THE EASTON GAZETTE.

SATURDAY MORNING, - - MARCH 15, 1862.

EASTON, MD.

☞ THE special message of the President on the subject of slavery has been eagerly seized upon by the whole tribe of rebel sympathizers as furnishing the long expected evidence on the part of the administration of a design to liberate all the slaves in the Southern States. We say it has been eagerly seized upon; for it is patent to every observable mind, that the opponents of the government have been on the alert ever since the advent of the present administration to discover somothing which they might construe into an attack upon the institution of slavery in the States. The cause of secession within the last few months having dwindled down into the most contemptible proportions, its advocates in the border States, for the purpose of keeping up a factious opposition to the government, betake themselves to the last expedient within their reach, and the charge of abolitionism is rung with all the changes with a view of exciting sectional prejudices and keeping alive a corrupt party organization.

The subject of the President's communication to Congress is of a most serious character, and it becomes the duty of every good citizen to meet this, as well as every other issue which has been forced upon us by the present unhappy rebellion. While we regret that circumstances have necessitated the proposed offer on the part of the federal government to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery as being liable to misapprehension and furnishing a pretext for agitation, we will do the President the justice to say that no part of his message will bear the construction placed upon it by the Star of Tuesday last. It must be borne in mind that the ultra abolitionists in and out of Congress have been for months endeavoring to force their policy upon the President, and in view of the agitation of the subject, and to silence the clamors of those who urge an interference with slavery in the States, he has thought proper to define his position, and to recommend the adoption of a resolution by Congress, stating the contingency upon which alone the United States *ought* to co-operate with any State in any line of action which it may elect to pursue on this question. This is the extent of his message and no more, and we invite an attentive perusal of it in to-day's paper in order that our readers may see how false is the charge which has been industriously circulated through this county that *"Lincoln has issued a proclamation freeing all the slaves."* This is the substance of the charge in the Star, and reply, from the flourish with which it is made and the manifest gusto of the writer it is evident that he is delighted at the prospected liberation of all the slaves.

The message states explicity that the "general government sets up no claim of a right, by federal authority, to interfere with slavery within State limits, referring the *absolute* control of the subject in each case to the State and its people immediately interested."

"The proposition is a matter of perfectly free choice with them." And yet with these emphatic declarations, the message is denounced as an abolition document and ignorant and unsuspecting persons are daily told by those who know better, that a "procalmation has been issued freeing all the slaves." The idea is insidiously propulgated by the Star that the message of the President has set all the slaves at liberty; thus making the slave owners believe they have no longer any control over their property, and at the same time spreading discontent among the slaves by holding out to them the idea that they were entitled to their liberty when they were not. This really seems to be the object of the editor as well as of others who have assisted in the dissemination of these reports. It shows conclusively that they care nothing about the true interest of the slaveholder and that the paramount object, the disruption of the Union, is the real incentive to their unscrupulous acts. If the assertion of the Star be true that the message is an abolition paper then the editor is amenable to the law for circulating "incendiary documents" and doubly so for trying to give them practical force and effect among the people. The miserable rebellion which now curses the country had its origin in anything but a regard for the institution of slavery, and, as we have more than once, remarked, was precipitated in spite of the protestations and entreaties of the border States which were more immediately interested than any other in the event of a collision between the States. The secession leaders were warned that it would ultimately lead to the ruin of the very institution they essayed to defend, and were implored to desist from their schemes of madness. All solicitations proved unavailing and the consequence is that secession has robbed us of three fourths of the value of our slaves. The arch conspirators against the government would this moment rather free every slave on the continent than see the United States as it once was.—Whether it be true that Mason and Slidell have proposed emancipation as the price of England's interference we know not, but we do know that England's assistance has been invoked by Southern Commissioners on the ground that Lincoln's government was *a pro-slavery government.*—Would the reader believe it? In the month of August last, that prince of traitors, Wm. L. Yancey, with his colleagues Rost and Mann, all envoys of the Southern Confederacy, addressed a letter to Lord John Russell, in which the following passage occurs: *"It was from no fear that the slaves would be liberated that secession took place.* The very party in power has proposed to guarantee slavery forever in the States, if the South would but remain in the Union. Mr. Lincoln's message proposes no freedom to the slave, but announces subjection of his owner to the will of the Union, in other words to the will of the North. Even after the battle of Bull Run, both branches of the Congress at Washington passed resolutions that the war is only waged in order to uphold that (pro-slavery) Constitution, and to enforce the laws, (many of them pro-slavery,) and out of 172 votes in the Lower House they received all but two, and in the Senate all but one vote. As the army commenced its march, the commanding General issued an order that no slaves should be received into, or allowed to folder to the abolition sentiment of England by enlow the camp." Thus these arch traitors pandeavoring to excite her prejudices against the *pro-slavery policy of "Lincoln's government."*—They are ready to barter their birth right for a mess of pottage, and to transfer their whole confederacy, slaves and all, into the hands of a power, whose edict would be certain emancipation, rather than return to a Union which afforded the only real protection slavery ever had.

