

be charged with treble the ordinary rate of postage, comprising one rate for return transportation to the dead letter office, one rate for registration there, and one rate for return transportation to the writers or owners.

Whole number of postage stamps issued for the year ending 30th of June last; 211,788,518, valued at \$5,908,522; whole number of stamped envelopes issued, 26,027,800, valued at \$781,711. Total value \$6,690,233—which is \$180,085 less than in 1860.

# THE JOURNAL.

Coudersport, Pa.

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1861

M. W. McALARNEY, Editor.

## SECRETARY CAMERON.

The following from the N. Y. Independent, in relation to the Report of Mr. Cameron, is only one of the many compliments he is daily receiving from those who were at the commencement of his administration opposed to him:

"There are many respects in which the recent Report of the Secretary of War, Mr. Cameron, is one of the most extraordinary that has ever been presented during the history of our Government, and, at a time less full of daily matter for thought and new wonder, would have called out even more interest than the already great interest which it has excited.

In the earlier months of this war of rebellion, much complaint was uttered of the War Department. Already fault-finding has been changed to admiration. People begin to have some conception of the enormous tasks imposed upon a Department that came under the charge of the present Secretary, not simply organized for peace times, but disorganized purposely by treacherous men, and left in a state that required well-nigh recreative power. And now that the result of seven months' administration is presented in Mr. Cameron's report, we do not hesitate to say that such an exhibit was never before made in the military annals of any people—even the most warlike and the best prepared. But a little more than half a year, and not only are there between six and seven hundred thousand men on foot, but, for the most part, they are now clothed, armed, drilled, and equipped and furnished with all the muniments of war, the mere list of which would swell to pages.

To do this the industry of the country, suddenly checked in its ordinary directions, was to be turned into new channels. The organization of this new army, the settling of complicated questions, the solution of unnamed and innumerable difficulties that must arise in the gathering and consolidating three-quarters of a million of men, and the nice questions between the Government and the separate states, full of very important but delicate matter, for which there were no guides or precedents—these and like matters can never be put upon paper, so as to make a show in any comparison with their real burden-bearing. And it is a remarkable feature in the war report of Mr. Cameron, that he details results with the utmost simplicity and clearness, and yet with brevity unapproached by a single effort at magnifying his tasks in order to catch praise.

Such a report makes one proud of the people of this land of the institutions which educate such a people.

## LITTLE BITS.

The rebels are again in possession of Lexington, Mo.

Counterfeit two dollar notes on the Allegheny Bank of Pittsburgh, are in circulation in the interior of the State.

A Michigan regiment, a few days since, traveled a distance of seven hundred and fifty miles by rail without a change of cars.

J. H. Green, better known as "the reformed gambler," holds the position of captain in an Indiana regiment.

Since the erection of the first Methodist church in America, in 1760, 14,000 have been erected—an average of three a week.

A Cincinnati paper states that southern secession is about to spoil, for want of salt. There is a good deal of truth in the assertion.

Isaac V. Fowler, the late defaulting postmaster of New York, is reported to be engaged in the tobacco business in Mexico.

The Federal troops have taken possession of Portsmouth, N. C., and there are said to be ten Yankee steamers in Pamlico Sound.

Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, returned to his seat in the Senate of the United States, on Friday week, and was warmly welcomed by all the loyal Senators.

The Federal government has sent 2,000 suits of clothes to our prisoners at Richmond.—Massachusetts has also sent 350 suits to those captured at Bull's Bluff.

On Thursday the Western Virginia convention abolished the system of voting *en masse* in the legislature, substituting that of voting by ballot.

From all parts of Illinois and Ohio we learn that the growing wheat crop never looked better at this season of the year than now.—Should the winter prove favorable, the prospect for an abundant harvest is flattering.

Last week a verdict of \$5,000 damages was awarded by the court and jury of Lycoming county against a man and wife for slandering another man and wife. The former called the latter "secessionists."

The income of the Post Office Department for the current year will come nearer by two and a half millions to paying the expenses than it has for a number of years past. This fact is explained by the cutting off of long and unprofitable routes through the rebel States.

At the close of the last session of Congress, Burnett, of Kentucky, went to Mr. Rives the publisher of the *Globe*, and sold his paper for this session.—Mr. Rives applied for it to the Sergeant-at-Arms, and found his claim was valueless. Southern Honor!

