKERT, Major, etc.

Gen. Grant's belief that the Rebels were disposed to submet. upon the subject of the existing war, and Gen. Grant to the Secretary of War was cerning recent conversations or communica

> War Department. The following telegram was received at Washington 4:35 A. M., Feb. 2, from City Point: February 1,--10:30 P. M.

Hon, E. M. S anton, Sec'y of War: Now that the interview between Major state confidentially, but not officially, to and Minister Phenipotentiary of the United ple of both sections be resumed. become a matter of record, that I am conphens and Hunter, that their intentions are ing the subject referred to in the resolution. | mediate peace, with some, not very certain good and their desire sincere to restore peace and Union. I have not felt myself a at liberty to express any views of my own | Dep't of State, Washington, Feb. 10, '65. or to account for my reticences.

This has placed me in an awkward position, which I could have avoided by not seeing them in the first instance. I do not fear their going back without any expression from any one in authority will have a these informal commissioners at this time and do not know what to recommend. I am sorry that, however, Mr. Lincoln caunot have an interview with the two named in. this despatch, if not all three within our lines. Their letter to me was all that the President's instructions contemplated to secure their safe conduct, if they had used the same language to Major Eckert.

U. S. GRANT. Lieutenant General The President consents to the Conference. This despatch of Gen. Grant changed my purpose, and accordingly I telegraphed him | alone determine whether they are wise or

War Department, Washington, D. C., Feb. 2, 1865. Lieut. Gen. Grant, City Point, Va: Say to the gentlemen that I will meet

there, and that you let a none of this have [Sent in cipher at 9 P. M.]

War Department, Washington, D. C., Feb. 2. Hon. W. H. Seward, Fort Monroe, Va: Induced by a despatch from Gen. Grant, I join you at Fortress Monroe as soon as I A. LINCOLN. Before starting the following despatch was shown me. I proceeded nevertheless Office U.S. Military Telegraph, War Department.

The following telegram was received at Washington, Feb. 2, 1865, from City Point,

ton, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.) The gentlemen here have accepted the proposed terms, and will leave for Fortress Monroe at 8 30 A. M.

U. S. GRANT Licutement General. On the night of the 2d I reached Hampton Roads, found the Secretary of State, and He would send commissioners to confer Major Eckert on a steamer anchored off the with the President with a view to the resto-Third, No cossation of hostilities short of shore, and learned of them that the Rich- ration of peace between the two countrys, if an end of the war and the disbandings of all mond gentlemen were on another steamer he could be assured they would be received. low no one to come into your lines under the forces hostile to the Government. You also anchored off shore in the roads, and such character or profession until you re- will inform them that all propositions of that the Secretary of State had not yet seen coive the President's instructions, to whom theirs not inconsistent with the above will or communicated with them! I ascertained which the President, after acknowledging flow, and with her little lips she said, "Conone your telegram will be sent for his direct be considered and passed upon in a spirit that Major Eckert had literally complied that he had read the note of Mr. Davis, said found you! let me go." of sincere liberality. You will hear all with his instructions, and I saw for the first, that he was and always should be willing to Touching. —I took her hand; a long, low anything. Yours, &c., A. LINCOLN. swer is as follows, to wit: the authority of the Government, might seem the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the President, with the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the President, with the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the President, with the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the President, with the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the President, with the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the President, with the authority of the Government, might seem to confer informally with the president, with the president, with the president, with the president of the Government of the Governm

City Point, Va., Feb. 1, 1865. a view to the restoration of peace to the Thomas T. Eckert, Major and A. D. C .: MAJOR: Your note, delivered by yourself this day has been considered. For reply we have to say that we were furnished with a On the 29th inst., we were advised from the copy of the letter of President Lincoln to camp of Lieutenant Gen. Grant that Alex-Francis P. Blair, of the 18th of January ult., ander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter, and another copy of which is appended to your | John A. Campbell, were applying for a leave note. Our intentions are contained in a letter of which the following is a copy:

Instructions of Jeff. Davis. Richmond, Jan. 28, 1865. In conformity with the letter of President Lincoln of which the foregoing is a copy, you are to proceed to Washington City for informal conference with him upon the rssues involved in the existing war, and for the purpose of securing peace to the twocountries. With great respect, your obedi-

ent servant. JEFFERSON DAVIS. The essential object to be obtained by the informal conference is to ascertain upor The troops are kept in readiness to move at | what terms the existing war can be term; template a personal interview between President Lincoln and ourselves at Washington, but with this explanation we are ready to to put them in communication, the following meet any person or persons that President Lincoln may appoint, at such place as he may designate. Our earnest desire is that Washington, D. C., Feb. 1, 1865 | a just and honorable peace may be agreed submit propositions which may possibly lead to the attainment of that end.