After the above editorial had been prepared, we received a communication treating upon the same subject, from a slaveholder, from another part of the county. Our readers will no doubt peruse it with interest.

☞ THE Star publishes an extract from our editorial columns of April 27, 1861, published during the excitement consequent upon the Baltimore riot, with a view, we suppose, of showing up our inconsisteucy. While we are dull enough not to comprehend the wonderful point discovered by the editor, we will remark that he is about the last person in the world to call up reminiscences of the past. He may well wish the occurrences of last year in which he and others were engaged, buried in oblivion. Among other nefarious devices was one to which we have never before alluded. In the month of May last we animadverted on the violent and proscriptive attitude assumed by the Secessionists of this county, and for so doing a number of handbills, printed on yellow paper, were issued from the Star office in the dead hour of night, denouncing us personally in the most offensive terms, and secretly posted up at various places in the town. We refrain from giving the name of the author of this dastardly and cowardly production, but will state that he is well known in political circles as a man of decided *mark* in his own estimation.—We have the pleasure of knowing however that this infamous and assassin-like proceeding was denounced by his own friends, a number of whom tore down the obnoxious papers as disgraceful to the authors and the cause they represented.

☞ THE Norfolk *Day Book* of Monday, received by a flag of truce, admits that some damage was received by the Merrimac—during her encounter with the Cumberland and Congress,—Four of her crew were killed, and her comman der, Captain Frank Buchanan, formerly of this State, seriously wounded. It is an incident worthy of note that Paymaster Buchanan, of the Congress—destroyed by the Merrimac—is a brother of this Captain Buchanan. The *Day Book* says but little of the fight with the Monitor, but admits that the latter was formidable.—The *Day Book* has a grand glorification article greatly exaggerating the exploits of the Merrimac. Parties who accompanied the Rebel flag admitted that our "cheess-box," as they termed the Monitor, had severely wounded the Merrimac.

SINGULAR PHENOMENAN.—A number of our citizens had their attention attracted by the unusual appearance of the circles which surrounded the moon on Wednesday night last. We did not have an opportunity ourself to observe it, we are told, however, that there were three distinct circles around it of red, white and blue, and singular to say our neighbor of the Star, was the first to notice it. We don't wonder at his being "moon-struck" when the news of the past few days is brought to his memory.

☞ By the last arrival intilligence has been received that the papers relative to the blockade had been submitted to Parliament. Lord Russell, in a letter to Lord Lyons, dated February 15, says—*"the fact of ships having successfully run the blockade don't prevent the blockade being effective;"* and he argues that a neutral State ought to exercise great caution with regard to a *de facto* blockade, and ought not to disregard it unless the power of the blockade is abused.

☞ BLACKWOOD for February is on our table. For terms, &c., see prospectus, in another column.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST for March is also at hand. Any person wanting to subscribe to this excellent work can obtain it by sending one dollar, and addressed to Orange Judd, New York.

PUB. DOCS.—Hon. H. H. and Chas. F. Goldsborough, State Senators, will please accept our thanks for Legislative proceedings.

