

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1862.

TEN CENT STAMPS.

Our friends will please not send us these, nor any of the large stamps. We cannot use them, and our Postmaster will not exchange for them. Send only THREE cent and ONE cent stamps.

The Ferry Laid.—It is said that Capt. BUCHANAN and seventeen men, of the Merrimack, were killed, by the Cumberland's shot, before she sank. The shot penetrated through the port holes.

It is also said that the rebels have evacuated Island No. 10.

Crowded Out.—An excellent letter on the distribution of our Board's books in the Army, and also our Eastern Summary, are omitted this week for want of room.

Western University.—The accession of Rev. SAMUEL FINLEY to the Chair of Rhetoric, in this Institution, increases the number of Professors to four—all actively engaged. Pittsburghers should embrace the favorable opportunity here offered, in the education of their families.

A Minister's Son Taken Prisoner.—Lieut. JOHN J. NEVIN, of the Sewickley Guards, Co. G, 28th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, was taken prisoner by the rebels, on day last week. He is the son of the Rev. D. E. NEVIN, of Sewickley, and an excellent officer.

Death of a Minister at Fort Donelson.—The Rev. DABNEY CARR HARRISON, son of the Rev. PEYTON HARRISON, D. D., of Virginia, was killed at the taking of Fort Donelson. He was acting as a captain in the rebel service. His brother, PEYTON HARRISON, Jr., was killed at the battle of Bull Run, and three cousins have likewise fallen in battle since the war began. He was a brother-in-law of the Rev. WM. J. HOGG, B. D., formerly colleague of Dr. SPRING, in New-York, but now pastor of the church in Charlottesville, Va.

THE WAR TIDINGS.

Information from the Seat of War, along our whole line, with the exception of one point, is cheering. We have neither time nor space to enter minutely into details. The Christian will, with the trust and deepest gratitude, thank God for the tidings. The exception we note first—the disaster in Hampton Roads. The Merrimack, which did so much mischief, is a first-class steam frigate which was sunk at the Gosport Navy Yard, when the place was abandoned, last Spring. The rebels raised her and coated her with iron plates totally impervious to all ordinary artillery. Our Government neglected too long to prepare vessels of similar armor, to meet her. This was the greatest dereliction of duty which we have known in governmental management since the war began. Happily the Monitor, a small iron-clad steamer, built at New-York, arrived in time to save the Merrimack, Roanoke, and St. Lawrence, all of which must have been lost, only for this protector.

The decisive battle in ARKANSAS, announced in the dispatch of Gen. HALLECK, was fought, mainly, on the 7th inst. The enemy were the attacking party, and had greatly superior numbers. The rebel Generals McCULLOCH and MITCHELL are said to have been mortally wounded. Gen. CURTIS has shown himself to be possessed of great ability, as well as bravery. Gen. STROZEL was distinguished in the action. The reports of losses vary. Many fell, on both sides. Our army captured many of the enemy.

COLUMBIA is fully in our possession, and we daily expect to hear of the fall of New Madrid and Hickman, and the advance of the fleet down the Mississippi, to Island No. 10, and thence to Randolph, Tenn.

GENS. BURKE and GRANT are preparing their divisions for advances. The former may be expected soon to report progress toward East Tennessee. On the Potomac, the grand army is in motion, and the enemy flies. Centerville, Manassas, and their suburbs, are in the possession of Gen. McCLELLAN. Only a few particulars of the grand event are yet forwarded. The enemy is not likely to make a stand, short of the Rappahannock, and probably not short of Richmond, and we think not even there. His retreat from the whole State of Virginia, is now a military necessity.

BURNSIDE'S expedition is in danger from the retreating foe, but he is brave and cautious, and may retire, if pressed too hard, under the protection of his gunboats. If he is able to advance and hold the railroads from Norfolk and Richmond, South, the enemy is in the trap. The hastiness of the retreat may enable him to escape.

The expedition from Fort Royal is an entire success, without a battle. The whole seaboard, from North Edisto, S. C., to Fernandina, Fla., is now in our possession.

