THE EASTON GAZETTE.

SATURDAY MORNING, - - JANUARY 11, 1862.

EASTON, MD.

☞ We see in the last Star quite an effort to make a mountain out of a mole hill, and in the effort the truth is stretched far beyond its capacity. We refer to the Trappe school affair. That delectable sheet, which invariably tells the truth when it can't avoid it, says that "the difficulty in the school grew out of the fact, that in October there was no legal election for trustees."—Now the editor of the Star knows full well that that was not the cause. Had the candidates for trustees who favor the rebellion, been elected, the illegality of the election would never have been heard of. The day of election was agreed upon and the usual forms were gone through with and no objection was urged until the result was ascertained. Even the defeated candidates themselves were satisfied to yield to the majority, and would not sign a petition to the late Board of County Commissioners to revoke the result of that election, and there were but five men in the town, we learn, that were willing to quibble over so small a matter as, the notice for election being too short, after a large majority of legal voters had decided against them. There was a petition went before the board, however, with five signatures, and the Commissioners acted upon this petition, decided the election *null* and *void* and appointed new trustees. Since the election of the present Board, the case has been brought before them and the election declared valid.

After the opposite side has exhausted all means of unfairness and are defeated, the Star comes in as *peace*-maker and thinks it ought to be decided by the courts. Why did it not give this advice when the matter first became in dispute?—but that query is easily solved. As to Mr. Clark's being forced from the school house, by an "armed mob," we earn from a reliable source, that there is not a particle of truth in it. It is said that there is an old gentleman residing in Trappe, who became somewhat out of temper at the course of Mr. Clark, and ordered him out of the house, but not until Mr. C. had several times expressed a desire to be ejected from the room. The editor of the Star has so severely strained his eyes in looking for Jeff. to cross the Potomac that he can easily manufacture an "armed mob" out of one old man.

Important Southern News.—Copious supplies of Southern news have been furnished the city press by Richmond papers during the past week—all important and interesting. An article from the Richmond *Examiner*, confessing and exposing the drunkenness, demoralization and insubordination of the rebel army at Manassas, will attract marked attention.

The batteries at Fort Pickens had again opened on the 1st instant on a Rebel steamer at the Navy Yard. Bragg's batteries replied, and the firing continued all day. The fire was not resumed the next day.

The Federal troops from Ship Island, Missippi Sound, have taken possession of Biloxi, and other towns on the Sound.

There was a fire occurred in Richmond during last week, which destroyed the theatre and other buildings. A fire also broke out in New Orleans which for a time was apprehensive of doing much damage, but it was extinguished before the flames spread to any extent.

The steamer Vanderbilt arrived at New York on Monday, with three thousand seven hundred bales of Sea Island cotton

Gen. Stevens' Brigade of Federal troops had advanced upon the mainland from Port Royal Ferry, and assisted by the gun-boats, took possession of the Rebel batteries after a short resistance. The advance was prosecuted to within six miles of the Charleston rail road. The Rebels sent a flag of truce asking permission to bury their dead. One hour was granted. The Rebels then fell back on their fortifications and reserves, said to be twelve thousand strong.—Gen. Stevens retained possession of the position on the mainland, and awaited reinforcements.—Our force was but 4,500 strong, of whom eight only were wounded. The Southern accounts of the affair admit a loss of six killed and twelve wounded on the first day and the driving back of George Gregg's South Carolina Brigade on the second day with heavy loss. After driving back the Rebel forces and destroying their batteries which menaced the navigation of Broad and Coosaw rivers, our troops returned to Port Royal Island. One gun which the Rebels left behind them was captured. It was this return of our troops after accomplishing their purpose which the Southern papers represented to be a repulse.

The Inauguration of Governor Bradford.—Hon. A. W. Bradford was on Wednesday last inaugurated in the Senate Chamber at Annapolis as Governor of Maryland for four years.—The Senate met at 11 o'clock and was called to order by the President. The Committee appointed from each House to wait on Mr. Bradford and escort him to the Senate Chamber proceeded to his residence, where they, in conjunction with Gov. Hicks, Thomas J. Willson, Secretary of State, and the officers of Schley's Public Guard and the Purnell Legion, with the full brass band belonging to the Public Guard, escorted him to the State House, on arriving at which Governor Bradford was escorted to the President's char by Gov. Hick, who introduced him to the members of both Houses. During the delivery of the Inaugural the Governor was frequently interrupted by outbursts of applause.—The address is able and eloquent, and will be published in our columns next week.