HON. J. W. CRISFIELD, M. C., will also please accept our thanks for important public documents.

THE SECESH CAPTAIN BUCHANAN.—The Philadelphia Inquirer of last night says:

Captain Buchanan, recently in command of the Rebel iron clad steamer "Merrimac," was *not* killed in either of the late naval engagements near Newport News. One of his knees was so shattered by a shot, however, as that the chances are that he will lose the leg by necessary amputation.

President Lincoln's "Emancipation" Message.

For the Easton Gazette:

President Lincoln sent to Congress on the 7th inst., a special message, recommending the adoption of the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, That the United States ought to cooperate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such 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."

The President was no doubt influenced to this course by the many propositions talked of or introduced into Congress by the ultra and fanatical abolitioists of the Sumner and Lovejoy school, in order to intimate unmistakably to these ultraists that no measure passed by Congress affecting slavery in the States can receive his sanction. The President has taken the most effectual method of killing off abolitionism, as it is not in the philanthropy of these fanatics to pay for the slaves they talk of emancipating, yet the Star seizes the occasion to make one of its false and treasonable attacks on the government, and charges the President with abolitionism! It complacently informs us that the issue now is "abolitionism versus slavery," and that every voter who is not in favor of the former must "cast loose from the Union party, and go for disunion, of course. The editor of the Star must either be a fool or a knave, and think its readers are dolts and idiots, to make such assertions right in the face of the message, which he publishes in the same article. "The proposition," the President says, and as every person capable of reading will see, "sets up no claim of a right, by Federal authority, *to interfere with slavery* within State limits, referring as it does, *the absolute control of the subject* in each case *to the State and its people* immediately interested. *It is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them.*" The question of the abolition of slavery in Maryland, cannot, therefore, become an issue except before our State Legislature, and as the Union men are quite as much interested in the institution of slavery as the blatant rebels who infest our community, it is more than probable that they, in the election of members of that body, will ascertain their opinions upon the propriety or policy of emancipation in our State, and will not look to secessionists, who have already so far demoralized that institution by their course, for safety.

The Star says "there is no time now for parleying." What does it mean? Does it desire Maryland to join the unholy rebellion because the President tells us that if the people of this State through her Legislature desire to dispense with slavery that he thinks the Federal government should pay her citizens for the loss they would sustain? South Carolina commenced secession with as little cause, but as the tree has borne fruit which is not at all palatable, our people will be more cautious in their movements, and not act at the bidding of political hunkers and demagogues, who would be, were justice done them, placed in confinement, rather than permitted to go at large stirring up strife and rebellion, and giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The attempt to get up an opposition to the *Union* on account of this message is ridiculous, and can have no effect upon persons who read and judge for themselves. The question is to be decided by the people of Maryland alone, without any interference from Congress, and *will never* come up for action without it should be the expressed desire of her people. How knavish, therefore, the assertion that the issue now is "abolitionism versus slavery." The status of the institution is not even proposed to be changed by the President, but congress is very respectfully informed that they cannot touch it, and if any of the States wish to abolish it, he thinks they ought to pass a resolution pledging the faith of the government to remunerate that State against loss! And this is called a great and extraordinary scheme to abolish slavery, and all the people are called upon to rally as one man against the government in this hour of "imminent danger," or "our ancient glory will have departed!" We are not told where we shall find our "ancient glory," but presume it is in the arms of that rotten combination of brokendown politicians, miserable traitors, and dishonorable army and navy officers, styling itself the "Southern Confederacy." We beg leave to be excused, we much prefer to stay where we are, under a government able and willing to protect us; decline to change our system of labor, and let Uncle Sam keep his money to carry on the war, or provide accommodations for those guilty of treason in "giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

But it is time for the rebel sympathisers to discontinue harping on the slavery question. They made the election of Lincoln an excuse for attempting to break up the best government in existence, which was secured by our forefathers only after long and, at this day, almost inconceivable distress and suffering. Now they unblushingly confess that slavery was but a *pretext* and that they had no cause to fear the perpetuity of the institution. We give below the testimony of Wm. L. Yancey, P. A. Rost and A. Dudley Mann, in a letter to Earl Russell, in November last. It is conclusive as against the Star and other "ancient glory" sheets in this vicinity. Hear the "Confederate Commissioners"—they say:

