

The Western Democrat.

OFFICE ON THE WEST SIDE OF TRADE STREET

CHARACTER IS AS IMPORTANT TO STATES AS IT IS TO INDIVIDUALS, AND THE GLORY OF THE ONE IS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF THE OTHER.

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W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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PUBLIC ACTS.

Passed at the First Session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States—1864.

An Act to authorize the manufacture of Spirituous Liquors for the use of the Army and Hospital.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That it shall be lawful for the Surgeon General or the Commissary General to make all necessary contracts for the manufacture and distillation of whiskey, brandy, and other alcoholic and spirituous liquors for the supply of the army and hospitals upon such terms as may be conducive to the public interest; and that the said contracts and any heretofore made shall operate as a license to the contractor to manufacture the same for the purpose aforesaid.
Sec. 2. That the Surgeon General and the Commissary General shall be authorized to establish manufacturing establishments, and to employ laborers in the same, instead of resorting to contracts, if they shall deem it more prudent so to do.
Sec. 3. That no contractor or party shall, under the license granted by this act, distill or sell, or brew, or distill, or otherwise manufacture or sell, any alcoholic or spirituous liquors than he shall deliver to the Government or its agents in fulfillment of his contract or contracts; nor shall it be lawful for such contractor, or party, or in any way dispose of, otherwise than as aforesaid, any such liquors, or any alcoholic or spirituous liquors manufactured by him under the license aforesaid; nor shall this act operate as a license to any contractor for any violation of the prohibitions herein contained, when such violation shall be a crime or misdemeanor under the laws of the State in which the same may occur.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act providing for the establishment and payment of claims for a certain description of property taken or informally impressed for the use of the Army.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to appoint and assign, in each congressional district and for each territory, an agent, not liable to military duty in the field, who shall, at stated times, in each county or parish, under the direction of the quartermaster nearest to him, receive and take proof, under oath, in relation to all claims in said district for forage, provisions, cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, mules, teams and wagons heretofore furnished to the army by the owner, or heretofore taken or informally impressed for the use of the army, and not yet paid for, by any officer in the military service, or by his order or direction, express or implied from the staff of the property, whether said officer be a line or staff officer, and whether he be a bonded officer or otherwise, and report the facts and transmit the evidence in each case to the proper accounting officers of the Treasury, together with his opinion as to the justice and validity of the claim; and the said accounting officers are hereby authorized to audit and control and order payment of such claims as appear to them to be equitable and just; provided, That all such claims originating west of the Mississippi river shall be reported to the accounting officers of the Treasury Department established for the Trans-Mississippi Department, who are hereby authorized to audit, control and direct payment of the same in the same manner as the accounting officers of the Treasury East of the Mississippi river. And the said agent is hereby authorized, in taking testimony in regard to said claims, to administer oaths to witnesses, and, if he think proper, to the claimants themselves. The compensation of said agent shall be paid for the term of his duty while actually engaged in the performance of the duties imposed on him by this act, and 30 cents per mile for every mile actually traveled by him, to be paid under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of War: Provided, That the Secretary of War may assign to the duty herein mentioned any quartermaster or disabled officer of the army, in that event, said officer or quartermaster shall, in addition to the compensation now allowed him by law, be entitled to mileage at the rate of forty cents per mile: Provided, further, That the Secretary of War may appoint any non-commissioned officer or private to perform the duties under this act who may be unfit for active service in the field because of wounds received or disease contracted in said service, and the pay and allowance of such non-commissioned officer or private when so appointed and assigned, shall be the same as are allowed to persons so appointed who may not be liable to military service.
Sec. 2. That this act shall cease and determine on the first day of January, 1865, east of the Mississippi river, and on the first day of May, 1865, west of the Mississippi river; and all claims of the description aforesaid, not presented to the agent aforesaid prior to said date at the respective places mentioned, shall not be entitled to the benefits of this act.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to increase the compensation of the heads of the several Executive Departments, and the Assistant Secretary of War and the Treasury and of the Assistant Attorney General and the Comptroller of the Treasury and other officers therein named.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the compensation of the heads of the several Executive Departments of the Government shall for one year from the passage of this act, be increased to nine thousand dollars; and of the Assistant Secretary of War and of the Treasury and of the Assistant Attorney General and of the Comptroller of the Treasury be increased to six thousand dollars; and that the salaries of all clerks and employees in the various departments, located in the city of Richmond, be increased thirty-three and one-third per cent., and at all other points throughout the Confederate States twenty-five per cent., from the amount of their salaries as they stood on the 1st day of January, 1864.