> Very respectfully, yours, ALEX. H. STEPHENS. R. M. T. HUNTER J. A. CAMPBELL.

The Character and result of the Meeting. had an interview with the Secretary of State | Fortress Monroe. The Major had given the and myself, of several hours duration. No same information by telegraph to the Presithen and there made or mentioned. No formation the President prepared a telegram other person was present. No papers were directing the Secretary to return to Washexchangedor produced, and it was in advance | ington. agreed that the conversation was to be inform- The Secretary was preparing, at the same your communication and my letter at 4:15 al and verbal merely. On our part the whole moment, to return, without waiting for insubstance of the instructions to the Secretary | formation from the President. But at this of State, herein before recited, was stated and | juncture Lieut, Gen. Grant telegraphed to insisted upon, and nothing was said incon- the Secretary of War, as well as to the Secsistent therewith, while by the other party retary of State, that the party from Richit was not said that in any event, or any con- | mond had reconsidered and accepted the dition, they ever would consent to reunion, condition tendered them through Major and yet consent they equally emitted to de- | Eckert, and General Grant argently adclare that they would not consent. They vised the President to confer in person tioned in his letter to Mr. Blair of the 18th question and the adoption of some other circumstruces the Secretary, by the Presi-

nce ended without result.

submitted. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Executive Mansion, February 10, 1865. ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

Washington, Feb. 10, 1865. Report of Mr. Soward. The following was enclosed in the message sent to the Senate:

States, at London, and which is the only corvinced, upon conversation with Messrs. Ste- respondence found in this department touch- such postponement we might now have im-Respectfully submitted,

WM. H. SEWARD.

[Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams.]

Department of State, Washington, February 9, 1965. Sin: It is a truism that in the time of nounced that we can agree on no cessation pease there are always instigators of war. or suspension of hostilities except on the bad influence; at the same time, I recog- | So soon as a war begins there are citizens | basis of the disbandonment of the insurgent nize the difficulties in the way of receiving who impatienly demand negotiations of forces, and the restoration of the national peace. The advocates of war, after an authority throughout all the States in the agitation longer or shorter, generally gain | Union collaterally, and in subordination to their fearful end, though the war declared to the proposition which was thus anis not unfrequently unnecessary and unwise. nounced. So peace agitators in time of war untimely bring about an abandonment of conflict, sometimes without securing the advantages which were originally expected from the

conflict.

The agitators for war in time of peace, and for peace in time of war, are not unnecessarily, or perhaps ordinarily, unpatriotic in their purposes or motives. Results and the Secretary of State respectively as | unwise. The treaty of peace concluded at Gaudaloupe Hidalgo was secured by an ir- whatever form of peace might be proposed. regular negotiation under the don of the The President assured the other party that Government. Some of the efforts which while he must adhere to these positions he have been made to bring about negotiations would be prepared. so far as power was with a view to the end of our civil war, are them personally at Fort Monroe as soon as known to the whole world, because they erality. Its power, however, is limited by have employed foreign as well as domestic the Constitution, and when peace should be agents. Others with whom you have said to deal confidentially, are known to yourself, although they have not publicly transpired. Other efforts have occured her which are known only to the persons actually moving in them and to this Government. I am now to give for your information an account of an affair of the same general character, which recently received much attention here, and while doubtless will excite injury abroad. A tew days' ago Francis P. Blair, esq., of Maryland, obtained from the three-fourths of the States, so as to become President a simple leave to pass through a part of the national organic law. our military lines, without definite views know to the Government. Mr. Blair visited Richmond, and on his return he showed to Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State, For- the President a letter which Jefferson Davis cussed, or any of them. Nevertheless, it is had writen to Mr. Blair, in which Mr. Davis wrote that Mr. Blair was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Mr. Davis was now as he always had been, willing to send commissioners if assured they would be received or to receive any that shold be sent; that he

was not disposed to find obstacles in forms

The President, therefore, on the 18th day

of January addressed a note to Mr. Blair, in

people of our common country. Mr. Blair visited Richmond with this letter and then again came back to Washington

to pass through the lines to Washington, as peace commissioners to confer with the President. They were permitted by the Lieutenant General to come to his head quarters to await there the debision of the President. Major Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond at General Grants headquarters. The Major was directed to deliver to them a copy of the President letter to Mr. Blair, with a note to be addressed to them and signed by the Major in which they were directly informed that they were directly informed that they should be allowed to pass our lines. They would be understood as coming for an informal conference upon the basis of the aforenamed letter of the 18th of January to Mr. Blair, If they should express their assent to this condition in writing, then Major Eckert was directed to give them safe conduct to Fortress Monroe, where a person coming from the President would meet them. It being thought probable, from a report of the conversation with Lieut. Gen. Grant, that the Richmond party would in the manner prescribed accept the condition mentioned, the Secretary of State was charged by the President with the