"It was from no fear that the slaves would be liberated that secession took place. The very party in power has proposed to guarantee slavery forever in the States, if the South would but remain in the Union. Mr. Lincoln's Message proposes no freedom to the slave, but announces subjection of his owner to the will of the Union: in other words, to the will of the North. Even after the battle of Bull Run both branches of the Congress at Washington passed resolutions that the war is only waged in order to uphold that (pro-slavery) Constitution, and to enforce the laws (many of them pro-slavery,) and out of one hundred and seventy-two votes in the Lower House they received all but two, and in the Senate all but one vote. As the army commenced its march the Commanding General issued an order that no slaves should be received into, or allowed to follow, the camp."

After this confession it requires the most unblushing effrontery for the rebel sympathisers to ask us to bring ruin and devastation upon ourselves because the President tells Congress that it can do nothing except *pay* for the slaves of any State that may determine to emancipate them, and that only upon the offer being made by such State. Having done all they could to demoralize and destroy the institution by secession, they would like to bring our State into the same condition, and throw the blame on those who are true to the Union. Their course deserves and will receive the scorn and detestation of every patriotic citizen.

A SLAVE-HOLDER.

For the Easton Gazette.

A Visit to Our Family Burying Ground.

Another dreary winter has passed away—another dreary winter, with its storms and tempests, its cold rains and impenetrable winds. For two long months, Old Dame Nature seemed to weep over the dangers which have threatened the existence of a great Empire, and her tears have saturated the earth. But as these dangers seem about to disappear Nature dries up her tears, and with the coming of Spring-time, with its bright sun shine and cloudless skies—its birdsongs and its flowers, our worst fears begin to subside, and hope once again springs up in the American heart.

It is a lovely day. The glorious sun, returning from distant climes, no longer hesitates to lift himself above the eastern horizon, nor hastens his descent beyond the hills of the West. The winds have ceased their deep moanings around the corners of our house and under our doorsills—have, for the present, ceased pining and sorrowing over the deep moral depravity of the human heart, and lamenting the ten thousand woes incident to man's fallen condition. The raging tempests seem to have shut themselves up in some close chamber, and I dislike to believe that with the coming of another St. Patrick's day, their prison doors may be again opened, and bursting out with tremendous fury, again ravage the earth and toss the seas—dash whole navies against the sands or rocks of a lee shore, tear up the forest trees by their roots, level long lines of fencing with the ground and cause faint hearts to quake with fear.

I say this is a lovely day—so calm—so bright—so serene. How profound the stillness, scarcely disturbed, but rendered more profound, more heavenlike, by the chorus of "the inhabitants of the bough", as they carol their songs of gratitude, or warble their chants of praises and thanksgiving to that Beneficent Being, who has made such ample provision for the comforts and wants of his creatures, and who suffers not a sparrow to fall to the ground without his notice. Arising early in the morning, I determined to avail myself of the clear sky, mild weather and good roads, by visiting (as I often do) the last resting place of my ancestors, collateral relatives, and of those whom I have most tenderly loved. This I am advised to do by one who was as eminent for his piety as for his political talent, when he says

"The man how wise, who sick of gaudy scenes,
Is led by choice, to take his favorite walk,
Beneath death's gloomy, silent, cypress shades,
Unpierced by vanitie's fantastic ray,
To read his monument, to weigh his dust,
Visit his vaults, and dwell among the tombs."

The burying ground is small and unpretending. Its grave stones and monuments are plain and the ground is shaded only by the cedar and persimmon.

As I leaned with folded arms against the tall monument of her who had once been the better part of myself, I indulged for a while in quiet revery—revery, sometimes painful as the place awakened sad remembrances of the past—of departed joys and crushed hopes—of fond associates and endearing ties, which had been broken or sundered by death. But I trust I derived some profit in being reminded of the vanity of earthly hopes, of all earthly glory, of all earthly affections—of man's low estate, the uncertainty of life, the certainty of death, and of the paramount necessity of making certain preparation for that awful event that awaits us all.