Bowling Green, Columbus, and Manassas, all fall without the firing of a gun in battle! Wonderful! See here the power of strategy, the success, the saving of human life! While men were condemning the Commander-in-Chief, and trying to alienate from him the confidence of the President, the Secretary of War and the people, he patiently bears their mad reproaches, and carries out his plans to rout the enemy, and save the lives of our brave sons, husbands and brothers, and make the country to triumph. Thanks are due to God; and prayers are still to be offered that our rulers may have wisdom and zeal, fortitude and success. The Lord give us peace, on principles of rectitude.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION, TO BE MAINTAINED ON CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

There are different views at the North relative to the results to be accomplished by the war. There has been, and still is, and we hope will be to the end, a wonderful unanimity so far as concerns the entire suppression of the rebellion, and therewith the restoration of the National authority, the Constitution and the laws, throughout the whole country. There is to be no division in the country, no loss of the right of eminent domain, no loyal citizen left under the hand of oppression. To make this attainment to the full, is a National, social, and Christian duty.

But when we come to discuss other ends to be attained, or, more definitely, our security for the future, there are great differences; and these may yet cause much trouble. There is a very general agreement in opinion, that slavery is, somehow, the cause of the rebellion. Some regard it as the direct and primary cause. Others regard aristocratic feeling and political ambition as the cause, but still admit that the conspirators could have accomplished nothing without the cry that slavery was in danger. A few ascribe the dissensions which culminated in secession and war, to the fanaticism of Northern abolitionists. These are doubtless deeply involved in the producing of our National troubles. But still whatever they may have done was called forth by the existence of slavery; and slavery rising up to repel them, needlessly and with wicked hands, initiated the war. Thus, manifestly, slavery lies near the root of the evil, and may be denominated the cause. It was to protect and extend slavery, and to preserve its dominance, that the war was waged.

Setting out then with this as an axiom, the conclusion is regarded by some as most obvious, that slavery must be abolished. How would you heal a disease but by removing its cause? And if you should, by medicaments, effect a seeming cure, may you not expect the disease to break out again, if the cause still abides in the system? There is, of course, great force in such reasoning, and yet it might lead to very unwise treatment. Sometimes the cause of bodily sufferings is such that the application of the knife would produce certain and speedy death; and sometimes it is such, that violence and unskillful treatment would be certain destruction, while mild and judicious treatment would save the patient's life, and would finally and fully take away even the cause of all his sufferings.

How is it then with our national calamities? Admitting slavery to be the cause, how can it be removed with safety, or how amounts to the same thing nationally, how can it be rendered innocuous? Senator SUMNER may be regarded as the exponent of this view who would remove slavery suddenly and violently. He would apply the knife at once. It happens that the organic and fundamental law of the nation claims no power over slavery. It recognizes slavery solely as a State institution, and as being entirely under State control. How the United States Government, founded on this organic law, can touch slavery, is the difficulty. It would be an assumption of power. It would be a breach of covenant among the people who made the Constitution, and with the States which ratified it. It would be a violation of official oath on the part of the President, the Congressmen, the Judges, and every public functionary who had anything to do in the transaction.

The difficulty is a serious one, but Mr. SUMNER thinks he has a plan for its removal. He has accordingly laid on the table of the Senate a preamble and resolutions which he desires to have the country adopt and execute. The paper is entirely too long for the space we have to spare. The substance of it is, that the seceded States, by the act of Secession, committed a felony, a self-detruction, and have ceased to exist. He then resolves:

"That slavery being a peculiar local institution, derived from local laws, without any origin in the Constitution or in natural rights, is upheld by the sole and exclusive authority of the State, and must, therefore, cease to exist legally or Constitutionally, when the State on which it depends no longer exists; for the incident cannot survive the principal."

This slavery is annulled and abolished. And the States being annihilated, all their territory by right of eminent domain, belongs to the United States, and every man occupying United States territory is a freeman, and entitled to protection in all his natural rights, and Congress is bound to make provision for the proper government of all the territory and all its inhabitants, on terms of perfect equality. This is radical, but would it be just? Suppose ambitious and wicked men in Pennsylvania, infidels or "whiskey boys," if you please, should get hold of the reins of power, declare secession and take up arms, would it be just in Congress to enact that Pennsylvania had committed a felony, and that all individual rights held under State laws were abrogated—our rights to our churches, to a quiet Sabbath, or to our lands, or to anything else that would or fancy might choose to touch? Would it not rather be the duty of Congress, under the National compact, to put down the usurpers, and restore the State?

