THE EASTON GAZETTE.

SATURDAY MORNING, - DECEMBER 12, 1863.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

The "Conservative Union National Convention" which assembled at the Burnett House, Cincinnati, on Thursday, adopted a resolution reaffirming the Kentucky platform of 1863, and suggesting to the Conservative Union National Committee the name of George B. McClellan for the next presidency. On Friday the National Committee convened and decided that the resolution be referred to a meeting of the Committe to be held at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on December 23.

From Arkansas we have intelligence that the Union men are making energetic efforts for the return of the State to its allegiance. Conventions are being held, loyal men are organizing for home defence, and a member of the National Congress has been elected. One of the Conventions voted in favor of Arkansas as a Free State after the war.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation recommending that all loyal people assemble at their places of worship and render special homage and gratitude to Almighty God for his great advancement of the National cause, reliable information having been received that the insurgent force is retreating from East Tennessee under circumstances rendering it probable that the Union forces cannot hereafter be dislodged from that important position.

Gen. Grant has captured since the war began 472 cannon and 90,000 prisoners.

Major General Robert C. Schenck, who for the past year has so satisfactorily discharged the arduous duties of Commander of the Middle Department and the Eighth Army Corps, on Saturday last resigned his commission in the United States Army, and turned over his command to Brigadier General Henry H. Lockwood, the senior officer next in rank in this Department.—Gen. Schenck resigns for the purpose of taking his seat in the House of Representatives, as a member from Ohio, having been elected to that position from the Dayton district by a large majority over Vallandigham. In his farewell address the General highly compliments the officers and men of his late command, and returns his thanks to the loyal citizens of Maryland, Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Virginia for the cordial support which they have constantly afforded him by their approbation and co-operation. His successor, Gen. Lockwood, announces that his views in relation to the Government of this Department are the same as those of its late chief, and that while he earnestly hopes there will be no occasion requiring harsh measures, he is at the same time determined that any and all disloyal manifestations or proceedings shall surely be overtaken by that retributive justice they so properly merit. Gen. Lockwood is well and favorably known to a large number of our loyal citizens, has distinguished himself in the field, particularly at Gettysburg, in command of a brigade, and was lately in comimand of the forces at Harper's Ferry and vicinity.

The Legislature of Virginia met at Alexandria yesterday. Gov. Pierpont's Message contains an argument against Secession and another in favor of Emancipation, and says that Rebels have no right to vote.

The Government has ordered the sale of all confiscated lands in Virginia, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee on the 19th of January. The sale will be peremptory to pay the direct taxes of the States.

It is estimated that 60,000 to 70,000 Irish emigrants have reached this country from Cork alone, during the past year, and this is but a small portion of the immense emigration that is going on.

Thirty slaveholders of Tennessee have sent resolutions to Washington, expressing themselves in favor of emancipation in that State, without compensation.

Washington despatches say that Provost Marshall Fry will recommend to Congress the repeal of the three hundred dollars commutation clause in the Conscription act. It is thought this will compel every drafted man to furnish a substitute or to take his place in the ranks. A curtailment of the list of disabilities which now exempts persons from military service will also be urged on Congress. There seems to be a determination among members of both Houses to abolish the commutation clause. Most of the bills thus far given notice of look to this result.

The War Department has decided to pay the wives of families of officers or soldiers now confined as prisoners of war the amount of pay that may be due. This is certainly an excellent order, and will give many families, not only the means of relief for themselves, but that of sending assistance to their relatives or friends.

BEATING IN MAINE.—The Portland (Me.) Argus, of the 4th inst., says.

The skating on a portion of the "basin" yesterday was excellent, and a large number, both ladies and gentlemen, were enjoying it. Two or three "venturous spirits" (and we trust spirit had nothing to do with the venturing) got badly out. If it does not storm, the ice to-day must necessarily be in fine condition over the entire "basin," and it will probably be covered with the admirers of this charming exercise.