The first thing that attracted my attention was the tall cedar, marking the place where lay the ashes of the first of our family, who settled in America in the seventeenth century, and in 1865 was the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Talbot county. His posterity, down to the seventh generation, lay scattered, or at least resting around him.

Close by the tall cedar stands the tombstone of George, the companion of my earliest youth. With his death was blasted the fondest hopes of an indulgent father. Just as the strength of his intellect began to manifest itself, and as he began to bid fair for manhood, that noble boy, in his thirteenth year, was laid prostrate on a dying couch. The deep groans, the anguish, nor the prayers of an agonised parent could save him, and death claimed him for his son. The remains of his mother, whom he never knew, lay sleeping in the old grave at Salem in the adjoining county, and twenty years after, his father followed him and was not ashamed to lie down at his feet.

Here stands the little white stone covering the chambers where repose two little cherubs, the first and second pledges of a wife's affection.—Quietly they sleep near the remains of their angel mother, over whose grave I was standing.—Well I remember her cry of anguish, as she beheld the last dying gasp of our little Clara, and the tears of bitter grief gushing from her eyes and dropping on the face of her darling as she pressed on that cold, pale forehead the last kiss of a mother's love. I remembered my own grief, and another tear might again have bedewed my cheek had I not stifled it; and so far from weeping again, I would rather have congratulated my little ones on their escape from the world before they had learned of its deep sorrows—its bitter disappointments—its sad bereavements—its sore temptations—its heart-crushing afflictions—its wickedness and sin. As for a moment I thought of my imbittered existence, I was almost glad they were gone. I thought them happy in their escape, yet perhaps, not so happy as some of those by whom they were surrounded, who had lived to fight the "good fight," who "through many tribulations have entered into the kingdom of Heaven." Therefore, if I can learn to bear the afflictive providences of Almighty God with patience and christian humility, though to remain in this world is but to tolerate life and endure affliction, I would live yet a little longer, and improve the few remaining days of my earthly existence to the salvation of my soul and to the glory of God.

A few feet from where I stood was a broad stone, telling the stranger where rests all that remains of four little children who died about the same time—all within a week. Three lifeless forms lay beside each other on the same cooling board, and it was on the day after the interment of these three that the fourth one died. What a severe chastisement—what a solemn admonition—what a fearful warning this, to their bereaved parents! Their father after a long and painful illness has since then joined them.

Nearer stands the monument erected by their children, "In memory of our Beloved Father and Mother." They have not been long gone.—*She* left a most precious legacy to her children—a pure and spotless character—an example of christian piety; which it is to be hoped they will not fail to imitate. His legacy was not less precious than that which we have inherited from our sainted mother. His wife was a living commentary on the christain religion, and every obligation of husband, parent, neighbor and christian, was faithfully discharged. Both, for many years, had lived for us, and had devoted their lives and their best energies, not more to the advancement of our worldly interests, than to our moral and religious instruction. I remembered her dying admonition, as she held my hand in hers, just a few hours prior to her exit from this life to join the society of angels in heaven. I also remembered the last look of recognition *he* ever gave me. His tongue was paralysed; he could not speak; but he knew his time had come, and he smiled. I remembered the last time I ever heard his voice in prayer, when with his family assembled around him, he prayed so earnestly for his children.