We said that Mr. SUMNER laid his paper on the table; and it is likely to lie there, or, if he shall call it up, it is likely to be consigned to a committee for interment. There are not many of our statesmen who are ready for a measure so radical. Most regard it as being utterly subversive of the Constitution; and deeply and cordially as they hate slavery, they could resort to no such measure for its removal.

As an offset to Mr. SUMNER'S proposition, "Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky presented a series of resolutions declaring that the Constitution is the fundamental law of the Government, and the rights of the people

are fixed and immutable, and cannot be abrogated by any other power than the Constitution, and any attempt to abrogate or destroy the rights guaranteed by the Constitution is inhuman and unjust, and an outrage on civilization; that there is no power in the Constitution to abrogate or destroy any of the rights of the people, and any rights or privileges that may have been suspended by the existence of the war, will be resumed on the close of the war as if they had not been suspended; that no State, by any vote or secession act, can abrogate her rights or obligations, or the obligations of the United States to preserve her people in the enjoyment of all their rights, and to guarantee to such State a republican form of government; that there can be no confederation of any property or infringement of the rights of loyal citizens, unless for acts declared to be criminal; that it is the duty of the United States to suppress the rebellion speedily, carrying the sword in one hand and Justice in the other, and to restore the States to their original condition."

This declaration will probably meet with as few friends as the other. It comes greatly short of what the public requires in settling matters with those engaged in the rebellion. President LINCOLN, in his inaugural address, declared his purpose to re-possess the forts and all the property of the United States, and to uphold the Constitution and administer the laws, in the whole country; and we have not seen any indication that he will stop short of this attainment, or will seek any thing farther.

Rebellion is the act of individuals; and Secession, though passed by a Legislature, was an unconstitutional act, and hence could not bind the people, nor render the people personally criminal. And even when the seceding act was passed by a convention and ratified by a majority vote, it could not bind the whole people of the State. It being illegal, none can justly be held responsible but those who voted for it. It would be unjust, and cruel, to make good Union men suffer loss in common with the guilty, because their State Legislature was faithless, and their neighbors traitors. And there are many good men in all the States. In most of the States South, a large majority of the people were ardently Union men at the beginning of the trouble. On a test vote, the Union majority in Tennessee was over fifty thousand. But the power was in the hands of designing politicians, who, by force, fraud, and falsehood, carried Secession.

It would hence be unconstitutional and unreasonable to adopt any measure involving the whole people of the States, loyal and disloyal, innocent and guilty, friends of the Union and foes, in a common calamity. This objection lies against the proposition of Mr. SUMNER; and it is one which cannot be surmounted, unless the nation were brought to such an extremity that its life or death were involved. Such, happily, is not, and is not likely to be, our condition.

It is, as we suppose, the purpose of the President, Cabinet, majority in Congress, that is, of the law-making and administrative power, to pursue a course between the propositions of Mr. DAVIS and Mr. SUMNER. The war is waged neither for the abolition nor for the protection of slavery. Slavery suffers from the war. The death blow has fallen upon the cruel institution. It must die; perhaps die slowly, but die it must. This is an incident of the war. But the end aimed at by the Government is the preservation of the Union, and the enforcement of the laws. It will put down the rebellion; and will seek its security for the future, in the punishment of the rebels. What that punishment shall be, must be determined by the law. They are transgressors of law, and justice requires that they shall bear the law's penalty—death, or imprisonment, or forfeiture of property, or loss of political rights, or all of these, according to each age's degree of criminality—always remembering that mercy has her claims.