☞ The Board of Enrollment have been busily engaged for the past two or three weeks, in making out lists of the enrolled men on this shore. They are being printed and will be struck off in the various counties, in order that persons that have been improperly enrolled may have it corrected and all who intend to apply for exemption can have an opportunity to do so.

Captain Frazier returned to his post of duty two weeks ago, after an absence of several weeks, upon the difficulty which grew out of the arrests made in Kent day before the election. We do not know what disposition has been made of his case, but we do know that he has resumed his duties in the office.—In reference to the charges that have been made against him from Kent, we say now as we have in the past, that we will not pre-judge him, for we fear that there as much of passion and malignant spirit attempted to be brought against him as it is to benefit the government by his removal. We see by the last Denton Union, an article headed a "Voice from Talbot," which is intended to lengthen the list of hard names by which he has been called. Admitting that he is guilty of every charge that has been brought against him, does the abuse which is heaped weekly upon him by the few who feel themselves agrived, help the matter? If he is the thief, the robber, the cut-throat, that he is represented to be, make it plain to the President? The people have confidence in Mr. Lincoln, as a man of morality, prudence and firmness and we should think before him would be the proper place to lay all complaints.

MEETING OF CONGRESS—ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—The Thirty-eighth Congress, first session, assembled at Washington on Monday last, at noon, and at once proceeded to business. After some discussion in regard to the credentials of the members elect from Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, and Kansas, they were admitted, when the House went into an election of Speaker, and, upon the first ballot, elected Hon. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, he having received 101 votes out of 181 cast. Upon assuming the chair, Mr. Colfax delivered a telling address in favor of crushing the rebellion by all means within the power of the Government.

In the Senate, there was an effort to exclude the Senators from Western Virginia, but it was defeated. After appointing the hour of 12 o'clock, M., for assembling, the Senate adjourned.

CONCERT.—The juvenile choir of the Methodist Protestant Church will give a concert in that Church on Thursday night next A collection will be taken up and the proceeds appropriated to the use of the choir. These children have been under the instructions of Prof. Mortimer, to whom no little credit is due for the proficient manner in which they perform their pieces. Nothing can be more beautiful and lovely than to see an exhibition of this character.—The pure emotions of their little hearts appear to shine out and lighten up the countenance—thus presenting more of an angelic appearance than any thing human can devise.

DEATH OF JIMMY DEAN.—This little fellow well and favorably known to our citizens, has for several weeks past been afflicted with typhoid fever, when on Thursday morning of last week death terminated his sufferings. Although only about 16 years of age he was the main support of a widdowed mother.—For a short time he 'stuck' type on the Gazette, and we always found him amiable, and willing to perform any duty. He was quick, of more than ordinary intellect, very fond of reading and we doubt not, had he lived, would have been a useful citizen.

☞ THE President has released the men drafted in 1862, so all that have been scampering about from woods to swamp, need have no further fear. This is certainly a very praiseworthy and charitable act on the part of the Government. There are many in the lower counties who have from exposure to the weather in hiding about, become rheumatic and otherwise disabled and their families reduced to a state of starvation.

☞ As much objection as has been raised against "negro enlistment," every poor man ought now to rejoice. The War Department has agreed to credit the counties in which they are enlisted and we have no doubt that by this means we shall be saved from the two coming drafts.

FRANK LESLIES' MONTHLY.—This magnificent magazine for December has been received. It is not surpassed by any published. Its fashion and literary departments are well supplied and in fact no part of it can be examined carefully without something attractive being found. Now is a good to subscribe—Address Frank Leslie, 72 Duane St., New York.

Ho, for the Hollidays.

Mr. Chas. Robinson, will be at his post as usual during Christmas Holidays, offering great inducements—in the way of presents, toys, fancy boxes, candies, foreign fruits, apples, and everything that is calculated to suit the taste and please the eye.

Mr. Samuel Patchett is also in the market, and will show off Christmas to the little folks, in all its beauty. His pyramid of toys, fancy boxes, and presents of all kinds, will be as attractive to the eye as in former times. He solicits a call.