Provided, That the clerks detailed from the army or navy shall not be entitled to the benefits of this act.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to amend the several acts in relation to a Volunteer Navy.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to establish a Volunteer Navy,'" passed 11th February, 1864, be so amended as to allow persons to volunteer in the service of the volunteer navy: Provided, such persons are resident foreigners or Marylanders; and the President is hereby authorized to cause passports to be issued to such persons as shall volunteer as aforesaid, and shall be accepted by the President of the company by which such vessel was fitted out, either within or beyond the Confederate States.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An act to amend an act entitled "An act to create a Provisional Navy of the Confederate States," approved May 1st, 1863.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That in the first line of the fourth section of the act entitled "An act to create a provisional navy of the Confederate States," the word "provisional" shall be substituted for the word "regular," so that the said fourth section shall read as follows: "All commissioned officers of the provisional navy shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, whenever in his judgment the public service requires their appointment, and in such numbers as he may think necessary, to the following ranks and grades, viz: Admirals, vice admirals, rear admirals, commodores, and to such other ranks and grades as may exist in the regular navy."
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to authorize the formation of new commands, to be composed of supernumerary officers, who may resign to join such commands, and to limit and restrict the appointment of officers in certain cases.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the President is hereby authorized to grant authority for the organization of companies, battalions or regiments to be composed of supernumerary officers of the provisional army.
Sec. 2. That it shall be lawful for any supernumerary officer to join said organizations, or any other company in Confederate service, which does not exceed the maximum prescribed by law, upon tender to the proper authorities of his resignation for that purpose.
Sec. 3. That the officers left vacant by such resignations shall not be filled, and that hereafter the lowest grade of commissioned officer shall not be filled unless there are upon the rolls of the company for service at least forty six non-commissioned officers and privates; nor shall the position of senior second lieutenant be filled, in case of a vacancy therein, unless there are upon the rolls of the company for service at least thirty non-commissioned officers and privates; nor shall the position of captain be filled, unless there are at least twenty non-commissioned officers and privates on the rolls of the company for service, which fact shall in each case be certified to by the captain of the company and approved by the colonel of the regiment, before such promotion can be made.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to organize military courts to attend the army of the Confederate States in the field, and to define the powers of said courts."
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the above entitled act be so amended that in all instances in which the particular division, corps, district or other subordinate organization, to which a military court is or may be hereafter appointed or assigned, the commander of the army or department may by order, when in his discretion it shall be proper and safe to do so, direct and empower the commander of the subordinate division, corps, district, &c., to pass upon and refer for trial all charges and specifications to come before said court, review and confirm or disapprove the records thereof, transmit the same direct to the War Department, remit or suspend sentences (where lawful) and take all action and exercise all jurisdiction in that behalf which pertains under existing laws to the commander of the army or department.
Sec. 2. That from and after the passage of this act, when any person shall have been tried by any military court or court martial, and acquitted of the charge or charges preferred, the finding of the court shall be announced immediately, and the person so tried and acquitted, if a soldier, shall be released from arrest and returned to duty; and if other than a soldier, discharged from custody without awaiting the examination or report of the reviewing officer of such court.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to organize military courts to attend the army of the Confederate States in the field, and to define the powers of said courts,'" approved February thirteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the proviso to said act, and also so much thereof as requires that the judge of the military court in north Alabama shall give ten days notice of the time and place of holding said court before the same are held, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An act to amend the laws relating to the commutation value of hospital rations.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the commutation value of rations of sick and wounded officers and soldiers in hospitals or other places, used in camp or the field as hospitals, be fixed at the Government cost of said rations, and one hundred per centum thereon: Provided, That said one hundred per centum on the Government cost of each ration consumed shall constitute a hospital fund, and be drawn and appropriated as the Secretary of War shall deem necessary, to purchase supplies for the use of the sick and disabled of the army in hospitals.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries or of articles not necessary or of common use," approved Feb. 6, 1864.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That so much of the act entitled "An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries or of articles not necessary or of common use," approved sixth February, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, as forbids the importation of prepared "vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry and game, sealed or inclosed in cans or otherwise, and brooms and brushes of all kinds," is hereby repealed.
Approved June 14, 1864.
An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to organize military courts to attend the army of the Confederate States in the field, and to define the powers of said courts," approved October 9th, 1862.
The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That so much of the said act as empowers the said military courts to appoint their clerks and marshals, and provides for the payment of the salaries of the said officers, is hereby repealed; and hereafter it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to detail and assign persons to fill said offices from military officers and non-commissioned officers and privates unable to perform duty in the field, and the compensation of such persons shall only be the pay to which they may be respectively entitled by virtue of their military commission.
Approved June 14, 1864. [46-46]

