We append a copy of the Conscription bill as it passed the House on the 17th, inst.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE FILLING UP OF EXISTING COMPANIES, SQUADRONS, BATTALIONS AND REGIMENTS, AND TO INCREASE THE PROVISIONAL ARMY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That when the President shall consider an increase of the forces in the field necessary to repel invasions, or for the public safety in the pending war, he is authorized, as hereinafter provided, to call into the military service of the Confederate States, for three years or during the present war, if it should be sooner ended, all white male citizens of the Confederate States, not legally exempted from such service, between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five years; and such authority shall exist in the President during the present war, as to all persons who who now are or may hereafter become eighteen years of age, and, when once enrolled, all persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years shall serve their full time. Provided, That if the President, in calling out troops into the service of the Confederate States, shall first call for only a part of the persons between the ages hereinbefore stated, he shall first call for those between the age of thirty-five and any other age less than forty-five, and apportion the same between the several States, taking into consideration their relative population between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five, and the number of troops already furnished to the army by the respective States under former acts—so far as the same may be practicable without departing from the principle of calling out troops according to age: and provided, further, That in estimating the number of troops furnished by any State under former acts, each State shall be credited with all the companies mustered into service from said State.—Provided, however, That the regiment raised under and by the authority of the State of Texas, and now in the service of said State for frontier defence, are hereby exempted from the provisions and operations of this act.

SEC. 2. That the President shall make such call by requisition upon the Governors of the several Confederate States for all or any portion of the persons within their respective States between the ages of thirty five and forty five years, and also for those who now are or may hereafter become eighteen years old, as aforesaid, not legally exempted; and when assembled in camps of instruction in the several States, they shall be assigned to and from part of the companies, squadrons, battalions, and regiments heretofore raised in their respective States and now in the service of the Confederate States; and the number that may remain from any State after filling up existing companies, squadrons, battalions and regiments from such State to their maximum legal number, shall be officered according to the laws of the State having such residue.

SEC. 3. That if the Governor of any State shall refuse or shall fail for an unreasonable time, to be determined by the President, to comply with said requisition, then such persons in such State are hereby made subject, in all respects, to an act entitled "An act further to provide for the public defence," approved April 16, 1862, and the President is authorized to enforce said act against such persons.

SEC. 4. That for the purpose of securing a more speedy enrollment of the persons rendered liable to military service under this act, the President may, immediately upon making the requisition authorized therein, employ in any State, whose Governor shall consent thereto, officers of the Confederate States to enroll and collect, in the respective camps of instruction, all the persons called into service aforesaid.

SEC. 5. That the persons brought into military service by this act shall be assigned to the company from their State now in the service of the Confederate States which they may prefer to join, subject to such regulations as the Secretary of War may establish, to secure the filling up of existing companies, squadrons, battalions, and regiments from the respective States; Provided, That persons liable to military service under the provisions of this act, and able-bodied men over the age of 45 years, may volunteer and be assigned to duty in such company, from their State, as they may select; Provided, That said company shall not, by reason thereof, be increased beyond its legal maximum number: and Provide, further, That the right of volunteering in, or of being assigned to, any company, shall not interfere with the objects of this act, or produce inequality or confusion in the different arms of the military service: Provided that the President is authorized to suspend the execution of this act, or the acts to which this is an amendment or any special provision or provisions of said acts, in any locality, when he believes such suspension will promote the public good; and that in such localities, and during said suspension, the President is authorized to receive troops into the Confederate service under any of the acts passed by the Confederate Congress prior to the passage of the act to further provide for the public defence, approved 16th April, 1862.

THE PRESENT ASPECT OF THE WAR—THE POSITION OF THE NORTH—THE CRISIS OF LIFE AND DEATH.