Thanks.—Hon. Jno. W. Crisfield of the House of Representatives, will please accept our thanks for Patent Office Report for 1860, for reports of the "Select Committee of Five," for a copy of the reports of the "Military Commission sent to Europe in 1855 and '56," and other valuable public documents.

Also Hons. H. H. Goldsborough and Chas. F. Goldsborough, State Senate, and Wm. H. Harrison and David Kerr, Esqs., of the House, for Legislative documents.

Governor Hick's Message.—The last message of Governor Hicks is a thoroughly business like document, confined almost entirely to a notice of matters of State interest. Closing an intercourse with the Legislature and people of the State, held in times of unparalleled excitement and trouble, he with but a brief allusion to his own course and a complimentary notice of his successor, retires from the marked position he has occupied, leaving to others the judgment upon his actions, with no elaborate attempt to influence a decision. His attitude in this is stamped with his usual good taste and confidence in the honest judgment of the people, and will be properly appreciated by them. The time to do his noble patriotism full justice in the prominent part he has acted with reference to our national affairs will come when the current excitements have passed away; and there is no fear but that he will then be regarded as one of the truest bulwarks the nation has ever had, in the part he was about to take in preserving its integrity.

In expressing the satisfaction he feels on retiring from a position almost unequalled in the harrassing cares that have surrounded it almost from his accession to it, the best wishes of every patriot for his welfare and happiness will go with him. He retires with the well deserved plaudits of the loyal men of the whole nation; and it is to be hoped that he may live for many a year to see the fruits of his noble and courageous fidelty to principle, in the renewed glory of a great nationality, whilst those who are to inherit its blessings after us will dwell upon his name with those grateful remembrances due to those who have aided in saving their country.

The old Board of Rail Road Directors, who were going to accomplish wonders by their protests against the election of any one except themselves, have at last agreed to yield to the decision of the Stockholder's election held some weeks ago. What new points they have discovered to convince them of their error we have not ascertained, but they certainly have made some new discovery of importance which have changed them from their course. They persistently refused to give up the effects of the company into the hands of their legally elected successors, the decision of the judges was changed so as to declare the old board re-elected, and the public supposed they were going to hold on at all hazards. But giving up now does not take off the disgrace which covers the whole affair. With what sort of grace do they yield now after the judges have changed their decision declaring them elected, when they refused to do it when they at first declared other parties to be elected. The judges can readily see what sort of a dilema it places them in; the old Board are not guided by their decision at all but appear to stand more in awe of a *higher* power than they have desire to yield to a majority of votes.

The Returned Prisoners to be Paid to Date.—Two hundred and thirty-nine of the returned prisoners are still at Baltimore, in care of the Union Association. There they are suffering for clothes, but are well fed. The Department has concluded to pay the three months' men up to the present time, and muster them out. The three year men are to have a furlough for a month, and to be paid up to the present time.—In about a week it is supposed that the men will be able to get their money and go home.

J. N. Baird, D. D. S., would respectfully announce to his friends and patrons that he has returned to Easton, and will be pleased to see those desiring his services.

Rev. David Kerr will preach (D. V.) in the P. E. Church, (St. Peter's,) in this town, on to-morrow, (Sunday,) at 11 o'clock, A. M.

What the "Louisville Journal" Says:—"We do not believe that even in this age of cheap publications any work can be more reasonable than the terms of the *Scientific American* at $2 per annum, with twenty-five per cent discount for clubs of ten. It forms a yearly volume of 832 pages quarto, with an immense number of original engravings of patent machines, valuable inventions, and objects of scientific interest.—There is not an industrial pursuit which does not receive a share of its attention. It contains official lists of patent claims, important statistics, practical recipes for useful domestic purposes, and has long stood, both in this country and Europe, as the highest authority in the mechanic arts and sciences. There is no publication more valuable to the farmer, the miller, the engineer, the iron founder, the mechanic, or the manufacturer. We have never opened a number without learning something we never knew before, and obtaining valuable information for the benefit of our readers. The Publishers, Messrs. Munn & Co., of 37 Park Row, New York, have deserved the success which they have achieved. No one should visit that city without calling at their palatial establishment, which is a museum of inventive genius, collected from the entire world. If any of our friends away off in the country do not know this work, and will take our advice, they will mail $2 and become subscribers immediately, or by applying to the Publishers they can obtain a specimen copy gratis, which will be sure to confirm the truth of our recommendation."