The monument against which I was leaning, designated the spot where sleeps the form of *her* who for ten years had so faithfully performed for me all the kindly offices of a wife. For ten long years had she been the partaker of my every joy, and had cheerfully alleviated my every sorrow. For ten long years a heart beat so near my own that I could feel its throbbings, and I was happy in the assurence that its every pulsation was for me and mine. She was cut down in the prime of womanhood, and a year before I could not believe that so bright a star would set so soon. I was reminded by her death that being young is no protection from the ravages of disease, and that the cold hand of the grim monster, death, is alike laid on the young, the middle aged and the old. By this afflictive bereavement, I was brought to a sense of my obligations to society, my little ones, myself, and more than all, my God. As a thousand recollections of the past were awakened by the place, I remembered when on the eve last prior to the flight of her pure spirit to Abraham's bosom, as I was bending over her dying form, she exacted the promise and vow which I had previously prepared myself to make by God's help to meet her in Heaven; and now after more than a year had elapsed, the important admonition was whispered in my ear by the soft breathings of the minds as they were gently wafted by—I read it in the naked fields—in the leafless trees that in spring time and summer shaded that silent village of the dead; but more clearly on every grave stone and every little mound around me I read, *"Be ye always ready; for in such an hour as ye think not" the summons cometh.*

As I continued thus to contemplate the precious dead who occupied those cold and silent chambers, I thought I had more and stronger ties in Heaven than on earth, and as I looked far into the dim distance of the future, it was with a pleasurable emotion that I could see at the far end of my pathway through life, a narrow tomb, the certain terminus of all my earthly sorrows and bereavements—the passage way to eternity, and to heaven, where I hope again to be united with those of whom I have been writing.

My heart was sad when I turned to leave, but I trust that I was a better, if not a happier man.

BAY SIDE, March 11, 1862. J.

LEGISLATIVE.—The act of the last legislature, making Tench Tilghman of this county, Major General, has been repealed.

The committee appointed by the legislature to investigate the affairs of the Md. and Del. Rail Road company have decided that the difficulty in the last election of officers is a question that must be settled by the Judiciary and not the legislature.

The following is the Stay Law bill as passed by both Houses, after being amended:

Sec. 1 And be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the seventeenth chapter of the Public General Laws, passed at a special session of the General Assembly of Maryland, held on the twenty-sixth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, be amended and extended beyond its present duration, so as to operate a further stay of execution on the conditions in the following sections prescribed:

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That as to judgments or decrees or orders for the payment of money rendered or to be rendered by any Court or Justice of the Peace of this State and upon all powers to sell, contained in any mortgage, and on all decrees for sale of mortgaged property there shall be a further stay of execution, after the period limited in said act, until the first day of November next; and on condition, the debtor then pay all the interest then accrued and posts, and an instalment of one-fifth of the whole debt, there shall be a stay of execution for four months thereafter, when, upon payment of the interest then due, and a second instalment of one-fifth of the original debt, there shall be a stay for four months thereafter; and upon the payment of the interest then due, and a third instalment of one half of the balance of the original debt at the expiration of that time, there shall be a further stay of four months thereafter, at the expiration of which time the entire balance of said debt, with interest, and costs accrued after the first payment, shall be paid; provided, however, that if the debtor should fail to pay the first or any subsequent instalment at the time, or in the manner, and to the amount above set forth, he shall forfeit all benefit of this act, and execution may issue as to the whole or any balance of the debt, with interest and costs then due.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That during the continuance of this act, judgments rendered by Justices of the Peace within any of the counties of this State, shall be liens upon the real estate of the defendants in said judgments from the time of their being rendered, as hereinafter provided for, upon their being filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Courts of the several counties of the State in which the defendants shall reside, and recorded in a record kept for that purpose, for which the Clerk shall receive twenty-five cents in each case, but the lien of said judgments shall not be considered as prior to judgments rendered in the Circuit Courts of this State at the term of this Court next succeeding the filing of the judgments rendered before a Justice of the Peace, as aforesaid, but shall be considered only equal as lien to them.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That the securities provided for as to mortgage of personal property, and also the immunity of the lien of judgments in the second section of the original act referred to, shall apply to all cases covered, by this act; and that this act shall not apply to debts contracted after the tenth day of May next.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That the period allowed by this act, and said act of 1861, chapter 17, shall not be computed as a portion of the three years within which an execution may issue on any judgment in decree to which the stay of execution provided for by this act, or the said act of 1861, chapter 17, is applicable.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted, That where any execution had been levied upon personal property at the time when said act of 1861, chapter 17 went into effect, and sale was stayed under such execution by said act, the officer serving said execution shall not be held responsible for said property, unless he shall have taken and held such property in his actual possession.