Mr. Linthicum, at the bakery, opposite Mr. Wallaston's hotel, is also on hand. Independent of the various kinds of cakes, pastry, &c., of his own manufacture, he will have a new supply of confections and many other things appropriate for Christmas holidays, from the city.

Mr. Wm. J. Golt has recently fitted up and opened a new fancy store, at the stand formerly occupied by H. J. Albertson as a feed store, where may be found during Christmas holidays and at all other times, ladies' and gentlemens' notions, such as worked collars, handkerchiefs, gloves, hoop skirts, port monais, neck ties, hosiery and such fixings. Also fruits, candies, &c. If the ladies will give a call they make a CHOICE.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The message of President Lincoln was published in the city papers on Thursday last, and occupies only about two and a half columns in the American. Owing to the lateness in the week which it was received by us, we are unable to publish it this week, but in order that all of our readers may peruse it, it will appear on the first page of our next issue. In speaking of the message, the Baltimore American says:

Considering the magnitude of the subjects and interests discussed, and the vast variety of topics which call imperatively for notice, the people of the United States have never had commended to their attention a document of less pretentions or of such marked brevity as the new Message.—Two-thirds of it nearly, perhaps more, is devoted to a glance at the operations of the various public Departments for the past year, and so encouraging is the exhibit to which the attention of the Nation is thus called that all will be more than satisfied at the absence of those long special pleas in advocacy of certain measures or for a certain policy which in times past burdened documents of this kind. Indeed, the more important and eventful the rush of mighty events becomes the more evident does it appear that the President is equal to the new demands made upon him; the more apparent does it appear that he has not lost that noble self-control, that self-poise, which from the first has constituted him eminently master of his position. An attitude so marked with the calm consciousness of right, of strength, so calculated to reassure the Nation has not been lost upon it; and this Message will be received both at home and abroad, therefore, as not only a fair review of the mighty events with which it deals, but almost as a warrant or guarantee that it is a true exponent of the spirit and wishes of the nation, who recognize in the President the champion of order, of good government as against anarchy and rebellion.

And so brief, or so condensed, are the statements which are intended to give the people a comprehensive glance at the condition of things, at the state of the public finances, at the aspect of our foreign relations, at the operations of the War, Navy, Postoffice and other Departments, that we have little or no occasion to call the attention of our readers, at this time, to any particular matter presented.

A New Magazine for the Ladies.

Messrs. Deacon & Peterson, of Philadelphia, are about to issue a new magazine, to be called THE LADY'S FRIEND, the January number of which is nearly ready. It will be devoted to choice Literature and the illustration of the Fashions. It will also contain the latest patterns of Cloaks, Caps, Bonnets, Head-Dresses, Fancy Work, Embroidery, &c., with receipts, Music and other matters interesting to ladies generally. It will be edited by Mrs. Henry Peterson, assisted by an unrivalled corps of writers, embracing some of the best writers in America, among which we may name Mrs. Henry Wood, Mrs. M. A. Dennison, Virginia F. Townsend, Clara Agusta, Marion Harland and a host of others, male and female.

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Copperheadism and "Conservatism" forming a Partnership.

We have seldom known any movement in the way of taking public sentiment by storm for the purpose of elevating any particular individual or party, politically, that bore on its front so plainly the stamp of *antiquate imbecility and* modern *Copperheadism—disloyalty*—as that lately made in Cincinnati in favor of elevating George B. McClellan to the Presidency.

The mere name of the principal actors on the occasion tell at a single glance the fortunes of the forlon enterprise. They are either those of men so much of another and a past generation as to be entirely behind in the present march of great events, or they are in most cases those of a more modern set of *impracticables* and treason-mongers—of men in whom no large number of the people have any confidence, and who, therefore can influence public sentiment so little, comparatively, as to be powerless almost for either good or evil.