The Union must be preserved, the Constitution maintained, and the laws executed; and in doing this, private rights must not be violated. The protection of the loyal is as much a duty as is the suppression of the rebellious. There must be neither injustice nor cruelty. The nation must have a conscience. If we would have God on our side, we must do no iniquity, while our magistrates "bear not the sword in vain." They are "God's ministers," to execute wrath; but it is to be only "on those who do evil." Let us be Christians, guided and restrained by God's Word. Every private member of the Church, every minister of religion, and every Christian editor has a duty to perform, in the present emergency. To do this aright he needs Divine wisdom. He needs the Word of God, and the Spirit of God. He needs meekness with his counsel, a docile mind and a praying soul. Lord teach us. Make the people to know and love righteousness. And may the right prevail, in all our counsels.

RELIGION IN CAMP. The Christian religion, and its ordinances, are adapted to man in every situation in which he is placed. We have before us a letter from a chaplain in Camp Johnston, in which he recounts some of his labors and experience. At a time of much sadness and discouragement, he received a letter from the Christian Association in Pittsburgh, authorizing him to purchase a large tent for a house of worship, and draw on them for a hundred dollars in payment. He had the tent erected speedily, and on the first Sabbath it was occupied by an announced purpose to attend to Sacramental services on the next Sabbath. The week was occupied in evening preaching, in which he had at length, after much difficulty, been reunited for one of the missionaries; but the unsettled state of things, on account of the vicinity of an insurgent force, led the brethren to postpone for awhile his removal to that place. The reported invasion of the insurgents was causing much excitement among the people. In the midst of this, the brethren observed with

profession, and of these six received baptism. Twenty more afterwards gave in their names. The Lord's name be praised.

The following are the Articles of Association in this band of brethren:

"We who have associated ourselves as Christians, the professed followers of Jesus the Son of God and Saviour of the world, do not desire that we should be understood as breaking the tie which binds us to the churches of which we are members. "But we thus associate for mutual edification. That we may know and watch over each in the Lord. That there may be received into Christian communion those who wish to profess faith in Christ, and that the Sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper may be administered amongst us. "Believing that there is 'One Lord, one faith, one Baptism,' and that the great fundamental truths of the Gospel are held as the most sacred of heritages by us all, we in the unity of the Spirit, a little band by love together knit, associate ourselves as Christians. "But for our more perfect understanding and that those outside may have no doubt as to the Christian doctrines which we hold in common and confess: "1. We believe in the inspiration of the Bible, that it expresses the mind and will of God in regard to man, and that it is the only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. "2. We believe in the Supreme Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that he is God manifest in the flesh, and we worship him as God, and likewise in the personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit—and we worship him as the Comforter—the healer, teacher, and purifier of the human soul. "3. We believe that from our first parents we have inherited a nature corrupt and prone to evil—and if left to ourselves no one would ever attain to true righteousness. "4. That we are justified before God, not by our tears of repentance, or prayers, or painful sacrifices, but by faith in the Atonement of our Lord on the cross; that he died the just for the unjust. "5. We believe likewise in the eternal judgment, and that all of us must give account for the deeds done in the body; and that those who die in their sins shall depart into everlasting punishment; but the righteous shall live forever. "6. On the basis of these principles of faith, without dropping any of our denominational peculiarities, we associate as brethren in the Lord. "And we promise to study each other's good—to watch over each other—to pray with and for each other—to rebuke when we go astray—to bear each other's burdens—to speak of one another to the Lord—as patient and gentle with each other—to dwell together in love—and to use every means in our power to advance the interests of religion in the world. "We promise likewise to honor our officers, to submit to those in authority over us, and as far as possible to carry the Spirit of Christ into all our military life."

HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD. DOMESTIC MISSIONS. The Record gives us an interesting letter from the missionary at Denver City, Colorado Territory. A church was organized at Denver, Dec. 15, embracing eighteen members and two Elders. This is a fair beginning; but it should be followed up with great energy. Colorado contains about thirty thousand inhabitants. Churches should be organized immediately. The gold diggings concentrate the people; and such fields are properly under the care of the Board. The missionary should be always found in new settlements. It is like sowing seed, in the Spring season, when it will take root and flourish.

RECORDS: in January, at Philadelphia, \$18,094; at Louisville, \$193.

EDUCATION. The Record gives two articles on the subject of the ministry, one of which may be seen on our first page.