We fully endorse the above, and would recommend our readers to take Prentice's advice, and subscribe for the paper. A new volume commenced on the first of January, and it being a valuable work of reference, containing, as it does, the only official list of patent claims published in the country, every number should be preserved. The paper is published every Saturday, by the well known patent agents, Messrs. Munn & Co., who have conducted the paper during the past sixteen years. In addition to furnishing specimen copies of the paper gratis, the publishers will send a pamphlet of advice to inventors, free of charge. Address, Munn & Co., 37 Park Row, New York.

A Literary Banquet.—The celebrated *New York Mercury* publishes its annual Prospectus, for 1862, in our columns to-day, and our readers will miss something if they fail to peruse it. The Mercury is not only the largest and cheapest literary paper in the world, but its great serial Romances, Moral Tales, exquisite Poetry and General Miscellany are the very best published in this country. No other journal that we know of has anything like its famous contributorial *corps d'elite* and wonderful variety of mental food. It is now in its 24th year; and has a stability that insures to all who subscribe for it a sure and rich return for the money invested.—The New York Mercury for 1862 will be a paper that no American family can afford to be without. Subscribe for it at once, we say.

An election for State Senator to fill the vacancy occasioned by the expulsion of Coleman Yellott, took place in Baltimore city yesterday.

☞ We publish below, a few comments from the Cecil *Whig*, which pays a very high compliment to Rev. W. H. Brisbane, formerly minister in charge of the M. E. Church of this town. Mr. Brisbane is a man of fine talents and it is, doubtless, gratifying to his numerous friends in Easton, to hear that there is a prospect of his adding to his fame as a minister, that of a noted lecturer:

"The first of the series of lectures of the season, was deliverad on Tuesday evening last, by Rev. W. H. Brisbane, in the M. E. Church of Elkton. The subject—"The Symbols of our National Life," is one that could not fail to attract peculiar interest in the present momentous condition of our country, and the lecturer treated his subject with consummate ability. The four symbols designated as the emblems of our National Life, were the Cartridge-Box, the Ballot-Box, the *Band-Box* and our National Flag.

After some prefatory remarks by the speaker in justification of the use of force to restrain evil when conscience has failed to prevent the commission of crime, Mr. Brisbane proceeded to the consideration of the Cartridge-Box, designating it an emblem of power, and in discussing this point of his subject, argued the impossibility of the theory of secession being carried to a successful issue with any other result than the entombing of our present system of government in a dishonored grave. His remarks on this head were very chaste, dignified and patriotic; such as none could take exception to.

We have not space to comment at length on the literary treat which the Reverend lecturer served to his audience. The *Band-Box*, as the reader will very naturally infer, was used as the insignia of woman's power on our National life, and a glowing tribute was paid to her influence upon the American people as a nation. The lecture was very handsomely and effectingly concluded by a rehearsel of the beautiful poem entitled *Maryland*, in which the patriotic praise of our State is hymned in the poet's lofty verse."

Maryland Patriotic and Just.—In his recent message to the Legislature of Massachusetts, Governor Andrew thus refers to the honorable conduct of Maryland in striving to make some atonements for the lawless and murderous act of the tratorous mob which sought to force her from the Union, against the will of her patriotic citizens in April last:—

"I gladly point you to one oasis in the midst of all the resentments of the hour. A Committee of the House of Delegates of the Legislature of Maryland, acting under instructions of that body, have addressed the Executive of Massachusetts, seeking to learn the condition of the widows and orphans of the patriots who were murdered at Baltimore on the nineteenth of April, and to be informed of any persons who were dependent on them for support, in order that the State may take such action in that connection as befits its sense of justice and honor. Cordially appreciating the honorable and humane sentiments of the House of Delegates of Maryland, the letter of their Committee is herewith communicated to the General Court, and I have directed the necessary investigation to be made to answer its inquires."

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* says this action of the Maryland House of Delegates is in the highest degree praiseworth, and shows that her loyal people are not only honest and earnest in their patriotism, but just and generous towards those brave men who nobly risked their lives to resist the ivasion of her soil by the armed hordes of the Rebel Confederacy.

Joint Resolutions of Thanks to Governor Thomas H. Hicks.