The two first names that figure in the proceedings of the so-called "National "Commitee"—a most equivocal or doubtful cognomen for a body assembled for so important a purpose—are those of Ex-Governor Campbell, of Tennessee, and Hon. Amos Kendall, of Washington; the first being made "Chairman *pro tem.*," the secon superseding him as "permanent President." Let us examine, for an instant, that record of the "Chairman *pro tem.*"

Ex-Governor Campbell, of Tennessee, is an Old Line Whig; was formerly Member of Congress, commandant of a regiment in the Mexican War, afterwards Governor of the State, Judge, and lately a Brigadier General by commission from Washington. Like Bailie Peyton, and others of like prominence in that State, he stood firm for the Union, and for the war to sustain it, up to the time when the President's "Emancipation Proclamation" caused so many like himself in the Border States to "bolt;" and he seems to have neutralized all the good he may in the past have done by leaving at a critical moment in the history of the conflict in Tennessee the side of that whole-souled patriot, Andrew Johnson, resigning his commission as Brigadier General to spend his time debating questions of "constitutional rights."—Such a defection—no matter what have been his antecedents—is anything else than a recommendation to the confidence of the great body of the true "Unconditonal" Union men of the naton; and thus with his position understood, Ex Governor Campbell's endorsement of General McClellan as a fitting candidate for the Chief Magistracy of the nation is worth just as little with unflinching Unionists as can well be imagined. In all this we have no occasion to make the slightest reflection on Ex-Governor Campbell's patroitism; but we do say that when men like him can make no more progress in keeping up with the rush of events, they may well be laid on the shelf by the people as "fossils"—as those quite behind in the requirements which patroitism demands.

If we take notice of the next name on the list, that of the Hon. Amos Kendell, we have that of one who, understood to be true to the Union, belongs almost to a past age. Although there are instances enough in the land to prove that the burthen of years does not always incapacitate men for marching in the front in regard to needful measures for crushing out the Rebellion, yet when we find *ancients* like Mr. Kendall and Leslie Coombs, of Kentucky, one the venerable relict of a long past Administration—General Jackson's—the other almost as prominent with its antipodes—the "Tip and Ti" failure—feebly working together to impress this generation with their lagging ideas as to what constitutes its duty in suppressing the Rebellion, we are constrained to turn away from the spectacle with pity and something of wonder, that any number of moderns claiming the possession of vigor of thought and action could be found consenting to follow their lead; and more, relying upon them to "blaze the way" permanently to that far off point, so hard for the most active to push their *protegee* into—the chair of the Chief Magistracy of the Union. A task the most vigorous might well shrink from undertaking seems not in the least to discourage these venerable political pioneers; but working from habit, most likely, they will never appreciate the futility of their labors until their candidate is shelved alongside of themselves.

Then we have, as another of the same stamp in some respects, the name of J. Scott Harrison, of Ohio, son of President Harrison, and so long out of public life that the "memory of man runneth not to the contrary;" and for the life of "impracticables" and Copperheads, to name them merely is quite sufficient to make an Unconditional Union man cut the whole concern. Garrett Davis, of Kentucky; Washington Hunt, of New York; W. B Reed, of Pennsylvania, are all men whose recent positions are suggestive of something worse than lack of patrotism—of positive disloyalty in affiliating with those who do all they can to embarrass the Government in its conflict with bloody revolt.

But the queerest feature in the whole movement is the relation it seems to bear to others in the same direction. Although this "Committee" met, not long since, in the State of New York—met as a peculiarly conservative body, it having at that time little about it to indicate that it had any particular affinities with unadulterated Copperheads; yet, pitiably weak then, and time having been taken to extend and to perfect its negotiations, to strengthen its organization, we now find it in full fellowship with the most virulent Copperheadism, patting it on the shoulders and being caressed in turn, until the result is that it stands before the loyal of the land a conglomeration of imbecility and half-way treason—of fellowship, in some sense, with the Rebellion itself—something that cannot be redeemed by the best names it parades. Indeed, the latter are dragged down by the partnership, and must not complain if they are judged by the company they keep."

And what is the fitting sequel of this bid for public confidence on the part of such men?—Why, that the man who endorsed Governor Woodward, as again Governor Curtin, is the best man, in their estimation, to represent their principles and their standing! For one, we are glad it has come to this. We know *each* all the better for this demonstration—the "Committee," as a body, not in sympathy with the loyal sentiment of the land; their nominee as the man the public have stamped with their reprobation as far behind the requirements of the present crisis in public affairs.