Sec. 7. And be it enacted, That nothing in this act or the act of which this is amendatory, shall apply to judgments or decrees rendered in favor of the State; or in any way effect, limit or restrain attachments on warrant or judgement against the lands, goods and chattels, rights and credits of non-residents or absconding debtors, as practised under existing law.

Sec. 8. And be it enacted, That nothing contained in this act, or the said act of which this is amendatory, shall be construed to prevent the sale of any real or personal estate under any decree or order heretofore passed, or that may be hereafter passed upon a "creditor's bill," where all the parties to the cause wherein such decree or order has been or may be psased, shall agree to such sale, by consent in writing, to be signed by said parties, or their Attorney or Attorneys, and in case any of said parties may be infants, by the guardian or guardians of such infants, and to be filed in such cause.

Sec. 9. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect from the 18th day of May next.

The bill for the relief of the families of the Maryland Volunteers has passed both Houses. It was returned from the Senate with a substitute proposed, but the House refusing to concur, the Senate receded, and the original bill is now a law.

Message of the President.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of 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 the gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniencies; public and private, produced by such change of system."

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end of it; but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to 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 then all the Slave States north of such part will 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 ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it as to all the States initiating it. The point is not that *all* the States tolerating slavery would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation; but, that while the offer is equally made to all, the more Northern shall by such initiation make it certain to the more Southern that in no event will the former ever join the latter in their proposed Confederacy. I say initiation, because, in my judgement, gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all. In the mere financial and pecuniary point of view, any member of Congress, with the Census tables and Treasury report before him, can readily see for himself how very soon the current expenditures of this war would purchase, at fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State. Such a proposition on the part of the General Government sets up no claim of a right by Federal authority to interfere with slavery in State limits, referring as it does the absolute control of the subject in 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 had been made, and continues to be, an indispensable means to this end. A practical recognition of the National authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease. If, however, resistance 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, or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle, must and will come.

The proposition now made, though an offer only, I hope it may be esteemed no offence to ask whether the pecuniary consideration tendered would not be of more value to the States and private persons concerned than are the institutions and property in it in the present aspect of affairs.

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

In full view of my great responsibilities to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to this subject.

March 6, 1862. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

CHURCH DIFFICULTIES.—It is greatly to be regretted that the affairs of the M. E. Church in this vicinity are in such a complicated condition. In this town the Church is in danger of being entirely closed during the next conference year. A number of members are dissatisfied with the course of Rev. Mr. Pearson, and are unwilling to have him here another year. The secessionists, however, insist on his coming back. The Union members propose to compromise the matter and go back to the Philadelphia Conference, and take any one that the Conference may send. If it is Mr. Pearson, they will receive him, provided that the secessionists will agree to receive any one else that the Conference may send.

But the secessionists seem to be opposed to this and are determined to have Mr. Pearson or nobody. It is greatly to be regretted that politics should have entered into the Church, for it can accomplish nothing but harm. We hope that the matter will be harmonized, tha. both sides will sacrifice everything rather than create a schism in the Church.—*Cambridge Intelligencer.*

LATEST WAR NEWS.

GREAT BATTLE IN ARKANSAS.

Splendid Triumph of the Union Arms.

Death of Ben. McCulloch.

Manassas Abandoned.

UNION TROOPS IN POSSESSION.

Occupation of Fairfax and Centreville.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

U. S. Steamer Whitehall Blown Up.

EXPLOSION OF THE YORKTOWN'S BOILER.

Loss of Life Probably Heavy.

Latest from New Orleans—Large Union Clubs There.

General Curtis has sent an official report to Gen. Halleck, stating that the enemy attacked the right wing of his army at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, on the 6th inst., that portion of the army being under the command of Gen. Siegel. The fight lasted three days, which resulted in the complete route of the enemy.

The combined Rebel force of Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh, were put to flight. The killed and wounded on both sides was heavy. The Rebel McCulloch was killed.

Retreat of the Rebels from Manassas.