Mr. Fiery, from the Joint Committee, submitted the following joint resolutions of thanks to Governor Thomas H. Hicks on Tuesday, which were read a first time:

Whereas, The practice of all nations points out the wisdom of rewarding eminent public services by marked tokens of admiration and gratitude; therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That amidst the bold, insidious and powerful efforts which have been made for the last year to destroy the Government of the United States, and to reduce the country to a condition of moral and physical imbecility—in despite of the traitorous poison of able and reckless emissaries from rebellious States, openly sent in abuse of the known comity of our people, to corrupt and thus subvert the Government of Maryland—in despite of the example of States and Governors, and of the most disingenous appeals to sectional prejudices—and in disregard alike of solicitations and threats of men of talents, of influence and of high social and political positions, and of menaces of personal insult and violence, the Governor of this State, through the deepest gloom of our National adversity, has stood faithfully by the country, faithfully by the State, and faithfully by his oath and his official integrity.

Resolved, That this position of loyalty, so steadily maintained by Governor Hicks, has averted from the State violence and bloodshed between its own people, and the occupation of its territory by contending armies, and the consequent destruction of its towns and country homes, as well as the annihilation within her limits of that species of property whose safety was the ostensible object of this rebellion.

Resolved, That of all the States of the Union in which the rebellious spirit obtained considerable hold, Maryland is the only one whose Governor has elvated himself to that lofty standard of patriotism required by the exigencies of the country; and that this course has proved not more honorable to himself than beneficial to the people over whom he was called to preside, the deplorable condition of our sister States of Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri makes mournfully manifest.

Resolved, That had the Governor followed the examples by which he was surrounded, Maryland would have had affixed to her name the burning shame of having repudiated without cause that great Constitutional compact to which she was bound by the most solemn pledges of our ancestors.

Resolved, therefore, That the thanks of the people of Maryland and of this Legislature are due and are hereby cordially tendered by the Representatives of the State, in General Assembly convened, to Governor Thomas H. Hicks for the manner in which he has met this solemn crisis in our national history.

Resolved, That the two Houses of the General Assembly congratulate Governor Hicks that his term of office closes so honorably to himself, and with so elevated an example to his successors.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, be by them presented to Governor Hicks.

[From the Louisville Journal, 28th.]

A Daring Exploit.

A few days since a squad of some half dozen left Col. Shackleford's regiment at Calhoun, on Green river, to bring back three soldiers who had gone to Todd county. While on their route, after night, they came upon some fifty rebel cavalry, and our men seeing that resistance would be useless, took to the woods. One of them, named Wilkins, was separated from his companions, and, in winding about through the woods, came several times in close propimity to rebel squads, but succeeded in eluding them.—He at last overtook three of them, and seeing that his chances were desperate he determined to join them and pass himself off as one of their number. By keeping a little in the rear, he watched a favorable opportunity, when he drew his revolver, and firing rapidly, killed one, badly wounded another, and caused the third to take to flight. Wilkins succeeded in making his escape and returned to camp at Calhoun where a gentleman arrived the next day from Elkton, and stated that the rebel cavalry reported that the county was overrun with federal troops, and that they had been forced to retreat before a superior force. The camp at Calhoun contains plenty of such pluck in the regiments under Colonels Shackleford, Jackson, Hawkins, and Burbridge. The men are eager for fight, and will rout the rebels whenever and wherever they meet them.

FROM WASHINGTON.

We take the following Washington items from the Philadelphia Inquirer of Wednesday:

A MILITARY EXECUTION IN WASHINGTON.

Private Lanahan was hanged for the murder of Brennan, Sergeant of Company A, Second United States Infantry.

The General Order for the execution recites the history of the Court Martial's action in his case, and then goes on to say:—

The Major-General Commanding confirms the proceedings of the court martial in the case of private Michael Lanahan. It appears from the testimony that Sergeant Brennan, the deceased, was sergeant of the guard at Georgetown, D. C., on the 29th of October last. The prisoner was a private of the guard, and on the first relief.—When the hour came for posting that relief, Lanaham was not at the guard-house. As Sergeant Brennan was about posting another man in the place of Lanahan, the latter came to the guard-house.

The sergeant turned sharply towards him, told him he was never in place when wanted, slapped him and told him to get his gun and go on post. Lanahan got his gun and took his place on post. Sergeant Brennan had previously given Lanahan a half hour of extra guard duty. A very few minutes afterwards, as Brennan was passing by his post, the accused fired and killed him. The proof is clear that he did this in satisfaction of the grudge he bore towards the deceased, not only for the blow given him at the guard-house a few minutes before, but for old scores, which he mentioned in his statement to the court.