## SYNOPSIS OF WAR NEWS.

Gen. Buell has sent to Gen. McClellan a dispatch dated Louisville, Dec. 18, to the effect that McCook's division is at Munfordsville, and Gen. Mitchell at Bacon's Creek. Zollicoffer is either actually retreating across the Cumberland or is preparing to do so whenever any considerable force appears. On the 17th, soon after noon, there occurred a sharp skirmish between four companies of an Indiana regiment—350 men—and 3,000 of the rebels, with a battery of six pieces. After some hard fighting, the rebels retreated, with the loss of 85 killed and 50 wounded. Among the killed was the Colonel of the Texas Rangers. Our loss was 9 killed and 10 wounded.

There was a lively skirmish yesterday at Point of Rocks. A Rebel battery of three guns, hauled by 200 infantry, suddenly opened fire upon Col. Geary's regiment. The battery of the 28th Regiment at once replied, disabling one gun and driving the artillerymen from the others. The fight lasted about half an hour; the enemy lost at least 14 killed and many wounded. The Union troops lost not a man. When the Rebels had fled our guns were turned against some houses where 150 of them had hidden, and they were soon dislodged with severe loss.

From Missouri we have news the importance of which, though great, cannot well be accurately estimated at this moment. It is to the effect that Gen. Pope, who on Wednesday, by a forced march, menaced the Rebels in Johnson County, compelled them to retreat rapidly toward Rose Hill; they left in his hands all their baggage, arms, munitions of war, and camp equipment. He then threw forward ten companies of infantry and a section of artillery, and followed with his main army. As soon as they heard of his near approach the Rebels wildly fled; Gen. Pope captured 150 of them in one party, and about as many more in small squads. Price was reported to have only 8,000 men with him at Osceola.

The steamer Atlantic, from Port Royal the 17th, arrived. She brought 120,000 pounds of Sea Island cotton, with the information that 400,000 pounds more would be ready to come by the next steamer. A dispatch, dated two or three days before the sailing of the Atlantic, states that depression of spirits prevails throughout the whole South; that the general feeling is as if absolute failure had already settled upon them; that the sugar planters are all Union men; and that if we take Mobile or New Orleans the cotton planters will all bring their cotton in for sale. Furthermore, we are told that there exists at the South very great destitution, and that the planters have nothing to feed their slaves on.

## THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

In the Senate Mr. Doxhitle introduced a bill for the collection of direct taxes in the insurrectionary districts. It provides for taking the land in such districts for the payment of the tax, and that the President shall make known by proclamation what districts are insurrectionary.

Mr. Stevens from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill making an appropriation for the construction, preservation and repair of fortifications and works of defense.

Mr. Colfax reported a bill abolishing the franking privilege, the consideration of which was postponed until the second Tuesday in January.

In the Senate several eloquent eulogies upon Gen. Lyon were delivered.

In the House a resolution was adopted directing the Committee on the Judiciary to report a bill so amending the Fugitive Slave law of 1850, that no fugitive shall be returned without satisfactory proof being first made that his claimant is loyal to the Government.

Mr. Wilson introduced into the Senate a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to report an additional article of war providing that all officers of the army shall be prohibited from using any portion of the *loroc* under their command for the capture or return of fugitive slaves.

We learn that among the papers on Thursday transmitted to the Senate concerning Mexican affairs, was the project of a treaty with Mexico, the provisions of which are of such importance that it is even thought it would, if confirmed, lead to the withdrawal of England and France from the Spanish alliance. It provides that our Government shall pay \$11,000,000 to Mexico, to be applied to the satisfaction of English and French creditors, and for a grant to the United States of commercial privileges, the adjustment of our outstanding debts, and the right of transit across Mexican territory for troops and munitions of war. It is thought the treaty will be speedily confirmed, and sent at once to Vera Cruz.

We are still without decisive news from Washington concerning the Mason and Sidel affair. No formal communication from Lord Lyons to our Government has been made, but it is known that the matter has been talked of in private conversation between him and Secretary Seward. Nor has any Cabinet meeting been held, though Friday is the regular day for such a meeting. Of the nature of the dispatches from his Government to Lord Lyons nothing positive is known, but the impression is very general, and apparently rests on some foundation, that the demand will be in such a shape that negotiation will be easy. The prevailing feeling in the Capital is that the difficulty will be settled amicably, and without trouble.

## OUR ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

CAMP SHEPARD, Dec. 16, 1861. FRIEND H.—Thinking a line from here may be well received, I will pencil one. We are encamped on an eminence about two miles east of the Capitol and within the corporation limits of the "Federal City." Our Regiment numbers the 85th N. Y. S. V., and in connection with the 64th, 86th and Col. Bailey's Artillery of New York, and the New Jersey 9th forms the 3d Brigade of Gen. Casey's Division.

Considerable sickness prevails now among the troops in consequence of exposure and change of climate.