AN IMPORTANT EVENT TO HAPPEN TWO YEARS HENCE.

The date of the end of the world is satisfactorily fixed for the year 1866. There is an ancient prediction, repeated by Nostradamus in his "Centuries," which says that when St. George shall crucify the Lord, when St. Mark shall raise Him, and St. John shall assist at His ascension the end of the world shall come. In 1866, it will happen that Good Friday shall fall on St. George's day, Easter Sunday on St. Mark's day, and Holy Thursday, or Ascension Day will also be the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

OUTRAGES IN WILKES.

We learn that the house of Mr. Russel, who lives some twenty-five miles from this place on the Wilkesboro' road, was surrounded by a band of Tories, one night last week, about nine o'clock; the house was fired and then robbed of guns and other property. Mr. Russel had returned home that evening with several furloughed soldiers, but had not the means of defending himself against the lawless band. The rascals thereafter proceeded to the residence of a Mr. Laws and burnt his dwelling.—Iredell Express.

Harrison Church, a notorious bushwacker,

was recently severely wounded in a fight with the Home Guards of Wilkes county, was captured with two of his brothers about a week since, and sent on to Camp Stokes.—Statesville Express.

Two U. S. Steamers, Burned.—Lynchburg,

Nov. 17.—The Virginia has official intelligence that Lieut. Col. Wither, on the 5th inst., captured and burned two armed U. S. steamers—the Barnum and Fawn—with a quantity of small arms, in Buffalo Shoals on Big Sandy river. On the same day he captured a large amount of military stores at Willowsburg.

VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHENS ON RECONSTRUCTION.

Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens is out in another letter. This time he writes to Senator Semmes, of Louisiana, who, in a speech at Mobile, made a very natural and popular mistake relative to Mr. Stephens's letter about the convention of the States. He says: "From the report of your speech I am led to infer that you entertained the opinion that I was favoring and inciting a convention of the States in some outside way, and not through the organized channels of the two Governments. No such idea was in my mind, and never can be, until I am prepared for another revolution, if secession be a revolution. For the States could not go into such a convention as you seem, from the report of your speech, to think I favored, without first seceding from their present alliances. This, to my mind, is as clear as it is to yours."