It is very reprehensible for a commissioned or non-commissioned officer to strike a soldier, except when it is absolutely necessary to repress disorder. It is never allowed as a punishment for an offence. But for a soldier, because of being struck, to shoot his immediate superior, is at war with every principle of military subordination.

It was in evidence that it was not customary for sentinels at Georgetown to have their arms loaded.

The prisoner must have loaded his musket for the purpose of carrying out his vindictive design against his sergeant. The homicide in this case seems to lack none of the features which distinguish murder from simple manslaughter.

Private Michael Lanahan, of Company A, Second Regiment U. S. Infantry, will, in pursuance of the sentence of the Court Martial, be hanged by the neck until he be dead, on Monday, the 6th day of January, 1862 at such time and place within the limits of this district as the Provost Marshal of Washington and Georgetown may direct.

By command of Major-General McClellan.

S. Williams, Assistant Adjutant-General.

FROM THE LOWER POTOMAC.

Capt. Kiehl, of the steamer *Reindeer*, brought up this afternoon two Rebel prisoners from General Hooker's division; also 24 bushel bags of India rubber overcoats, besides several sacks of under shirts, and a large quantity of quinine.—The prisoners were captured while attempting to convey these stores from the Maryland to the Virginia shore.

CONTRADICTION OF A SENSATION REPORT.

The painful rumors in regard to the arrest of a prominent military officer of the Government for treason, is without the shadow of foundation in fact.

Some matters of importance, in the shape of a correspondence, have been discovered in connection with parties entirely different from the officer named in the rumors now current. All the parties implicated are now under arrest.

This city is full of Southern sympathizers, or spies, in high social positions, and the time has arrived when they must be rigorously dealt with.

LETTER FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The following letter has been received at the Adjutant General's office from Brigadier General Sherman, dated:

Headquarters, Port Royal, S. C.,
January 2, 1862.

Sir—As the steamer Vanderbilt leaves to-morrow, I deem it proper to enclose to you a letter of instructions to Gen. Stevens, Commanding the Second Brigade of this division, of December 30. The simple object of this dash was to destroy the batteries which the enemy appeared to have erected on Coosaw river for the obstruction of the navigation and the passage of that stream, and also to punish him for the insult in firing into the steamer Mayflower on her recent passage through that stream for the purpose of sounding the depth of the channel. The affair succeeded perfectly, and the enemy were driven out of their batteries—their batteries demolished, and the property found there brought away or destroyed, with little or no loss of life on our side. After the object of the movement was executed Gen. Stevens, agreeably to his instructions, returned to Port Royal Ferry. As soon as his report reaches me it will be duly forwarded.

MORE DISERTERS.

Yesterday Lieuts. Bigelow and Brown, of Michigan, brought into General Heintzelman's quarters eight diserters from the Rebel army, of which five were privates, two sergeants and one captain.

They relate, with every apperance of sincerity, a pitiable story of the suffering condition of the Rebel army. Their food is scarce and poor, their clothes thin, and they are suffering intensely from cold and hunger, while dissatisfaction and insubordination are rampant. It is requested that we do not mention the information they gave of the situation of the Rebel forces. They are now in Alexandria.

The Captain says:—"This is a severe punishment you are inflicting on them, keeping them in a state of inaction."

A Reverend Smuggler.—The Rev. J. P. B. Wilmer recently presented himself at Fortress Monroe with twenty trunks and a pass to the South. He was allowed to proceed, but his trunks were declared contraband. They were subsequently examined and found to contain the following articles, valued in all at $1,600, and perhaps $3,000 in the C. S. A.:

5 pieces of heavy grey woollen cloth.
1 " white cotton cloth.
1 " heavy white flannel.
50 pairs of gentlemen's dress pantaloons.
10 lbs. best old Government Java coffee.
2 pieces silk handkerchief stuff.
2 dozen fine linen handkerchiefs.
25 gross of buttons, various styles.
100 papers of needles.
50 " pins, assorted styles.
150 spools of sewing silk.
50 " common thread.
11 fine silk vest patterns.
2 " " dress patterns.
31 rolls of tape, all colors.
26 new white linen shirts.
48 pairs of boots, shoes and rubbers.
650 envelopes, mourning, buff and plain.
6 reams of writing paper.
2 gross of steel pens.
21 pairs of socks.
15 pen holders, and various other minor articles too numerous to be specified herein.