We say, then, of these men—as we said of the champions of Slavery in the late election here—"let the dead bury their dead." Copperheadism proper was so utterly crushed, beaten, discouraged by its late signal overthrow, that it ascertained to its sorrow that it could, never, as such, raise General McClellan—its *protege*—an inch towards the Presidential chair. And hence we doubt not, this movement. Lying flat on its back, it began to look about for aid; and espying the little knot of "fossils" in convocation at Rochester, it concluded to open negotiations with them. What brazen disloyalty could not commend to the support of the American people, a harmless lot of "Conservatives" might but the mixing up of names, the sprinkling amongst the "fossils" those of active treason-workers, tells the whole story—betrays its aims, points it out for patriotic condemnation, and it will insure its signal defeat. Woe be to the miserable faction lately so defiant, when it has to press or coax into service at little troop just as forlorn, by way of a chance to even present its candidate to the American people!

Then, we say, finally, let the loyal of the land stamp the movement at Cincinnati with their reprobation and contempt. With their *reprobation*, because Copperheadism is manifesting its hated presence in this subtile attempt; with their *contempt*, because it is the work—in part—of "fossils" and impracticables, who cannot realize that they have had their day. The people are in earnest, and they will be led by neither of these exploded factions; and for any chances either set—working separately or together—may have, they might as well call to their side the dead and buried Tories of the Revolution to influence the coming Presidential election as either to rely on the other to make the people repudiate those they have deputed to crush the Rebellion. Let all such subside, creep into any shade that presents itself, if so be their affiliations with treason in this conflict can be forgotten. The politically dead Vallandigham dishonored, repudiated, cast out on foreign soil, is but a type of his class, his followers, let them assume what character or make what promises they may. Like their confreres—the Rebels in Dixie they would not learn wisdom from precept—let them learn it by hard knocks.—*Baltimore American.*

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EXTENSIVE FIRE.—Our town was visited on Thursday night last, between the hours of 1 and 2 A. M. with the most destructive fire from which it ever suffered. The fire broke out first in the office occupied by Thos. J. Keating, Esq., as Lawyer's office and the publication office of the Centreville State Rights. The flames spread so rapidly that it was impossible to save the press and types and other material of the office, though Mr. Keating succeeded in saving his books and papers.

We have not learned the extent of his loss but it must be considerable. The building occupied as Lawyer's officers by J. B. Brown and Jno. M. Robinson, Esq., were next on fire and were burnt entirely to the ground On the other side, the frame two story dwelling occupied by Capt. A. J. Collins was entirely destroyed with the furniture and contents, even the clothing of the family being burned. All of these buildings are the property of Mr. Samuel McCosh, whether insured or not we cannot learn. The house adjoining Capt. Collins, belonging to Mrs. Susan S. Ashcom, and occupied by Jno. T. Hand, Esq., and the two next owned by Mrs. Ashcom also, and occupied by Mr. L. Cobern as dwelling and Millinery store were next destroyed. Mr. Cobern loses heavily both in furniture and his wife's stock of goods which were either ruined by water or stolen in the confusion. The fire here having reached the end of the street was stopped. On the other side it spread to the building owned and occupied by Mrs. James Haddaway, in which also Mr. Rowlenson has his Magistrate's office, which was entirely destroyed.

The next building was a small frame office occupied by Thos. C. Hughey, Esq., as Lawyer's office with the adjoining building, the property of Capt. Jno. Goldsborough, were partially torn down, and the further spread of the flames was prevented. We have not heard any estimate of the loss as yet, but it must necessarily be great. It will fall most heavily upon those who are the least able to bear it. Apart from the actual loss incurred, a great inconvenience must be occasioned by the destruction of so many dwellings, as there never have been a sufficient number to accommodate our population. We hope that steps will be speedily taken to rebuild the burnt property, as more desirable sites cannot easiley be found. We omitted to state that the Court House and Odd Fellows Hall, were in great danger throughout, and only escaped through the untiring efforts of our citizens. They were on fire several times.—Centreville Times.