RECORDS: in Philadelphia, \$4,420; in Pittsburgh, \$836.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. There is nothing new from the INDIAN TRIBES. From SOUTH AMERICA we gave the most recent intelligence a week or two ago. At Corisco, Africa, Mr. MACKAY says:

"We have much that is interesting in our work here, though we have not the evidence of an active work of grace as at some previous times. The members of the mission are all in ordinary health, and are all engaged with interest in their work."

From INDIA there is nothing new. In SIAM, Mrs. MATTOON'S health was such as to render it uncertain whether she could long remain in Siam. She had been quite well but was slowly recovering. At the Communion on the first Sabbath of November, a native girl was admitted to the church.

In JAPAN, Dr. HEPPELBERG asks for help. From China the news is interesting. We read:

"At Canton, Mr. HAPPER had the pleasure of baptizing a native woman, the wife of a Chinese who was baptized some years ago, but who had since returned to China. Six other persons applied for admission to the church, and it is hoped they will be received, after longer trial. The two hospitals, and the branch dispensary at Fat-shan, were doing a good work. The latter place will be occupied as a station as soon as the mission is reinforced."

Mr. CULBERTSON and his family had returned to Shanghai. All the brethren lamented the death of the Rev. Dr. BURDEMAN, at that city, for thirty years a faithful missionary of the American Board in China. Of late years, he and Mr. CULBERTSON have been closely connected together in the work of translating the Scriptures."

"At Ningpo, Mr. DODD was ordained by the Presbytery on the 3d of November; Mr. GREEN preached the sermon, and Mr. BLANKIN gave the charge. In this all, a large tent for a house of worship, and draw on them for a hundred dollars in payment. He had the tent erected speedily, and on the first Sabbath it was occupied by an announced purpose to attend to Sacramental services on the next Sabbath. The week was occupied in evening preaching, in which he had at length, after much difficulty, been reunited for one of the missionaries; but the unsettled state of things, on account of the vicinity of an insurgent force, led the brethren to postpone for awhile his removal to that place. The reported invasion of the insurgents was causing much excitement among the people. In the midst of this, the brethren observed with

pleasure that the native Christians did not give way to the prevailing alarm, but rested on the promise of God's care of his children. Dr. and Mrs. McCARTER had embarked for San Francisco in the barque What Cheer, expecting to call at Kanagawa.

At Tung-chow all was quiet, though the banditti threaten to return in the Spring. Mr. NEVINS speaks of the little room they occupy as a chapel being filled to overflowing by Chinese hearers, and a woman aged eighty-three years had applied for baptism."

RECORDS: in January, \$18,707. PUBLICATION. The Board is diligently occupied in preparing books for the soldiers and sailors, and sending them to the full extent of their means. Contributions in aid of this work are faithfully applied, and profitable in results. (See another column.) RECORDS: in January, donations, \$1,719; Sales, \$3,093.

CHURCH EXTENSION. The fiscal year of this Board closes the 1st of April. Contributions received up to that time will be embraced in the Annual Report. Sixty applications for aid are on file. Much help is needed. RECORDS: in January, \$830.

Revival.—The congregation of Bethesda, (New Lisbon Presbytery), has recently enjoyed a precious season of grace. A series of meetings, conducted chiefly by Rev. ROBERT HAYS, resulted in the addition of twenty persons to the church. Others are inquiring. The pulpit has been supplied for several months by D. M. MILLER of the Western Theological Seminary.

Bristol, Ohio.—At a recent communion in the Presbyterian church of this place, Rev. C. B. DUNGAN, pastor, twenty persons were added, on examination, ten of whom received the sacrament of baptism. The occasion was one of much solemnity, and hopes of a continued blessing are entertained.

Rev. FREDERICK T. BROWN having resigned the charge of the Westminster church, Cleveland, Ohio, and accepted a call to the Bristol Street church, (late Dr. Boock's), Georgetown, D. C., desires to be addressed accordingly.

Rev. SAMUEL FINLEY, having accepted the Professorship of Rhetoric in the Western University, has returned to Pittsburgh. Correspondents will please address him accordingly.

Rev. Mr. BIRCH, Springfield, Illinois.—The name is G. W. F. Birch, and not G. W. H. Birch, as printed a short time ago.