Such is the heading the New York *Herald* gives to one of its leading editorials on the war. The *Herald* readily admits that the present aspect of the war is "painful, humiliating and alarming," and says:

After eighteen months of war by land and water, involving the wasting of an immense army and the expenditure of a thousand millions of dollars, what is our position? Disgracefully defensive! As the opposing armies of this war stand this day we cannot, without a sense of shame and humiliation, contemplate the contrast between the immense forces and resources of war at the service of our government and the pitiful weakness of our rebellious States. We have a loyal population of twenty-three millions, against eight millions serving this rebellion, and of these eight millions, nearly three millions are African slaves. The white population of New York and Pennsylvania is greater than that of our rebellious States. Our manufacturing establishments of all descriptions render us a self sustaining people for all the requirements of peace or war; and with these advantages we retain all those of an unrestricted commerce with foreign nations. Our rebellious States, on the other hand, with only a few insignificant manufactories of arms and materials of war, textile fabrics, leather, have been cut off by an encircling blockade for fifteen months from all those supplies upon which they had depended from the North and from Europe, in the way of arms, munitions of war, clothing, medicines, and many of the essentials of subsistence.

The rebellion is without the vestige of a navy, except a straggling ship or two, while ours in this war is equal to a land force of three or four hundred thousand men. Our revolted States are nearly exhausted of the commonest articles of food, while we of the loyal States have a superabundance of all the essentials and luxuries of life. Our troops, *en masse*, are better armed, equipped and subsisted than those of any other nation, while those of the rebellion are armed with all sorts of weapons, good, bad and indifferent, clothed in rags, fed upon half rations, and yet, advancing upon our borders, they threaten the invasion of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and the occupation of our national capital.

From the evacuation of Corinth down to this day, our armies in almost every encounter have been pushed back by the overwhelming forces of the enemy; and to-now, while Washington is menaced by a great rebel army on both sides of the Potomac, the clothing stores and pork houses of Cincinnati are threatened with a visit from the hungry and ragged battalions of a rebel army column all the way from Tennessee.

We have no more time to waste in trifling. We are in the very crisis of life or death to the country.

Every day we stand upon the defensive contributes much to strengthening the rebels in the articles of subsistence and clothing, which they are gathering up from the farms, mills and stores of northern Maryland. They should at once be driven out. If Gen. McClellan is not strong enough to do this without danger to Washington from the rebel column on the Virginia side, a hundred thousand strong, what is there to prevent New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania sending down to his support a body of fifty thousand militia within the next ten days?

FROM THE ENEMY'S LINES.

We have had an opportunity recently of conversing with one who has been within the enemy's lines since the evacuation of Norfolk. It is indeed heart-sickening to listen to an account of the wrongs, privations, and insults, besides the robbery of property, to which the citizens thus situated have had to submit. Nearly all the negroes have gone to the enemy's camps; houses, barns, smokehouses, chicken roosts, &c., have been robbed, and indignity and insult are heaped upon the owners while the vile thieves are stripping them of their property.

But in the midst of all this oppression and wrong, very few have polluted their consciences by taking the infamous and hated oath of allegiance, or accepting a "parole," for the protection of their property and the security even of their families—as they promise, but notoriously disregard.

Gen. Viele, the officer in command at Norfolk, is spoken of as a gentlemanly kind of a man, especially to the ladies who visit him for a redress of grievances committed by his prowling, thieving soldiery. Our informant cites instances of restitution of some property, but no negroes are ever given up.

The citizens of Norfolk and Portsmouth and surrounding country, are bold and defiant in their necessary intercourse with the Yankees—plainly telling them that their time will soon come. God speed the day.—*Spirit of the Age.*

Gen. Pillow has been restored to command.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF LEESBURG BY THE YANKEES.

The President on yesterday received a dispatch from the Surgeon at Warrenton, Fauquier, stating that a report had reached that place, of the re-capture of Leesburg, by the Yankee forces. The dispatch states that the Yankees shelled the town before entering it.

LATEST FROM NASHVILLE.