Do you ask what we are doing? Nothing but drilling—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as skirmishers and the alternate days Battalion manuevres. We meet some of the Potter boys nearly every day—who are attached to others Regiments—and I am proud to meet them, for in nearly every case we find them fine, sober, soldierly fellows who know their duties and will do them.—A blind man can see the difference between them and the men who are recruited from the cities and the large towns, where they will drink poor whiskey in lieu of God's beverage that flows so beautifully from our highland springs.

I have often heard the difference of the appearance of the free and slave districts, spoken of, but it has not all been told. Making a just allowance for the waste and destruction consequent upon quarantering a large body of troops in a country, this is still the most God-forsaken looking district I ever saw. There is nothing new—no sign of thrift or prosperity, no life or animation or spirit, except that imparted by the army and its concomitants. Devastation and blue ruin stalk like ghoully ghosts over the land. Now and then a half-starved team driven by a more than half-starved negro goes past drawing a vehicle that reminds one of the days of "Good Queen Bess." There are a few cattle and a few sheep; some swine, but they are mostly bined, and I am sure will never get fat. There are no comfortable homes, dilapidated houses appear here and there and at long intervals stands a stately mansion, built, as I suppose, by the effects of flesh and blood reared here and sold to southern planters. I tell you a curse is set upon this land.

Do you ask why we do not do something, strike or be struck? I can not tell, it is not the fault of the soldiers, they are anxious to "try this war hilt to hilt." There are soldiers enough here to drive the rebels from the "sacred soil," or to enrich it for a half century to come. But we must wait.

The weather here is more like our October than December. The nights cold, but mild through the day. Our address is 85th Reg., N. Y. S. V., Washington, D. C.

MEXICO. We should not at all be surprised if, very soon, another theatre of war would dawn upon the American continent. In the tropical regions of Mexico we may speedily look for the opening scenes of the fearful drama. England, France, and Spain, having deemed their injuries of an aggravating nature, and despairing of reparation from any regularly constituted and responsible government, have projected an expedition against that unfortunate Republic. The leader of this expedition will be Spain. She contributes an armament of over three hundred guns, six thousand sailors, and ten thousand men. In this contest, she will feel a peculiar pride. Mexico is an old possession, and the arms of her adventurers wrested it from the barbarian princes, who reigned with almost mythical splendor. Mexico has the religion, the language, the institutions and the traditions of Spain. An old colony, it will be a great achievement on the part of her Catholic Majesty if the legions of Spain once more take possession of Mexico.

Important Order. The Secretary of the Treasury is to appoint agents, who shall reside at such ports or places in the territory of the Rebels as are now or may hereafter be occupied by the National troops; the grand duty of these agents shall be to gather and prepare for market the crops grown in the regions under their supervision. In this work the military and naval forces of the United States shall aid by giving protection. Moreover, all slaves found within the limit of the agent's authority may be and are to be by him employed, the slaves so enrolled will be set to work in a systematic manner, and a strict account of their labor kept for which a fair rate of compensation will be paid. A record of all products and all stock taken possession of will also be kept, that of each plantation by itself; and when packages are shipped they are to be so marked that they can be easily distinguished. When the cotton and other articles are prepared for market, they shall be shipped to New York.

FROM CALIFORNIA.—By the overland telegraph we have late news from California. The Golden Age had left San Francisco for Panama, with 400 soldiers and \$860,000 in gold, and among her passengers were the Hon J. C. McKibbin, and Hon. Jas. Shields, the latter of whom accepts the Brigadier Generalship. The funeral of Senator Baker was en grossing public attention, the procession being the largest ever seen in San Francisco.

Kentucky has now thirty full regiments of loyal troops in the field, ready to fight, besides a good many fractions of regiments forming.

The Second Epistle of Philo to the Philanthropist to the Potter Countians.

DEARLY BELOVED: The former Epistle I wrote to you touching the propriety and duty of petitioning Congress to strike at the root of the Southern rebellion by taking measures for the eradication of Slavery. It has been said to me since, (in a neighboring State,) that emancipation would be an act of manifest injustice to the Southern people. Let us see if it would.

In considering this point, it will be quite proper, in the first place, to determine who are meant by "the southern people." The slaves are *not* meant—that is certain. No one would pretend, such a thing. Fully one third of the human inhabitants of the Slave States are slaves, it is true; but then so far from their being considered the southern people, it is hardly considered that they are people at all. Besides, even if this were not so, few would take the ground that it would be unjust to the slaves to be released from their bondage. Some would denounce it as uncalled for, and impolitic, and unsafe, and all that sort of thing; but that the slaves would suffer injustice by being freed, no man not pinched in an argument would pretend. The injustice supposed to be suffered would unquestionably be accounted as on the side of those who hold the slaves in bondage.