Important from the South.

Another Fight at Fort Pickens.

FIGHTING IN SOUTH COROLINA.

Acknowledged Demoralization in Beauregard's Army.

From the Richmond *Enquirer* and *Whig* of the 3d, and *Despatch* of the 2d, we glean the following summary:—

FROM PENSACOLA.

Mobile, Jan. 1.—A Confederate steamer going from Pensacola to the Navy Yard was fired upon from the batteries of Fort Pickens. Gen. Bragg's batteries replied, and the firing was continued at last accounts.

The Richmond *Despatch* of Friday says the Confederate batteries replied to Pickens, and the firing continued all day. No vessels were engaged on either side, and no casualties occurred with us. Gen. Bragg was absent, but General Anderson was in command. Gen. Bragg returned on the 2d, but the Federals did not renew the attack, and our guns were silent.

FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

Augusta, Jan. 2.—Private despatches received from Pocatalgo, dated on yesterday, state that the Federals attempted an advance from Port Royal Ferry, but were repulsed by the Fourteenth Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers, under command of Col. Jones. The Confederate loss was fifteen killed and wounded.—One Yankee was taken prisoner, but their loss is not otherwise stated. Gen. Lee has informed Jeff. Davis that he is confident of his ability to prevent the Federals from advancing on Charleston or Savannah.

To-day the enemy landed in much larger force, at the same place. Gen. Gregg's brigade fell back a short distance to an eligible position. The pickets were skirmishing all day.

The enemy design an attack on the railroad, and cannot avoid a battle.

The steamship *Ella Warely*, formerly the *Isabel*, from Nassau, ran the blockade and arrived at Charleston at daylight this morning. She was chased and ineffectually shelled by the blockaders. She brings a valuable assorted cargo and passengers, including Mr. Bisbie, formerly a delegate in the Virginia Legislature from the city of Norfolk. Mr. Bisbie is a bearer of important despatches from Mr. Yancey, and has started for Richmond.

CONDITION OF THE REBEL ARMY.

Drunkenness of the Officers and Demorlization of the Army.

From the Richmond Examiner of Thursday, Jan. 2.

The Condition of our Army.—The present condition of our army is a cause of severe and painful anxiety. The courage of our troops is not abated; the eagerness for the fray is not relaxed, and yet demoralization is creeping in, we really believe, from the insane and reckless neglect of the Government to sustain and to cultivate the spirit of our soldiers.

There is too much drunkenness among the officers on the Potomac, and too much vacant idling among the men. We are informed, as a positive fact, that in the majority of the army on the Potomac the practice of regimental drills has fallen into complete disuse. This alone would be sufficient to demoralize any army in circumstances such as ours. The drill is not only essential for schooling the soldier; it fulfils other vastly important and essential purposes. It developes and educates the *physique*, fortifies the soldier against disease; and, what is perhaps the most important moral consideration of all gives him occupation for a portion of his time each day, and protects him, at least measurably, against that canker-worm of the army, *ennui*.—What can be predicted but utter demoralization for an army whose condition is that of tens of thousands of men, living in utter idleness, groveling in their tents, with no other occupation than what is afforded by the greasy pack of cards that is the inevitable inmate of every tent, or the yellow-covered novel, whose wretched and perhaps filthy entertainment has more than once gone the rounds of the company.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the army is becoming a name of terror and dread to the minds of our citizens. The newspapers are still filled with advertisments of bonusses for "substitutes," although the War Department has adopted a rule restricting the number of substitutions to once in each company. The rates paid for substitutes are enormous. We are informed that they average from two hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars; and we have been told of a recent instance where fifteen hundred dollars was paid for the prompt procurement of a substitute to take the place of a private suddenly constrained to leave the army. Evidences stare us in the face of the unwillingness of men to accept the life or famine, dirt and vacant idleness in the army. Richmond is filled with soldiers who have come out of hospitals, or who have got here on some pretence or other, applying for discharges, and striving and wriggling in all sorts of ways to get out of the army. It was but a few days ago that a soldier, discharged from one of the hospitals here, committed suicide rather than be constrained to return to the army.