A gentleman from Shelbyville, says the Chattanooga "Rebel" brings Nashville news up to Friday last. He says that Buell left Nashville some ten days ago with all his force except Thomas' division, in the direction of Bowling Green; but has since returned to Nashville with all his forces, and commenced fortifying the city, having impressed all the negroes in the county of Davidson for that purpose. The gentleman confirms the statement of the difficulty between Johnson and Buell. Well informed persons believe that Buell's fortifying Nashville is a ruse, and that he intends to retreat by way of the Tennessee river.

HIGHLY INTERESTING FROM MARYLAND

An officer of General Lee's staff, who arrived a this city last evening, direct from Maryland, brings intelligence of an important and deeply interesting character. He reports a pitched battle on the soil of Maryland, in which the Confederates are said to have been again victorious. We give the report as it reaches us.

On Sunday morning, the fourteenth instant, McClellan, with a force of eighty thousand men, having passed Frederick, whether on the north or south is not stated, fell upon D H. Hill's division, composing the rear of our army at Boonsboro'. The attack was one of well sustained vigour and impetuosity, but Hill, although almost overborne by superior numbers, held his ground resolutely until night put an end to the battle. At an early hour next morning, Longstreet came to Hill's assistance, when an immediate combined attack was made on the forces of McClelland. The battle was long, obstinate, and bloody, but resulted in the signal defeat of the Federals, who were driven back five miles from their position.

The loss on both sides is said to have been very great. D H. Hill's division suffered severely, especially on Sunday, when alone it withstood the onslaught of McClellan's entire army. At last accounts General Jackson, after having disposed of the Yankees at Harper's Ferry, was marching down the south bank of the Potomac, with the design of crossing into Maryland and falling upon McClellan's rear. A great and decisive battle is thought to be imminent.

It is well to state that no official information, relative to this rumoured engagement, has been received here. The latest official advices from General Lee are to the 13th instant, inclusive.

FROM HARPER'S FERRY.

The Lynchburg *Republican* of yesterday says it has "information of a very authentic character, that a severe battle took place at Harper's Ferry, on last Sunday evening and Monday morning, between General Jackson and the Yankees, which resulted in the defeat of the latter, and the surrender of their army, numbering ten thousand men." The *Republican* then goes on to give some particulars of the affair. From its account we make a summary. The battle was begun at three o'clock on Sunday evening and raged with great fury till nightfall. Throughout the night our cannon played upon the works of the enemy. At daylight, Monday morning, the combat was renewed and kept up with unabated violence until nine o'clock, A. M., when General Miles, the Yankee commander, proposed to surrender. This proposition was of course acceded to, and our forces at once marched into and took possession of the enemy's works.

The immediate and tangible fruits of this victory are reported to be ten thousand Yankee prisoners, one thousand runaway negroes, fifty pieces of artillery and an immense amount of commissary and quartermaster stores.

No estimate of the loss has as yet been made. Ours is known to be heavy. The enemy's loss it is believed, greatly exceeds ours, as he was, during the engagements both of Sunday and Monday, exposed to the deadly fire of our cannon stationed on the heights surrounding his position.

General Samuel Garland, jr., of Lynchburg, is reported among the killed.

[LATER.]

A gentleman who arrived here last evening by the Central train reports, upon the authority of Major Yost, of Jackson's army, that Harper's Ferry was surrendered at discretion by the Yankees on Sunday (Monday?) last. The number of prisoners taken is variously estimated at between eight and twelve thousand, while the number of stolen and fugitive slaves recaptured is said to be much greater than has yet been reported: being between fifteen hundred and two thousand.

The body of General Samuel Garland, Jr., of Lynchburg, who was killed in the attack on this place, was brought to this city last evening. General Richard Garnet, is reported as having been killed, but whether at Harper's Ferry or on the Maryland side we have been unable to learn. No official information has been received here of the capture of Harper's Ferry, which may be accounted for by the fact that General Jackson would report not direct to General Cooper, but to General Lee.

Rich. Examiner.