But are the southern people slaveholders? "Of course they are," is the response from scores and hundreds. I affirm, however, that they are not, any more than the northern people are rum-sellers. Slaves are certainly held there, and intoxicating drinks are certainly sold here, as also there; but the few—not the people—do the selling here and the holding there.

According to the census, the slave States contain about 12 millions of inhabitants, of whom about 4 millions are slaves, and about 8 millions are free persons. Of these 8 million free persons, about three hundred thousand, or three-twentieths of one million, are slaveholders, equal to 3 in 80, or at the most 1 in 26. The numerical proportion, then, which the three different classes of the southern population bear to each other, is about 77 non-slaveholders, 3 slaveholders, and 40 slaves! Of the whole free population of the South, not more than 1 in 26 holds even one slave. Look at this! Twenty-five persons who do not hold slaves for every one person that does; and yet the holders of slaves are habitually spoken of as being "the southern people!" Out upon such a representation! The slaveholders of the South are not the southern people, any more than the nobility of England are the English people. They manifestly are the rulers, the oppressors, the tyrants of the southern people, white as well as black; but as to their being "the people," they are not.

The political and governmental power of the several slave States, is all (or nearly all) in the hands of the few slaveholders residing in those States. The masses of the people have little or nothing to do with political and governmental matters beyond voting the slaveholders into office. Indeed, a very great many of the voters (if not the most of them) are incapable of reading the names on the ballots which they deposit. And why is this? Simply because where slavery is, common schools are not, and the masses are of course uneducated. They also are mostly poor, and likely to continue so, it being a hard case to compete with slave labor. And being obliged to work, they are regarded by the slaveholders as little better than slaves, "white niggers," "poor white trash," and like expressions, are freely applied to them, excepting, perhaps, when their votes are wanted. Now would it be an act of injustice to these poor degraded non-slaveholders, to set the slaves free, inaugurate a system of free labor, establish schools, and give the "poor whites" a chance to rise in the social scale? Certainly not—manifestly not.

But even admitting that the slaveholding oligarchy of the South are really "the people" of the South, would there really be any injustice in setting free their human chattels? It is morally certain that nineteen twentieths of the slaveholders (if not ninety-nine hundredths of them) are rebels against the government—openly avowed, active, determined rebels. Those few of them who are not so, (a precious few indeed there are of them,) would probably jump at the chance to be paid for their slaves; and Uncle Sam can well afford them a reasonable compensation. As for the bulk of the slaveholders, they are endeavoring, by torcs of arms, to subvert the best government in the world; the war which they have begun is to cost thousands of lives, and many millions of treasure; and whatless do such miscreants deserve than to have not merely their slaves taken from them, but also their *lawful* property confiscated to help pay expenses, and in the end to have their rebellious necks appropriately decorated with hempen convicts?

Very Respectfully, PHILOS.

Froumont's Body Guard was mustered out of service on the 26th ult. Thirteen members only dissented. We are informed that Gen. Sturgis was detailed to muster them out, and when they were drawn up in line before him, he emphatically declined to be instrumental in discharging such a splendid body of men from service. He remonstrated with his commander, and another officer was detailed to discharge the duty. The guard propose to re-organize under other auspices.

The Italian army is impatient for action and demands are made either for war or for disbanding.

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JOHN S. MANN, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW, Coudersport, Pa., will attend the several Courts in Potter and McKean Counties. All business entrusted in his care will receive prompt attention. Office corner of West and Third streets.

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COUDERSPORT HOTEL, D. F. GLASSMIRE, Proprietor, Corner of Main and Second Streets, Coudersport, Potter Co., Pa. A Livery Stable is also kept in connection with this Hotel.

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# THE POTTER JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED BY M. W. McAlarney, Proprietor. \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

\*\* Devoted to the cause of Republicanism, the interests of Agriculture, the advancement of Education, and the best good of Potter county. Owning no guide except that of Principle, it will endeavor to aid in the work of more fully Freedomizing our Country.

Advertisements inserted at the following rates, except where special bargains are made:

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All transient advertisements must be paid in advance, and no notice will be taken of advertisements from a distance, unless they are accompanied by the money or satisfactory reference.  
Blanks, and Job Work of all kinds, attended to promptly and faithfully.

Administrator's Notice. NOTICE is hereby given that letters of administration on the estate of BENJ. T. HOXIE, late of Sweden township, Potter Co., dec'd, have been granted to the subscriber, and he has taken possession of all the assets of the Register of Potter county, to whom all debts due to said estate and claims against the same, must be presented for settlement or payment. J. W. BIRD, Adm'r. Sweden, Sept. 2, 1861.