duty of representing this Government in the expected informal conference. The Secretary arrived at Fortress Monroe in the night of the first day of February. Major Eckert met him on the morning of the 2d of February, with the information that the persons On the morning of February 3d the three | who had come from Richmond had not acentlemen, Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and cepted in writing the condition upon which ampbell, came aboard of our Steamer, and he was allowed to give them conduct to nucstion of preliminary to the meeting was dent at Washington. On receiving this in-

eemed to desire a postponement of that with the Richmond party. Under these course first, which as some of them seemed | dent's direction, remained at Fortress Monpromise on any question on the letter, we to argue, might or might not lead to reunion roe, and the President joined him there on

to an indefinite postponement. The confer- | The Richmond party was brought down the James river in a United States steam The foregoing containing, as is believed, I transport, during the day, and the transport all the information sought, is respectfully was anchored in Hampton Roads on the morning of the 3d. The President attended by the Secretary, received Messrs Stephens. Hunter and Campbell, on board the United States steam transport River Queen, in

Hampton Roads. The conference was altogether informal. There was no attendance of secretaries. clerks, or witnesses. Nothing was written or read. The conversation, although earnest and free, was calm and courteous and The Secretary of State, to whom was re- kind, on both sides. The Richmond party ferred a resolution of the Senate of the 8th | approached the discussion rather indiretly, inst., requesting the President of the United , and at no time did they make categorical On reading this despatch of Major Eckert | States, if in his opinion not incompatible elemands or tender formal stipulations or safe conduct, and to proceed to Washington I was about to recall him and the Secretary with the public interests, to furnish to the absolute refusals : nevertheless, during the to hold a conference with President Lincoln of State, when the following telegram from Senate any information in his possession conseveral points at issue between the Govern red under Executive sanction, including raised and discussed fully, intelligently, communications with the rebel Jefferson and man amicable spirit. What the in-Davis, or any correspondence relating there- surgent party seemed chiefly to favor was a to, has the honor to report that the Senate postponement of the question of separation, may properly be referred to a special message; upon which the war was waged, and a muof the President bearing upon the subject of tual direction of the efforts of the Governthe resolution and transmitted to the House ment as well as those of the insurgents, to , some extraneous policy or scheme for a Appended to the report is a copy of an in- , season, during which passions might be ex-Eckert, under his written instructions, and estruction which has been addressed to Charles | pected to subside and the armies be reduced. Mr. Stephens and party has ended, I will Francis Adams, Esq., Envoy Extraordinary and trade and intercourse between the peo-

> It was suggested by them that through prospect of an ultimate satisfactory adjustment of political relations between the Government and the States, section or people now engaged in conflict with it. The suggestion, though deliberately considered, was nevertheless regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce, and he an-

The auti-slavery policy of the United States was reviewed in all its bearings, and the President announced that he must not be expected to depart from the positions he had heretofore assumed in his proclamation of emancipation and other documents, as

these positions were reiterated in his annual message.
It was further declared by the President that the complete restoration of the national authority everywhere was an indispensable condition of any assent on our part to made, Congress must necessarily act in regard to appropriations of money and to the admissions of representatives from the

insurrectionary States. The Richmond party were then informed that Congress had on the 31st ult. adopted, by a constitutional majority, a joint resolution submitting to the several States the proposition to abolish slavery throughout the Union, and that there is every reason to expect that it it will soon be accepted by

The conference came to an end by mutual acquiescence, without producing an agreeperhaps of some importance that we have been able to submit our opinions and views directly to prominent insurgents, and to hear them in answer, in a courteous and

not unfriendly manner. I am, sir, your obedient servant. WM. H. SEWARD.

A TALE OF WOE .- I clasped her tiny hand in mine, I clasped her beauteous form; I vowed to shield her from the wind, and from the world's cold storm. She set her beauteous eyes on me, the tears did wildly

they may choose to say and report it to me. time the answer of the Richmond gentlemen receive any agent that Mr. Davis, or any sob came struggling on my ear, I felt her You will not assume to definitely consumate to him, which, in his dispatch to me, he other influential person now actually resting heart's tumultuous throb as full of love and characterizes as not satisfactory. That an the authority of the Government, might send | hope and fear, she said, while fell a pearly

tel, Philadelphia.3m