A GOLD WATCH PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT.—President Lincoln was on Saturday presented with a magnificent gold watch by the ladies who have charge of the Sanitary Fair in Chicago. It cost two hundred dollars, and is suitably inscribed. It is presented to the President on account of his being the largest contributor to the fair. The original draft of the emancipation proclamation message was presented to the fair by the President, and sold for three thousand dollars. A letter, written by Mrs. Hoge and other ladies, accompanied the watch, which was presented by Hon. Isaac N. Arnold M. C., from Chicago. The President made a suitable acknowledgment, and will return thanks to the ladies by letter in a few days.

INTERESTING TO THE WIVES OF PRISONERS.—The wives of prisoners in the hands of the Confederates will be pleased to hear that the War Department has revived the old rule to pay them the money due to their husbands.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

☞ An English writer, in his advice to young married women says that their mother Eve married a gardener. Some one wittily remarked that it might be added that the gardener, in consequence, lost the match lost his situation.

PROCLAMATION! PARDON TO REBELS IN ARMS.

The following important Proclamation accompanied the President's message. It will be seen that it provides for the reconstruction of the Union, the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, and offers pardon on easy terms to all in arms against the Government, on taking an oath of allegiance—except those holding positions in the army above the rank of Colonel and in the navy above the rank of Lieutenant, and those who abandoned the service of the United States to join the rebellion—restoring to them their rights of citizenship and property, except in slaves:

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, In and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President "shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment;" and

Whereas, A Rebellion now exists, whereby the loyal State Government of several States have, for a long time, been subverted, and many persons have committed and are now guilty of treason against the United States; and

Whereas, With reference to said rebellion and treason, laws have been enacted by Congress, declaring forfeitures and confiscation of property, and liberation of slaves, all upon terms and conditions therein stated, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized at any time thereafter, by Proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing Rebellion in any State or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such times and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare; and

Whereas, The Congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with well established judicial exposition of the pardoning power; and

Whereas, With reference to said Rebellion, the President of the United States has issued several Proclamations, with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves; and

Whereas, It is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said Rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to reinaugurate loyal State Governments within and for their respective States.

Therefore I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, *do proclaim, declare and make known* to all persons who have directly or by implication, participated in the existing Rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a *full pardon* is hereby granted to them, and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property except as to slaves.

And in property cases, where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

"I——*do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing Rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all Proclamations of the President made during the existing Rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God.*"

The persons excepted from the benefit of the foregoing provisions are all who are or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers, or agents of the so-called Confederate Government; all who have left Judicial stations under the United States; and all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid the Rebellion; all who resigned commission in the army or navy of the United States, and afterwards aided the Rebellion; and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons or white persons in charge of such otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United State Service as soldiers, seamen, or in any capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known, that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one-tenth in number of the votes cast in such States at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, each having the oath aforesaid and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State existing immediately before the so-called act of Secession, and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State Government which shall be republican, and in nowise contravening said oath, such shall be recognised as the Government, of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the Constitutional provision which declares that "the United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and, on application of the Legislature, or the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be covened), against domestic violence."

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such State Government in relation to the freed people of such State, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provided for their education, and which may yet be consistent as a temporary arrangement with their present condition as a laboring, landless and houseless class, will not be objected to by the National Executive.

And it is suggested as not improper, that, in constructing a loyal State Government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisons, the Constitution, and the general code of laws, as before the Rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State Government.

To avoid misunderstanding it may be proper to say that the proclamation, so far as it relates to State Government, has no reference to States wherein loyal State Governments have all the while been maintained. And, for the same reason it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to Congress from any State shall be admitted to seats constitutionally, rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the Executive.—And still further, that this Proclamation is intended to present the people of the States wherein the National authority has been suspended and loyal State Governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the National authority and loyal state Governments may be re-established within said States, or in any of them; and while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode will be acceptable.