Rev. EDGAR WOODS, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Columbus, Ohio, has resigned his pastoral charge.

Rev. SAMUEL HIBBEN has resigned the pastoral charge of the Second Presbyterian church, Peoria, Illinois.

Rev. JAMES H. CALLEN has received a unanimous call from the church at Kingston, New-Jersey, of which Dr. T. L. Janeway was formerly pastor.

Rev. CHARLES WOOD has received a call from the Presbyterian church, Absecon, New-Jersey.

Mr. JOHN S. STEWART was ordained by the Presbytery of West Jersey, and installed pastor of the church of Greenwich, Feb. 11.

For the Presbyterian Banner. Revival. PAPA, FULTON CO., ILL., March 2d, 1862.

MR. EDITOR:—The Presbyterian church in this place has for some time past been enjoying a precious season of revival—the result of which, thus far—forty-two persons have been added to our number—all on examination. About a year ago we enjoyed a precious revival in this church, when twenty-four were added. A good state of feeling continued through the Summer, and in the early part of the past Winter it became manifest that the special influences of the Holy Spirit were again in our midst, and the result has been as stated above. On the first of January, 1861, this church did not number more than fifty members. Since then sixty-seven new members have been added, nearly all by profession. Thirty-eight of these are heads of families, and thirty-seven received the ordinance of baptism. Thus in a little more than a year this church has increased more than doubled its membership. There has been no noisy excitement—no efforts to get up a revival. But our meetings have been skill and solemn, and full of tender interest. All have felt that it was the work of the Lord—and that these great blessings have been bestowed in answer to the prayers of his people. "Truly the Lord has done great things for us whereof we are glad," and we would magnify and bless his holy name. Yours, &c. H. QUILLIN.

For the Presbyterian Banner. Testimonial. At a meeting of the Addison Literary Society of Leeburg Institute, held February 21st, the following resolutions relative to the death of Sergeant R. P. Jaek, were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, In the insurmountable providence of God, our esteemed fellow-student has been called from time to eternity; therefore Resolved, That in his death we have lost a companion endeared to us by his many virtues and noble spirit; one who was an ornament to society, and who had fair to become the pride of his associates and a blessing to his country.

Resolved, That while we mourn his death, we yet believe that our loss is his gain, and that while responding to his country's call, he became a soldier for its defence, he was also a faithful soldier of the Cross.

Resolved, That we sincerely condole with his bereaved mother, brothers and sisters, in their afflictions, and pray God that he may enable them to look up through their tears to Him who alone can heal their wounded heart, and sustain them in their sorrows.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published, and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased. J. C. WILSON, D. BOWERS, Committee.

PERSONAL. The Charge at Roanoke Island.—At the battle of Roanoke, when the 9th New-York Regiment, under the lead of Col. Hawkins and Lieut. Col. Betts, was pushing through the woods on the right, in the flank movement upon the rebel battery, but one company had advanced when Gen. Park ordered the regiment to charge. The battery, taking the route in front, the charge was led by Major Kimball, and the movement was the brilliant feature of the day. We copy the following from the Boston Post:

"One of the most brilliant charges during the war was that of Major Kimball, at the head of a small detachment of the New-York 9th, in the hottest of the fight at Roanoke Island. From the account it would seem to have been most daringly ordered on that day, and most splendidly executed as it is with action and splendid deeds. It is regarded by one writer as the turning-point of the action. While the Massachusetts 21st and the New-York 61st charged the battery to the right, the left wing of the New-York 9th, (Hawkins' Zouave), with Major Kimball, charged up the road in the face of the works, at which the panic-struck rebels fled, and the platoon, the Massachusetts and the New-York colors floating from the parapet, amid cheers that shook the forest.