Mr Stephens himself once tried the "organized

channel," via James river, and found it so much obstructed by Lincoln's telegram at Fortress Monroe that he had to come back to Richmond. Mr. Stephens still seems to cling to the subject of sending State delegates, and says:

"In the most objectionable view of the subject, delegates—one or more from each State—would be but commissioners or plenipotentiaries from each Government, respectively, to initiate negotiations, etc. Their acts would be subject to the approval or disapproval of their Governments, respectively. Why commissioners could not be appointed in this way as well as any other, without any violation of the Constitution, I do not see. The treaty-making power in both Governments is ample for this purpose."

On the subject of reconstruction of the "old Union,"

Mr Stephens is very explicit, and it is to be hoped that the Yankee papers, who have been glorifying him as anxious to return to the authority of the United States, may be induced to receive the following as extinguishing every particle of hope in that direction:

"The old Union and the old Constitution are both dead—dead forever—except in so far as the Constitution has been preserved by us. There is for the Union as it was no resurrection by any power short of that which brought Lazarus from the tomb."

"There may be, and doubtless are, many at the North and some at the South who look forward to a restoration of the Union and the Constitution as it was; but such ideas are as vain and illusory as the dreamy imaginings of the Indian warrior, who, in death, clings to his weapons in fond expectation that he will have use for them beyond the grave in other lands and new hunting grounds."

RETRIBUTION BY COL. MOSBY.

The following letter, written to General Sheridan by Colonel Mosby, will show that the murder of our men by the Yankee cavalry in the Valley has not gone unavenged. It is brief and to the point, and worthy of the writer:

NOVEMBER 11, 1864.
Major-General P. H. Sheridan, commanding United States Forces in the Valley:

General: Some time in the month of September, during my absence from my command, six of my men, who had been captured by your forces, were hung and shot in the streets of Front Royal, by the order, and in the immediate presence, of Brig. General Custer. Since then, another (captured by a Colonel Powell on a plundering expedition into Rappahannock) shared a similar fate. A label, affixed to the coat of one of the murdered men, declared that this would be the fate of Mosby and all his men.

"Since the murder of my men, not less than seven hundred prisoners, including many officers of high rank, captured from your army by this command, have been forwarded to Richmond; but the execution of my purpose of retaliation was deferred, in order, as far as possible, to confine its operation to the men of Custer and Powell. Accordingly, on the 6th instant, seven of your men were, by my order, executed on the Valley pike, your highway of travel.

Hereafter any prisoners falling into my hands will be treated to the kindness due to their condition unless some new act of barbarity shall compel me, reluctantly, to adopt a line of policy repugnant to humanity.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN S. MOSBY, Lieut.-Col.

SAFETY OF THE TALLAHASSEE.—An official

dispatch, received from Wilmington, announces the safe arrival of the C. S. steamer Tallahassee at that port. She was engaged by several United States blockaders as she made port.

HOW IT WORKS.—An old and worthy subscri-

ber to this paper (noted for his good bacon) stepped in a day or two since and proposed renewing his subscription to the Constitutionalist for six months. Our book-keeper—all smiles—made out his receipt for \$30.

"How is this?" said our country friend. "You have put up the price."
"Yes," answered the book-keeper, "we have been compelled to do so in self-defence."
"Well, sir, it is extortion. I won't take it."
"Well, then, if you don't like it that way, we will let you take the paper at \$3—our old price—for six months, if you will pay us in that fine bacon of yours at ten cents per pound, the old price. That is certainly fair."

"How much bacon would it take?" asked our country friend.
"Just thirty pounds, sir."
"Why that would be giving you \$120 for your paper for six months, at the lowest price at which such bacon as mine sells for now!"

"I know that," answered the book-keeper. "We can't help it; and for this very reason we have been compelled to put up the price of our paper."
"Well, well," said our friend, "that bacon argument is a clincher. Give me the receipt, here is the money. I must act upon the prevailing opinion. I must save my bacon."