Given under my hand the City of Washington, [SEAL.] ton, the 8th day of December, A. D., one one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President: W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

The report of the Commissioners of the land office, Judge Edmunds, gives a total of the five classes of land disposed of for the five quarters ending September 30, 1863, of 3,841,550 acres. The aggregate quantity of surveyed land offered, unoffered and undisposed of on September 30, 1863, was 183,457,495 acres, of which 33,955,619 acres were offered and 50,221,577 acres unoffered land. The Commissioner recommends legislation that no pre-emption be recognized in which the settlement is not continuous, and at least for the period of one year upon unoffered lands, from the date of the settlement and that settlers upon unoffered lands be required to move and pay up within two years from the date of the settlement. He recommends that the Homestead act be so amended that parties entering lands shall pay the full commission to the Register and Receiver when the entry is made instead of paying one-half at the time of entry, and the remainder when the final certificate is issued, at the end of five years. Under the military laws 58,969,00 acres have been entered.

The following States have accepted the Agricultural and Mechanical College grant:—Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Illinois, Kentucky, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersy, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, absorbing 3,750,000 acres. Under grants for railroad purpose of 1856 and 1857, 12,758,845 acres have been absorbed by Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, Under the Swamp Land act, 44,528,835 acres, have been approved to the State.

Since last report 3,187,817 acres of land have been ordered sold, principally in the Western Territories, Michigan, and Kansas.

Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr Welles, the Secretary of the Navy, has prepared one of the most interesting reports ever issued, of which the following is the text—

As already stated, the estimate for all branches of the naval and marine corps will not exceed one hundred and forty-two millions. The item that increases the estimate to this figure is one of a temporary character, and which will not be likely to repeat itself in such magnitude again. It is the expenses of construction and purchase of an immense fleet, which now being the property of the Government will only cost an annual maintenance and repair. When it is remembered that something like sixty iron-clads and probably as many wooden ships, are building for the Government, advances on which are made almost every quarter, the expenditure cannot be considered enormus. The report suggests many improvements in the management of naval matters. The large sum of money realized by prizes will materially help to pay the indebtedness of the department, while the injury done to the rebels by preventing the delivery to them the cargoes of these prizes can only be estimated by those who know the straits of the Confederates at present. The Secretary devotes some space to the discussion of the iron-clads, and his reason for the failure of the attack on Cearleston is that the harbor obstructions are too great to be overcome by vessels. There being only seven or eight impregnable ships there, when one of them would get aground, sending one or two wooden ships to her assistance would be out of the question, as they would be sunk immediately by a concentrated rebel fire. The Secretary proclaims continued faith in the power of the vessels, so far as their impregnability is concerned. The operations on the Mississippi and elsewhere during the war receives proper attention; also the dispatch of some vessels to the East India squadrons. Mr. Welles counts 550 or 700 vessels as the property of the Navy Department.

Profitable Investments.

The Philadelphia *North American* gives some excellent advice to those who wish to invest money. It is well for all who are in funds to heed the counsel!—"Though money has been temporarily scarce, capital continues abundant; and the recent tumble in the stock market has brought capitalists to a realizing sense of the unreliable character of many of the securities dealt in. It is greatly to the credit of the Government that its loans, of all the securities daily dealt in on the market, have maintained their integrity of price better than almost anything else. Its Five-Twenty year six per cent. loan, the interest on which is promptly paid in gold, has been subscribed to, although the pressure in the money market, at the average of more than two millions per day. And what is not the least gratifying fact in connection with the daily large subscriptions to this popular loan, scarcely any of it is returned to the market for sale. It is taken for investment, and is held with unfaltering confidence in its reliability. And Why should it not be? It is seen that the Government now, after years of the most gigantic war that the world has ever known, experiencing no difficulty in commanding the necessary means to prosecute it, or in paying regularly the interest in gold as it falls due. If this can be done while the war is being waged, who can anticipate any difficulty in readily accomplishing it when the war shall be ended? What better investment then for capital, than the "Five-Twenty" Government loan? But if any doubt let him refer to the statistics furnished by the census tables of various nations of the world. The facts which they present will prove the most satisfactory mode of dispelling the numberless gloomy apprehensions which are being continually conjured up by those who are disposed to aggregate the extent of the calamity occasioned by our rebellion. A reference to the state of most of the prosperous nations of the old world clearly disproves such a position and shows that the highest conditions of national advancement have not been materially affected by the extended wars in which those nations have been immemorially engaged, and that a heavy national indebtedness has not proved an unmitigated evil.