"Those who know Maj. Kimball need not be told how brave and undaunted a man he is when the music is the roar of the battle. It was he who, as the captain of the Vermont company, in a former Ninth Infantry, (the Ninth United States or New-England regiment during the Mexican war), and the summit of Chepultepec was Col. Seymour, of Connecticut, and with him struck down the Mexican flag that floated there, and planted the Stars and Stripes in its place. It was a splendid act, and won the admiration of the gallant soldiers who saw it, as it did the applause of the country when it heard of it. Captain Kimball was brevetted with the rank of Major for gallant services in Mexico, and has not been in service until the breaking out of the rebellion. Democratic in politics, but liberal, enlightened and tolerant, he was formerly an attorney at law, and the editor of the Woodstock, Vt., Age—which journal he left to raise a company in the late Col. Ransom's New-England or 9th U. S. Regiment at the outbreak of the war with Mexico. During the administrations of Pierce and Buchanan—we believe both—he held an appointment in the New-York Custom House, the duties of which post he discharged with faithfulness and integrity.

Commander David B. Porter.—Commander David B. Porter, officer in command of the USS Fleet, which is soon to operate against the enemy in some at present unknown section, is a Pennsylvanian. He entered the naval service of the United States as a Midshipman, February 2d, 1829, ranking the second of the class. He was commissioned as Lieutenant, Feb. 27, 1841. He has seen nineteen years of sea service, eight years and nine months of shore duty, and out of thirty-two years service he has been unemployed only four years and nine months. Such is his record of devotion and industry.

Physically speaking, he is one of the most powerful men in the navy, and is noted for his fearless courage and daring. Being in the prime of life, having acknowledged abilities as an officer, we expect the most perfect success from his expedition.

He is a brother of Wm. D. Porter, commander of the Essex, and lately very severely wounded in the engagement at Fort Henry. Commodore Porter, at the earnest solicitation of prominent gentlemen in New-York, took command of the steamer State of Georgia, plying between New-York and Aspinwall. This soon became the most popular steamer on the line, being noted for good order and discipline.

In the year 1855, he was sent to Smyrna, in command of the storeship Supply, to bring to this country cannon purchased by our Government for the purpose of arming the army transportation. He performed this duty to the entire satisfaction of the Government, and safely landed in Texas those wanderers of the desert. During the visit of the Japanese Embassy, Commodore Porter, in conjunction with Com. Dupont, and Captain Sidney Smith Lee, brother of the rebel Gen. Lee, formed, their escort, and largely contributed to the comfort and enjoyment of the Ambassadors.

The Mortar fleet will be composed of twenty-five or thirty schooners, armed with mortars of the largest calibre, lately cast at Pittsburgh. Besides these mortars, each vessel will have an effective armament of rifled cannon or 32-pounders.

The country will honor Gov. Morton, of Indiana, for appointing, as the successor to Mr. Bright in the Senate, Hon. Joseph A. Wright. Mr. Wright is a native of Pennsylvania, and has been a citizen of Indiana for a number of years. He served in Congress as a representative of that State from 1843 to 1845, was chosen Governor of Indiana terms, and was appointed by Mr. Buchanan Minister to Prussia in 1857, retaining the Administration of his chief. It was a warm supporter of the late Mr. Douglas, and did not hesitate, at all times, to denounce the atrocities of which that illustrious Statesman was the victim.

At the Prussian Court he was eminent for his discretion and loyalty, and his influence went far toward expelling that rebel ambassador. On his return to this country he placed himself in the advance of the Union sentiment in Indiana, and has been bold and untiring in his support of the Administration in its war policy.

Flag-Officer Farragut, who is to command the Western Division of the Gulf squadron, the Gulf from the Virginia Capes, is by a Tennesseean, and the only surviving officer of those who fought under Porter in the frigate Essex, in the last war, when that vessel was assailed by a superior British force at Valparaiso. He was a Midshipman in that desperate fight, and is loyal to the flag which he has honored as he is brave.

Gen. Stone's antecedents are good, bad and dubious. He is a native of Massachusetts, a graduate and afterward a Professor of Ethics, in West Point, served in the Ordnance Corps, was a Lieutenant in command of a battery at the siege of Vera Cruz, was brevetted for gallant conduct at the battle of Chapultepec, and served on the entire line of operations from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico, under the command of General Scott, who always expressed the highest confidence in his loyalty and military skill. In 1856, he retired from the army and went into civil life. He became interested in certain land speculations (known as the Stone-Wham purchase) in the States of Northern Mexico, Sonora, and Chihuahua, but charged of fraud, if not of filibustering, were made against him by the Mexican

officials, and while engaged with a strong party in surveying his pretended purchase, he was driven from Mexico by the authorities.

PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES. THE PRESBYTERY OF BLOOMINGTON will meet at Mackinaw church, (Pleasant Hill), on Tuesday, April 8th, at 7 P. M. R. CONOVER, Stated Clerk.

THE PRESBYTERY OF CLARION will meet in Brookville, on First Tuesday of April next, at 11 o'clock P. M. D. MC'AY, Stated Clerk.

THE PRESBYTERY OF FAIRFIELD will hold its next stated meeting at Edgelyville, Iowa, on the Third Tuesday in April next, at 7 o'clock P. M. S. C. MC'UNE, Stated Clerk.

THE PRESBYTERY OF SALTSBURG will meet at Queen's Bean church, on the Third Tuesday (15th) of April, at 2 o'clock P. M. Narratives, Statistical Reports, Congregational and Sessional Records will be called for at this meeting. W. W. WOODEN, Stated Clerk.

THE PRESBYTERY OF CEDAR will meet at Tipton, Tuesday, April 1st, at 7 P. M. E. L. BRIDEN, Stated Clerk.

THE MISSOURI RIVER PRESBYTERY (late the Council Bluffs and Omaha Presbyteries), will meet at Council Bluffs on Tuesday next, before the second Sabbath of April next (11th), at 7 o'clock P. M. D. L. HUGHES, Stated Clerk.

THE PRESBYTERY OF IOWA will hold its next stated meeting at Middletown, on the First Tuesday of April, (1st), at 7 P. M. Sessional Records and Statistical Reports will be presented, and the Assessments on the churches paid. GEO. D. STEWART, S. C.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ERIE will meet in the Park church Erie, on Tuesday (1st day), April, at 7 o'clock P. M. Sessional Records and Commissioners' Fund will be called for. S. J. M. RATON, S. C.

Important Message. The President transmitted to both Houses of Congress, on the 6th inst., the following Message: Yellow-Citizens of the Senate and House Representatives.

I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies, which shall be substantially as follows: Resolved, That the United States ought to cooperate with any State which may adopt gradual abolition of Slavery, giving to that State pecuniary aid to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet with the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end, but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be enabled to consider whether they accept or reject it. The Federal Government would find its highest interest in such a measure as one of the most efficient means of self-preservation. The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that this Government will ultimately be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region, and that all the States north of such parts will then say, the Union for which we have struggled being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section. To deprive them of this hope substantially and completely deprives them of it as to all States initiating it. The point is not that all the States tolerating slavery would be immediately and justly emancipated, but that, while the offer is equally made to all, the more Northern shall see this initiation make it certain to the more Southern States, in the former case, the latter in the latter in their proposed Confederacy. I say initiation because in my judgment gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all. In the more financial and commercial States, the number of Congress, with the census tables and treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself, how soon the current expenses of this war would purchase a fair and equal number of slaves in any named State. Such a proposition on the part of the Federal Government sets up no claim of a right by Federal authority to interfere with slavery within State limits, referring to each case to the absolute competence of each case to the State and its people immediately interested, it is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them.

In the annual message last December, I thought fit to say the Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. I said this not hastily, but deliberately. War has been made, and it continues to be an indispensable means to this end. A practical recognition of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would be once ceased. If, however, the war continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may attend and all the ruin which may follow it. Such as may seem indispensable means to the preservation of the Union, and which will promote the greatest efficiency toward ending the struggle, and will come. The proposition now made is an offer only. I hope it may be esteemed no offense to such pecuniary consideration tendered would not be to the States and private persons and property in them, than in the present aspect of affairs.

While it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would not be a practical measure, it is recommended in the hope that it would soon lead to important practical results.

In full view of the responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject. [Signed] ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The resolution was passed in the House by the following vote—yeas, 88; nays, 31.

The Army of the Potomac. The division of the army of the Potomac into Corps d'Armes has taken place. They number five, as follows: FIRST CORPS.—Four Divisions, to be commanded by Major-General McD