

We publish to day a very able letter from John H. Gilmer, Esq. of Virginia, to the members of Congress from that State, in relation to the proposition to place those who have hired substitutes in service. Mr. Gilmer writes like an old style, and Virginia statesman. Such men are as valuable as they are rare. Imagine the scorn with which John Taylor, of Caroline, and William Wirt, and Thomas Ritchie would have turned from these modern propositions to break the deliberately pledged faith of the government.

This whole matter of substitutes may be put in nutshell. The government enacted a law allowing persons who owed to it military service to put persons in their places as substitutes. Persons availed themselves of this law, whereupon the government discharged them from service. This was a contract. But the government now turns round and forces these persons into service, and thus breaks the contract. We opposed the enactment of the law, because we thought it wrong in principle. It was wrong. It put the money of one man in the one scale, and the blood of the moneyless man in the other; but it was passed, and the government thus pledged its word to those who availed themselves of its provisions. It was wrong to pass the law, and it is wrong to break it. We know that thousands who obtained substitutes ought to have gone in themselves, and those of whom they aided in bringing on the war ought to go in now, of their own accord; but this does not justify the violation of a solemn engagement. It is a mistake to suppose that the soldiers are in favor of this breach of faith. To the honor of the country is as dear to them as it is to others, and that honor is dearer even than success. A country without honor is no country at all. North-Carolina is an honest, faith-keeping State. There is no feeling among our people, even the poor-tore of them, which can be gratified by trampling on the vested rights of the rich. The poor know that if the rich are not protected in their solemn contracts there is nothing that will protect them, but that all classes are in danger of being deprived of their rights. Besides, many of those who have procured substitutes are poor men, who sold their last acre of land or expended their last dollar for that purpose. When a solemn contract is broken by the government, on whatever pretext, the safety of all classes, as well as the repose of society, is in danger. Confidence is what all new governments need, and without it success is hardly possible. "Character is as essential to nations as it is to individuals."

We stated in the Standard of the 23d December, on the authority of a correspondent, that "some of the soldiers had recently driven thirty to forty head of cattle to Jefferson, Ashe County, sold them, and pocketed the money." We asked if this could be possible. Capt. Harrell, of the 65th, who commanded the soldiers referred to, has called on us and informed us that the cattle were seized and sold under orders from Gen. Hoke, and the proceeds applied to the subsistence of the troops. Our correspondent informed us that he "heard the Quartermaster of the regiment disown all complicity in the transaction," and his inference, therefore, was that the proceeds were not used in the public service. Capt. Harrell, however, states that the money was used to subsidize his company, and we very cheerfully give him the benefit of this statement. He acted under orders.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.—Some five hundred Confederates, recently exchanged for an equivalent number of Federals, arrived at Richmond a day or two since, and went into quarters at Camp Lee. Gen. B. F. Butler, having been appointed special agent for the exchange of prisoners at City Point, our government has refused to recognize him in that capacity. The proclamation of President Davis, for his conduct at New Orleans. The Richmond Whig, "in view of so desirable an end as the liberation of so many of our noble boys, now the tenants of Federal prisons," expresses the hope that "the President may not find it incompatible with the dignity and duty of the government to waive the outlawry and recognize the Beast."

We have received a number of letters from soldiers making inquiries in relation to the exchange of prisoners. Some of them state that Gen. Winder has informed them by letter "that all prisoners that were paroled and brought out to City Point up to the 28th July last, were exchanged," but does not state whether there has been any exchange since. The inference is that prisoners paroled since that period have not been exchanged, though we are not able to answer the question so as to place it beyond doubt. We trust some of the Richmond papers will explain the matter, as a considerable number of paroled soldiers feel an interest in knowing.

Distilling the Tithes.—While many of our people are without bread we learn that an order has been issued from Richmond to distill 20,000 bushels of the tithes grain in North Carolina into whiskey. The best white wheat for distillers, we suppose, is to be the rule. If spirits be needed for the hospitals and for medicinal or other government purposes, let it be made in Florida or Southern Georgia, where there is an abundance of grain—not here, where starvation stares us in the face.

Our information comes from a high source, and we are glad to know that Gov. Vance, ever ready to protect and defend the rights of the people of the State, means to protest against this outrageous proceeding. We may be able to live without whiskey, but we cannot live without bread, and the present Congress really desires the independence of the Confederacy it cannot do a better thing than repeal the odious tithes law. Such a law was necessary to induce the people to divide their last morsel with the army.—Progress.

The army can do without whiskey better than women and children can do without bread. Such of the whiskey consumed in the hospitals goes to the throats of the officers and attendants, and the sick soldiers get but precious little of the article.—The act of distilling grain into whiskey at a time like this, for any purpose, is not to be endured.—Trust Gov. Vance will not only "protest" against this use of the precious grain, but that he will take steps to prevent it. Let him remember that he is the Governor of a sovereign State, and let the people look to him for protection against the government officers who are disposed to oppress them and eat out their substance.

Discussion in the Senate on Principals and Substitutes.—Distilling Declarations by Senator Brown, of Mississippi.