There is no willingness among our young men to serve their country. There are thousands who would willingly go with their lives on their sleeves to battle with the enemy, and to attest a devoted and courageous patriotism, but who dread to betake themselves to the wretched, half-fed life of dirt, vacancy and idleness in the camp. This is the restraint upon volunteering. The Government will in vain essay to remove it by a bounty law for re-enlistments—the provision of which, by the way, for company reorganization, has already, we understand, proved a fruitful source of intrigue and demoralization in our army—without other measures that will reach to the root of the evil. The authorities at Richmond may assure themselves that, as long as the health of the army is neglected, and it is maintained in its dirty, sluggard condition, the drills neglected, the half rations of commissaries winked at, the rowdyism of officers passed over, and the vacancy and idleness of "*a defensive policy*" held out as rewards to volunteering, the army will not be filled and replenished but from few classes of our people.

Why was it that, when our soldiers were daily dying by hundreds, the Government did not show the common humanity of the small measure of instituting a medical commission to examine the camps, and, if possible, check the progress and ravages of disease? Why was it that, when the Government had control of the whole line of transportation from the Carolinas and Louisiana to the depots at Manassas and Centreville, and could have bought sugar in New Orleans at three cents, it permitted our army to suffer for months for rice, sugar and molasses, and winked at the practice of buying sugar from the sutlers at forty cents a pound? Why is it that to-day the Government recks not what it reads, and tolerates habits of intemperance among officers and the disuse of regimental drills in our army on the Potomac? All of these acts of omission and negligence, which have contributed to the demoralization of our army, might have been avoided. It is not too late to repair them.

All are firmly convinced that the reform of the condition of our army with a wise and firm hand and the holding out of rewards, not to avarice or idleness, but to the true patriotic enthusiasm of our country in the prospect of an active military policy and of a share of military glory, will provide the best security for re-enlistment and the most successful stimulant to volunteering. We are firmly convinced that no other measures will restore the spirit of the volunteer and the enthusiasm of the country.

The Secretary of the Treasury recommends that the act imposing increased duties on tea, coffee, sugar and molasses, be so amended as to relieve goods previously imported and warehoused from its operations.

FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

United States troops attack Huntersville, Va.—The Rebels Retreat—Clothing and Army Stores Captured.

Cincinnati, Jan. 5.—A special despatch to the *Gazette*, from Huttonsville, Western Virginia, stating that the expedition, consisting of four hundred of the Twenty-fifth Ohio, three hundred of the Second Virginia, and forty of Bracken's Cavalry, sent out by General Milroy, to attack Huntersville, was completely successful. They attacked the enemy on Saturday morning, consisting of four hundred and ninety cavalry and three hundred and fifty militia, and after skirmishing an hour the enemy retreated, with the loss of eight killed and wounded; on our side none killed or wounded. Twenty thousand dollars' worth of army stores and clothing were captured and destroyed.

Cincinnati, Jan. 6.—A despatch to the *Commercial*, from Huttonsville, says:—

Huntersville was the Rebel depot for their supplies in Western Virginia.

Their cavalry were armed with carbines, and attacked us within two miles from Huntersville. We drove them from point to point, and finally they beat a hasty retreat out of the town, as we charged through it.

Their supplies, consisting of 350 barrels flour, 300 barrels of salted beef, 3000 pounds of salt, and large quantities of sugar, coffee, rice, bacon and army clothing, worth from $25,000, to $30,000, were entirely destroyed.

We captured a large number of Sharpe's carbines, sabres and pistols.

The Stars and Stripes were left floating over the Court House, and our troops returned to Huttonsville in fine spirits.

FROM CAIRO.

MOVEMENTS OF THE REBELS AT COLUMBUS, KY.

Cairo, Jan. 6.—A deserter from the Rebel army who left Columbus on Sunday, arrived here to-day, and furnishes the following information regarding the movements of the enemy:—

Gen. Pillow resigned his command on Friday.

Fifteen thousand troops left Columbus last week for Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The officers of the Rebel Government were impressing all classes of men.

Over a hundred cannon were planted on Columbus bluffs, and the river was blockaded by a chain being stretched across, supported by barges and torpedoes planted at intervals.

Gold and silver have entirely disappeared from circulation. The only currency is the State Bank of South Carolina, Tennessee notes and Confederate scrip.

THIRD VOLUME
COMMENCES JANUARY 11, 1862.

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"—— rules the court, the camp, the bower,"

as it already rules the happy domestic fireside.

The editorial tone and National departments of the New York Mercury will continue true to that lofty spirit of patriotism which has made it a necessity of the people since the War began, and kept it in enthusiastic demand when other sheets were dying all around it for want of popular support.

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