Our book-keeper says it is of our subscribers wish to give bacon at old prices for our paper at old prices, he is ready.—Augusta Constitutionalist.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

The S. C. Conference of the Methodist E. Church, South, assembled in Newberry, S. C., on Wednesday the 10th Nov., and adjourned on Monday the 21st. The following are the appointments for the ensuing year:

CHARLESTON DISTRICT—Thomas Rysour, P. E.
Charleston—R J Meynardie.
Charleston Colored Mission—F A Wood, W A Hodges.
St. Bartholomew circuit—J D W Crook.
Walterboro circuit—J Snow.
Horse Shoe Mission—A Nettles.
St. Andrew's mission—J E Penny.
Pon Pon mission—P G Bowman.
Ashpole and Combabe mission—J V Coward.
Banburg circuit—J Stokes.
Allendale circuit—J W McRoy.
Prince William's circuit—One to be supplied.
Black Swamp circuit—M L Banks.
Hardsville circuit—D M Seale.
Savannah River mission—W E Frippo.
Missionary to Army—Alex B Stephens.
Chaplain to Hospitals in Charleston—F A Wood.
Prince William's, Bluffton, Beaufort, Edisto and Jeboe missions—Within the enemy's lines.
Missionary to China—Benjamin Jenkins.

ORANBURG DISTRICT—A M Chreitzberg, P. E.
Orangeburg circuit—George Bright.
St. Andrew's circuit—A McCorquodale.
Upper Orange circuit—L M Little.
Lexington circuit—W Carson, J K Tucker.
Graniteville mission—J R Pickett.
Aiken—To be supplied.
Barnwell & Silvertown mission—John R Coburn, W W Abraham, supernumerary.
Edisto Fork mission—E A Price.
Black River circuit—W Hatto, R B Tarrant.
Providence circuit—J S Connor.
St. George circuit—C Wilson.
Summerville circuit—A Wood.
Mount Holly mission—George W Byrd.
St. James' Goose Creek mission—To be supplied.
Cooper River circuit—J L Siffey.
Cooper River mission—To be supplied.
Chaplain to Hospital at Summerville—J W Miller.

MARION DISTRICT—T R Walsh, P. E.
Marion—R J Boyd.
Marion circuit—M A McKibben.
Brownsville circuit—S Jones.
Liberty Chapel and Lynch's Creek circuit—J B Campbell, O Eddy.
Kingstree circuit and mission—J W Murray.
Darlington—W A Gannell.
Darlington circuit—L M Hamer.
Lynchburg—Joseph Parker.
Black River circuit—W M Stoll.
Georgetown and Sampsit mission—Thomas Mitchell.
Black River and Pee Dee mission—J A Wood.
Waccamaw mission—C Bets.
Conway—D J McMillan.
Chester circuit—L A Ervin, one to be supplied.
Chaplain 4th Military District—W A Henningway.
Chaplain to Hospitals at Florence—W S Black.
A J Stafford, G H Wells, E T R Frippe, J H Tari, in the army.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT—O H Pritchard, P. E.
Columbia—Washington street, W G Connor.
" " Marion street, F Auld.
Colored people and Superintendent Central Bureau Association—W H Martin.
Congaree mission—N Talley.
Columbia Circuit—J Workman.
Richland Fork mission—C McLeod.
Fairfield circuit—J W Kelly, J T Kilgo.
Chester circuit—J L Ervin.
Sandy River mission—R Dagnall.
Rocky Mount—A J Cautchen.
Camden—J T Wightman.
Waterloo mission—J L Shuford.
Santee—D J Simmons.
Santee circuit—W H North.
Bishopville circuit—P F Kistler, A W Walker, sup.
Santee circuit—H A C Walker, J W Wightman.
Upper Santee mission—T W Monnerlyn.
Manchester mission—J L Stoumder.
Manning circuit—W M Moore.
Columbia Female College—H M Wood, President.
Chaplain 2d S Cavalry, M Brown.