CENTREVILLE, Mark 11.—Yesterday morning our forces, amounting to upwards of 2,000 men, proceeded to Centreville and occupied this village about 4 o'clock on the previous afternoon.—It was altogether deserted.

The entire command thence proceeded to Manassas, arriving there in the evening. The rebels had destroyed much of their property which they could not carry away, by fire and otherwise.

The bridges and railroad track and depot in that vicinity were extensively damaged, nothing but wreck and desolation were apparent.

The wherreabouts of the rebels who retreated from Nanassas is a subject of earnest speculation.

Later.—Upon closer examination, it was discovered that the rebels, before evacuting their much boasted stronghold, had set fire to such of their commissary stores as they could not conveniently carry off. The place presented a scene of the utmost desolation—a mass of charred and blackened ruins.

The steamer Whitehall was struck by a shell from the Yorktown, and blew up with a terrible explosion.

One of the Monitor's balls entered the Yorktown's boiler, which was blown up. As the rebel steamer was crowded with troops, the loss of life must have been fearful.

Latest from New Orleans and Memphis.

ST. LOUIS, March 11.—A special despatch to the Democrat from Cairo says:—Two Union men have arrived from New Orleans, which place they left on the 25th ult. Both have spent the winter in New Orleans, where the greatest excitement and distress prevail. The city is full of secret Union Clubs, and at least 12,000 citizens belong to these Clubs.

Gen. Beauregard had left Jackson and was expected to take command at Island No. 10.

A large number of transports were laying at the foot of this Island to take off the troops in case of a defeat.

Retreat of the Rebel Army from the Lower Potomac.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Official information received to-day reports that the enemy formerly encamped back of and below the Occoquan river had retreated, after destroying everything they could not carry on their backs. They left on Saturday. Our troops took possession this morning, and were welcomed by a part of the inhabitants with great joy. Everything in the vicinity and everything that would float, had been destroyed.

The rebels told the villagers that they were going to fall back to the Rappahannock.

A call from the Governor of Virginia on the militia of the State for 10,000 men, was proclaimed in the streets of Occoquon on the 9th inst., by an official who immediately departed. Nearly all the able bodied men of the village left with the rebel army, but a few refused to go. The rebel force which has thus retreated, was composed of three Texan, one Georgia and one Mississippi Regiments and the Hampton Legion.

☞ THE Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will meet in Philadelphia on Wednesday, the 19th instant.

DR. BAIRD'S
ODONTINE
OR
LIQUID DENTRIFICE

Is invaluable for *cleansing* and *preserving* the TEETH and GUMS, for the relief of TOOTHACHE and all NEURALGIC affections of the *face*. It imparts a delightful ODER to the *breath*.

Prepared by J. N. Baird D. D. S. For sale by
feb 1-1y CHARLES ROBINSON.

Honor to whom Honor is Due.

AN opportunity will soon be afforded the loyal citizens, of this county, to contribute to the Hicks memorial. It is intended to be a substantial token of the people's regard to their late patriotic chief magistrate, and no man who remembers and appreciates as he should the noble services of THOMAS HOLLIDAY HICKS can hesitate to furnish his name and means to so commendable an object. When the future Historian shall relate the events of this day he will place no name above that of the old Roman, who has just relinquished the cares of State for the repose of his own home, in a neighboring county. Long may his life be spared to the State and to the nation!

Collectors to receive contributions to the memorial have been appointed, as follows, in the various Districts of the county. Each person subscribing One Dollar, or more, will be entitled to a handsome printed certificate, with a fine vignette head of Governernor Hicks.

Easton District—Joseph Rasin, Dawson & Bro.
St. Michaels—James Benson, Dr. James Dawson, John Harper.
Trappe—Isaac W. Jump, Thomas C. Worrell, David Kerr.
Chapel—John R. Hopkins, Henry P. Hopkins, John Goldsborough.
Bay Hundred—Dr. William Dawson, Robert T. Larrimore, Dr. W. N. Pindell.

The above named collectors will report to
SAML. T. HOPKINS
Treasurer, Easton.