"For instance, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands will undoubtedly be conceded to represent the highest prosperity that has been attained by any of the European nations. And yet no nations have been called upon to endure fiercer or more prolonged wars, domestic and foreign, than they. The effect has been, unquestionably, to incur an enormous national indebtedness, but neither their wars nor their indebtedness have had the effect to destroy their elasticity, nor to check the progress of their general prosperity. The result would have been different, probably, if these nations had been falling into decay, instead of being as they really were in a state of development; and in this respect their case resembles our own, with enormous advantages in our favor. These nations while undergoing the trials of war, were opposed by the evils of an immense exodus of their people, caused by the density of their population, the impossibility to provide occupation for them the low price of labor and the scarcity of territory. Compared with our own country, they possessed slight room for future development. They were settled in every part, and no vast territory lay invitingly open to encourage enterprise and settlement. Their great problem has ever been what to do with their surplus population, which, in its turn, has sought new fields for adventure and self support in countries like our own, where an illimitable territory waits to be developed, and where incalculable resources invite industry and energy. The encouragement to be derived from these facts and comparisons of circumstances is very great, and to the mind of any dispassionate reasoner is conclusive that the course of this great country is onward and upward, and that its credit will live unimpaired to the end."

THE ESTIMATE OF THE TREASURY.—The estimate the Treasury call for the fiscal year commencing 1864:—For army and which $142,000,000 civil list, Indian expen $102,000,000, making for the next fiscal year. 1864, the Treasurer a surplus from last year bout $8,000,000. The carefully prepared, and as possible.

RECENT REBEL DISAS sums them up concisely 1. The failure at Ch spare out our army. 2. The depreciation of land to 30 per cent, disco 3. The refusal of the to permit the rebel rams 4. The same in Fran 5. The Canada plot 6. Bank's arrival at 7. The success of the Northern State. 8. Rebel success no

DENTI J. N. BAIR

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NEW CROP RAIS quarter boxes, jus dec 12

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U. S. THE SECRETAR URY has not yet tention to withdraw this at Par, and until ten day undersigned, as 'GENE AGENT,' will continue The whole amount of Five Hundred Millions Hundred Millions have for and paid into the Tr the last seven months. abroad, and the rapidly for use as the basis for Banking Associations parts of the country, wil absorb the balance. Sa from ten to fifteen milli exceeding three millions known that the Secretar ample and unfailing res Imports and Internal Re of the interest bearing L Notes, it is almost a cer find it necessary, for a lo a market for any other l the interest and principl in gold. Prudence and self minds of those contempl National Banking Asso minds of those who hav hands, to the prompt co lose no time in subscribi Loan. It will soon be advance to a handsome result with the 'Seven T all sold and could no lo far. It is a Six per Cent Principal payable in C Nine per Cent. per ann premium on coin. The Government req parts to be paid in Coin a long time past amount a Million of Dollars da times greater than that of the interest on all the manest Loans. So th surplus Coin in the day, will enable the U specie payments upon The Loan is called 5-2 whilst the Bonds may Government has a rig Gold at par, at any tim The Interest is paid first days of November Subscribers can have are payable to bearer, a and $1000; or Registere nominations, and in add 500. For Banking pu ments of Trust monies are preferable. These 5-20's cannot b town or counties, and them is only one-and-a amount of income, wh holder exceeds Six Hun all other investments. Mortgages, Railroad must pay from three to income. Banks and Bankers th will continue to dispose orders by mail, or other to. The inconvenience of delivery of the Bonds demand being so great; b ces from the day of sub examined, and every e diminish the delay. 114 South Third Street, dec 12—3w