COCKEBSY DISTRICT—H B Browne, P. E.
Cokesby circuit—W P Mazon.
Abbeville circuit—T G Herbert, J Attaway.
Ninety-Six circuit—A L Smith.
Saluda River mission—W H Lawton.
Mapleton Circuit—S Daniel.
Edgefield—W A Clarke.
Newberry Circuit—P L Herman.
Bulder—J W Humbert.
Newberry Circuit—J H Zimmerman, one to be supplied.
Lower Saluda River Mission—S Townsend.
Laurens Circuit—W A McSwain, J R Little.
Chaplain 14th Ga. Regiment—Alex W Moore.
Poultney Circuit—Thomas H Edwards, J M Carlin's.
Anderson—S B Jones.
Anderson Circuit—Christopher Thomson.
Chaplain 1st N. C. Regiment—W C Pascoe.
Chaplain 14th Ga. Regiment—Alex W Moore.
Cokesby School—J H Sturtevant, Rector.

WADESBORO DISTRICT—Charles Taylor, P. E.
Wadesboro—Thomas J Clyde.
Wadesboro Circuit—J W Paett, Thos A Boone, and H C Parsons, supernumerary.
Ansonville Circuit—L Wood.
Albemarle—J W Abernathy, J C Hartall.
Concord Circuit—L Scarborough, S A Roper, W S Hattom, supernumerary.
Monroe Circuit—W W Jones, E A Lemmond.
Lancaster Circuit—J W Crier.
Hanging Rock Circuit—C E Land.
Catawba River Mission—G W M Creighton.
Cheraw—R B Pegues.
Cherwell Circuit and Coal-fields Railroad Mission—W L Pegues, E J Pennington.
Bennettsville—J A Porter, M C Davis.
Society Hill Mission—D A Ogburn.
Chaplain 26th N. C. Regiment—A N Wells.
Louis A Johnson, in the army.

SHELBY DISTRICT—R P Franks, P. E.
Shelby—John Watts.
Lincolnton—E G Gage.
Lincolnton Circuit—D May.
Dillon Circuit—J E Wason.
Yorkville—J B Massebaue.
York Circuit and Mission—M A Connely.
Catawba Circuit—J M Cline, J S Nelson, supernumerary.
Rock Hill Circuit—A R Bennick.
Pineville Circuit—Finger.
Charlotte—James Stacy.
Claredale People—One to be supplied.
Charlotte Circuit—B G Jones, J D Carpenter.
Lenoir Circuit—A P Avant.
Gaidwell Mission—G P Round.
Yadkin Mission—J D Crisp, one to be supplied.
Margareton—G W Irey.
Burke Mission—One to be supplied.
North Mountain Mission—P H Hughes.
Davenport Female College—A G Stacy, President, G F Round, Professor.

SPARTANBURG DISTRICT—W H Fleming, P. E.
Spartanburg—W T Capers, and Alex W Walker, supernumerary.
Spartanburg Circuit—V A Sharpe.
McDowell Circuit—J E Watson.
Hickory Nat Gas Mission—One to be supplied.
Rutherford Circuit—J S Ervin.
Columbia Circuit—H J Morgan.

COMMON SENSE.

We find the following very sensible and appropriate article in the Edgefield (S. C.) Advertiser:

A man was never known to grow rich by trading with himself. This is just the condition of the people of this Confederacy. To whom is the planter and manufacturer selling his grain and his cloth? He sells for "Confederate Notes," and consequently to the makers of these notes. But who is the drawer of these Treasury Notes? The common answer would be, the government. Now we know that the drawer of a note is responsible for its payment, that he can be sued at law, and his goods sold to satisfy the note. But we opine that it would prove rather an unprofitable business to sue the Confederate Government for one thousand million dollars. It might turn out a nulla bonae case. While, then, the Secretary of the Treasury is the ostensible drawer of these notes, he is, in fact, but the agent of the company. The principal, the responsible party for these notes, is the people of the Confederate States. If these notes are ever paid they must be paid by the people of the Confederacy.