A Frightful Accident.—We are pained to learn that as the Hon. Wm. S. Ashe, President of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, was passing up the road towards his residence a few miles this side of Wilmington on a hand car, on Friday evening last about dark, he was met by the regular mail train from Goldsborough. The two others on the car jumped off and escaped injury, but Mr. Ashe was thrown forward on the track, and dreadfully mangled. He died, we understand, on Sunday evening.—*Hillsborough Recorder.*

No new cases of Yellow Fever have been reported to-day. There seem to be no indications of the disease extending itself, and there is no ground for fright or panic. All the excitement will pass away in a few days.—*Wilmington Journal.*

FROM THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

In the absence of any positive information on the subject, it is believed here, in official circles, that a successful movement of a part of our army has been made on Harper's Ferry, and that the place and its garrison have been captured.

Gentlemen who reached this city by the Central train last evening bring conflicting reports. A report which comes by way of Staunton is to the effect that after an obstinate engagement General Jackson, on Sunday last, succeeded in taking Harper's Ferry and its garrison, but that large Yankee force, entrenched on the Maryland heights, still held out successfully against the attack of our army. On the contrary, a gentleman tells, upon the authority of the Provost Marshal at Gordonsville, that a courier had arrived at that place bringing the intelligence of the capture, by General Jackson, of the entire Yankee force in and around Harper's Ferry, and also of a thousand runaway negroes. We think it certain that definite information will be received from this quarter during to-day.

Rich. Examiner.

The capture of this place has been confirmed.

FROM MARYLAND.

We have been permitted to see a letter dated Frederick, September 12, written by Thomas J. Yarrington, of Union Springs, Alabama, a brother of the editor of the Columbus, Georgia, *Sun*. He says our army was cordially received at Frederick, and presented with a large drove of beeves by the citizens. The citizens had also presented to General Jackson a splendid war horse. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm excited by "old Stonewall." The people of Maryland are fully aroused, and their enthusiasm in the cause unbounded. Our army has daily accessions of strength by enlistments.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

An official dispatch dated Chattanooga received here yesterday, confirms the telegraphic report, published in yesterday's *Examiner*, of the retreat of Rosencrantz from Iuka, on the 13th instant, and the subsequent occupation of that place, by General Price's army. The enemy abandoned several hundred thousand dollars worth of army stores. The same dispatch mentions that Rosencrantz and a portion of his army had reached Nashville.—*Rich. Examiner.*

THE KANAWHA SALINES.

The following telegraphic dispatch, dated Dublin September 16, was received yesterday by the Secretary of War:

Hon. George W. Randolph:

General Loring's command entered the Kanawha Salines last Saturday morning and took possession of the Salt Works, closely pursuing the enemy en route for Charleston. Salt Works not much injured. A very large quantity of salt on hand selling for thirty-five (25) cents per bushel. An order has been sent to me urging the farmers to send forward their wagons loaded with forage, &c., and return with salt.

(Signed) THOMAS L. BROWN,
Major Commanding Post.

Rich. Examiner.

The Late Battle.—The Lynchburg *Virginian* learns through a letter from the Rev. Wm. A. Crocker, Supt. of the Army Intelligence Office, himself now at Gainesville, that the loss in killed in our recent battles will not exceed 500, and the wounded (most of these slightly) reaches between 15 and 1,600. Mr. Crocker has every facility for arriving at a correct estimate. He says that the great disparity between our loss and that of the Yankees is truly remarkable, and most astounding to the enemy. He says that between fifty and a hundred ambulances have been engaged day and night in removing the Yankee wounded from Manassas, and up to Saturday last, 3,000 wounded still remained on the field. Where Jackson fought on Friday the ground is covered four deep with Yankee slain, the slaughter there being the most terrible of the war. The very name of Jackson, he says, is a terror to the foe. He reports that our commissaries are buying abundance of stores in Maryland, and getting bacon for ten cents a pound. He estimates the Yankee loss in killed and wounded at 12,000, and says that their whole army is utterly demoralized. They say that Pope is a coward, McDowell a traitor, and as for McClellan, they scarcely venture an opinion now. They have lost confidence in their officers, and conceive a high opinion of ours.