It would be well, then, for the planter and manufacturer to understand now that he is selling his goods for treasury notes, he is selling for his own paper. He promises to pay the holder of the said notes so many dollars in gold or silver over six months after a treaty of peace with the United States. Hence the exact amount of promissory notes issued by the Treasurer, will be the amount of the debt which the people will have to pay at the end of this war. Now the amount of that debt will depend upon the cost of the war; and this cost will depend upon the price the Government has to pay for provisions and clothes to supply the army. Hence it is self evident, that if the planter and manufacturer requires the Government to pay \$5 instead of \$1 for food and clothing to supply the army, they will have a debt of \$5 instead of \$1 to pay at the end of the war. Instead of accumulating a national debt annually of one million, they are in fact making a debt of five millions. The question occurs who is to be benefited by the operation? The answer is plain: the people generally must be injured.

THE BEEF DESERTERS.—A most amusing,

and at the same time satisfactory incident, occurred in front of Wright's brigade, just to the left of the Weldon Railroad, on Saturday morning, 10th inst., an hour or two before day. A report was brought in that the enemy was advancing at that point, and the men were called to arms at once. The pickets were on the alert, and soon heard a noise in front, as of advancing forces. A sharp volley of musketry was discharged at the supposed foe, when a sudden rush was heard, and forward through the lines charged in wild disorder forty-two fine heaves—until that moment Yankee property. They had evidently strayed or deserted from the Yankee herd, or perhaps came in search of those recently captured by Gen. Hampton on the banks of the James. They got lost on the way, and were wandering between the two armies, coming in the direction of Petersburg, when they were discovered by our pickets. The sudden discharge of musketry in their front, and the probable wounding of one or two, frightened the creatures, and caused them to dash forward. This is the first instance on record of a charge by cattle on lines defended by armed men, and in the face of a rapid musketry fire. We understand they came in good line of battle, and were not gathered up until they had passed to the rear. They are remarkably fine heaves, and the incident caused great amusement in camp.—Petersburg Express.

THE LATE VICTORY IN EAST TENNESSEE.—

The news from the East Tennessee front, says the Abingdon Virginian, is glorious. This, the Virginian presumes, will finish the present campaign in that part of the State. The route of the enemy was complete. Some accounts fix the number of prisoners at 400, and others at 800. Vaughan's men, in this brilliant affair, fully sustained their former reputation, as did also Gen. Duke's command, and all engaged. Gen. Breckinridge is determined to hold upper East Tennessee, and will do it. Knoxville will be a precarious place of residence for Yankees and Tories for some time to come.

It is reported that in a fight at Strawberry Plains

300 negroes were killed.

A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.—One of the most memo-

orable passages ever uttered by Mr Webster was in vindication of the authority of conscience and of Providence, on a trial for a dark and mysterious murder: "The guilty soul cannot keep its own secret. It is false to itself, or rather it feels an irresistible impulse to be true to itself. It labors under its guilty possession, and knows not what to do with it. The human heart was not made for the residence of such an inhabitant. It finds itself preyed upon by a torment which it does not acknowledge to God or man. A nature is devouring it, and it can ask no sympathy or assistance, either from heaven or earth. The secret which the murderer possesses soon comes to possess him; and like the evil spirit of which we read, it overcomes him, and leads him whithersoever it will. He feels it beating at his heart, rising in his throat, and demanding disclosure. He thinks 'the whole world sees it in his face, reads it in his eyes, and almost hears its workings in the very silence of his thoughts. It has become his master. It betrays his discretion, it breaks down his courage, it conquers his prudence. When suspicious from without begin to embarrass him, and the net of circumstances to entangle him, the fatal secret struggles with still greater violence to burst forth. It must be confessed—it will be confessed; there is no refuge from confession but suicide; and suicide is confession."