Outrageous Cruelty.—Gen. Tilghman has delivered a speech at Jackson, Miss., reciting the particulars of his treatment while a prisoner in the hands of the yankees. He said that Gen. Buckner and himself were thrown into a dungeon thirty feet under ground, and for four months and a half were excluded from the light of day, and not permitted to exchange a word with any living soul. The day of reckoning for such barbarity is at hand.

The General thought that we would have peace in less than six months, the North being sick of the war.

"We learn, from official sources," says the Richmond Examiner, "that during the last twelve months our stock of arms in the south has been largely increased by the production and capture. Our small arms alone have increased from three thousand per day, to three thousand per week. Our supply of ammunition has also been largely increased, by importation and manufacture; and there is said to be a prospect that the native and manufactured operations of the Nitre Bureau will supply our demand, and make us independent of foreign importation. The production of Nitre is already one thousand pounds a day, and there is good reason to think that it will reach three thousand pounds a day, and supply our consumption."

"We learn," says the same paper, "that the Secretary of War has recommended to Congress the abolition of the practice of substitutes in the army, except in cases where the services of the principal are equally needed by the public, at home, as in the field. Exceptions of such cases are enumerated, as experts in trades necessary for the prosecution of the war; exemptions in consideration of country having for whites and large majority of slaves; and generally such things as are evidently for the best public welfare. The Secretary bases this ground that it is unwise to injure the public service for the benefit of individuals, and that, therefore, no substitutes, founded on considerations of private interest, should be tolerated."

According to this recommendation there speculators who have taken men from useful occupations to fill their places as substitutes, are practising a fraud upon the Government. Their over-lives, of little public value, are secure, while more useful men are exposed to the dangers of war.

An Executive communication was sent into Congress on the 11th instant stating that the Government had made a contract with the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, under the style of the Piedmont Railroad Company, for the completion of the railroad connecting the Richmond and Danville with the North Carolina railroad. The company has secured the charter and commence operations, but the War Department is not informed of their progress.—*Ib.*

The Financial Condition of the Confederacy.

We are enabled from papers before Congress to prepare a succinct and interesting statement of the financial condition of the country, and to enlighten the public as to the amount of our public debt; the sinews; the receipts at the Treasury up to 1st August; and the probable demands that will be made upon the resources of the South in view of the continuance of the war and the exigencies of the country arising therefrom. We distribute this information under appropriate heads.

THE PUBLIC DEBT OF THE CONFEDERACY.

It is ascertained from official data, furnished by the Treasury Department, that the whole expenditures of the Government from its commencement to the 1st of August last, amount to $847,272,222 55. It should be stated, however, that five millions of the amount charged as expenditure, has been paid for the redemption of deposit certificates, and the aggregate above stated is subject to that statement when considered in the light of actual expenses.

The expenditures up to the first of August are as follows:

War Department	$[illegible]
Navy Department	14,[illegible]
Civil and Miscellaneous	13,[illegible]
	$[illegible]

To which must be added outstanding requisitions upon the Treasury, upon which warrants are not yet issued, to the amount of $15,[illegible] 15; making the aggregate, as stated above, $847,272,222 55.

CLAIMS OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

An examination of our funded debt account will show that a lamentably small portion of our public debt exists in this form. The whole amount of bonds and stock issued is as follows:

Eight per cent. stock and bonds	$1,[illegible]
Six " " call certificates	22,[illegible]
	$[illegible]

This statement indicates an evident indisposition of our people to make investments in this form, and furnishes an explanation of much of that disturbance of the standard of value and enhancement of prices in the country, which have been the consequence of the large and disproportionate issue of Treasury notes.

The issue already made of Treasury notes amounts to $[illegible]; leaving authority to issue $[illegible].

RECEIPTS AT THE TREASURY.

The receipts at the Treasury up to 1st August from all the various sources of income are as follows:

From Customs	$ 1,[illegible]
" Miscellaneous sources	1,[illegible]
" Loan, Act of Feb. 20th, 1861	15,[illegible]
" do. " Aug 19, 1861	23,[illegible]
" call Deposits under act of December 24th, 1861	17,[illegible]
" Treasury Notes, act M'h 9, 1861	1,[illegible]
" do do " May 16, 1861	17,[illegible]
" do do " Aug 19, 1861	143,[illegible]
" Int. do do " April 17, 1861	22,[illegible]
" 1 & 2 do "	[illegible]
" Temporary L'n from S'ts—bal'ce	2,[illegible]
" War Tax	10,[illegible]
	$[illegible]

This statement of receipts is short of the whole amount of the expenditures of the Government by $[illegible], on account of which the Government has authority to issue only balance of Treasury Notes $[illegible], leaving $[illegible] to be provided for by Congress in a further extension of the general currency, unless this balance can be paid by bonds or otherwise.

FUNDS TO BE RAISED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH.

It is supposed the authority to issue general currency notes must also be extended by Congress to meet the appropriations already made by it and not yet paid, and also the further appropriations to be made.

The appropriations already made by Congress and not drawn on the 1st of August, amount to $[illegible]

The estimates submitted by the various Departments of the additional supplies required to make good deficiencies and to support the Government to 1st January next, are as follows:

For the War Department	$44,[illegible]
" Civil List	[illegible]
" Miscellaneous	[illegible]
	$44,[illegible]

So that the whole amount of supplies required to 1st January presents a total of $[illegible]

Congress is left to determine the best mode of raising this sum; and as there seems little prospect of raising the money by a sale of bonds or stock, a resort to Treasury notes seems to be all that will be left to its discretion.

SUFFICIENT MEANS AT HOME.

The experiment of distributing the quantity of circulation, by interest-bearing notes and deposits on call, is said to have been very successful, and is likely to be no longer as a relief from excess in the quantity of the national currency, which as it extends the usual business events of the community, must be productive of high prices without relation to the actual value of the currency.

It is understood the interest notes, although current to a certain degree, have been generally withdrawn from circulation, on account of their value as temporary investments. Most of them have been taken under the belief that the interest would be paid like other interest, and the Secretary of the Treasury has encouraged this belief by a recommendation to Congress that the interest should be paid annually.

PROSPECTS OF ANOTHER WAR TAX—PAYMENT OF THE STATES.

It is supposed that Congress will be under the necessity of providing another war tax. From the war tax returns and from estimates as to such States as have not yet made complete returns, this fund may be set down at seven hundred millions.

The War Tax has been paid by the several States as follows:

North Carolina	$1,[illegible]
Virginia	3,[illegible]
Louisiana	2,[illegible]
Alabama	2,[illegible]
Georgia	[illegible]
Florida	[illegible]
Mississippi	1,[illegible]
	$10,[illegible]

The State of Georgia has substantially paid in the bonds due by her, and the State of South Carolina has paid the whole amount due by her into the Treasury in the form of six per cent. call certificates. But as the final settlement has not yet taken place, the certificates have not as yet been delivered up, and the account is not yet closed. The returns from the State of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas, have not yet been rendered in complete. The two former States have nevertheless, paid their taxes in advance.

We learn that complaints have been addressed to Congress in reference to alleged inequality in the valuation of certain species of property, which is said to be unjust in its effects upon a large portion of tax-payers. For instance, in the State of Virginia, the average value of slaves, according to the war tax assessments, is $[illegible], while the average in some counties goes up to $[illegible], and in others falls below fifty dollars. The citizens of the latter counties contribute to the general fund for war purposes one-fourth less than those of the former. Such inequality is unjust, and bears heavily on that class of citizens who are most willing to bear the burden of taxation, and who conscientiously place upon their property a liberal valuation. Besides, it is calculated to produce murmurings and dissatisfaction among the people.

Richmond Examiner.