On Monday last the Senate took up the House bill to put the principals of substitutes in the army. Mr. Orr, of South-Carolina, opposed the bill, and in the course of his remarks said:

"The Secretary of War said there was no contract between the government and the principals. He (Mr. Orr) insisted that there was a contract. But if there was none, put it upon the ground of good faith. The country makes a call for soldiers. A comes forward and offers himself. The government says to him, if he will furnish a suitable substitute he shall be discharged. He furnishes B, who is accepted and mustered in, and A is discharged. Was it contended that, consistently with good faith, the government could afterwards take A and put him into the army? Senators had said there could be no contract between the government and principal; that it was a *nudum pactum*, there being no consideration. A consideration was not necessary to a contract. He directed the grave attention of Senators to this question of good faith. They had conscribed citizens to the age of thirty-five. They had said to them, if it suited their pleasure and convenience, they might furnish substitutes. Some of the conscribed searched out substitutes, paid them their money, and having put them into the army and complied with all the prescribed conditions, secured their discharges. Now, it was said, there was no violation of good faith in putting in these principals.

But there were other difficulties in the way of this bill. If it was passed and became a law, how was it to be executed? He could say, from information that he had, that it could never be executed, except by the means recommended the other day by the Senator from Mississippi, (Mr. Brown), in his revolutionary speech. Already it had been decided by the Supreme Court of North Carolina that even when a substitute became liable, by the extension of the conscript age, the principal was not liable. Other tribunals, under foot and put the whole country under military rule, as recommended by the gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. Brown). He was not prepared for such a condition of things as this. He did not believe there was any necessity for it."

Mr. Johnson, of Georgia, said it struck him there was no necessity for the passage of the bill under consideration. The bill reported by the Military committee covered the whole ground. It extended the conscript age to fifty-five, and all the substitutes in the army, he thought, would be found to be under that age. Should the committee bill be adopted, any legislation on this subject will be found unnecessary. He would, therefore, suggest the propriety of laying aside this bill until the bill of the committee shall have been acted upon. He moved its further consideration be postponed till Wednesday.

The bill and amendments were ordered to be printed.

The course of the debate Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, said:

"This law should not be allowed to drop through from respect of mere technicalities, such as decisions of State courts. It was agreed upon all sides, with rare exceptions, that legislation on this subject should be retraced. The legislation of the House on this subject met his views, but if it did not he would agree with it. If we could not get what we wanted we should agree with the House in what they wanted. Their opinions were as much entitled to respect as ours. The bill strikes at the root of the evil. The Senate should pass it promptly, and if there was danger of the law not being executed there was a remedy, and let the Senate use it. Suspend the *habeas corpus*. The country should not be lost because of the opinion of every petty judge, authorized to issue a *habeas corpus*, giving different decisions in Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. To get uniformity, Congress should pass a law declaring this law to be for the regulation and discipline of the army, and by that means, as to this measure, suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*.—Congress, there was no doubt, could suspend the *habeas corpus* as to particular measures, having authority to pass it generally. It would be bad to have it said, after we were in our graves, that our liberty had been lost whilst we were struggling over petty constitutional questions."

Mr. Brown does not wish to be troubled with "petty constitutional questions." He desires to suspend all law and all constitutions, and establish military law in their stead. In the language of Mr. Secretary Meminger, endorsed by President Davis, he regards "the public safety as the supreme law." He therefore sneers at constitutions, and laws, and the decisions of "petty judges." Mr. Brown should have lived in France in the days of Danton and Robespierre.

We now tell Mr. Brown, and those who think with him, once for all, that if the desperate, revolutionary measures which he advocates shall be attempted to be carried out—if the civil law is to be trampled under foot by the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and every able-bodied man placed in the army from sixteen to fifty-five—if no man is to have a hearing before a State Judge as to the right of the enrolling officers to seize him, and if the rights of the States are to be thus ignored and swept away by the mere creature of the States, the common government, the people of North-Carolina will take their own affairs into their own hands, and will proceed, in Convention assembled, to vindicate their liberties and privileges. They will not submit to a military despotism. They will not submit to the destruction of their personal and civil rights in this, or in any other war. We say what we know to be so. A vast majority of our people are already excited and restless on account of the threatened encroachments on their liberties by the Congress at Richmond; and we most respectfully and earnestly warn the members of that body not to kindle a flame which no efforts can extinguish. Pass these measures—suspend the *habeas corpus* in order to silence our Courts and force our whole population into the army—break faith with the principals of substitutes—repudiate the currency of the country—levy a tax in specie to pay the interest on the funded debt—continue in full operation the tithing and impressment laws at the same time,—do these things, Mr. Brown, and the people of North-Carolina will rise in their majesty and assert their sovereignty. There is no power to prevent them from doing this, and we to the official character who shall attempt to turn the arms of Confederate soldiers against the people of this State! North-Carolina will not be the slave of either the Congress at Richmond or Washington. She is this day, as she has been from the first, the key-stone of the Confederate arch. If that stone should fall the arch will tumble.

Let Congress be warned in time.

Congressional.

We give below in a condensed form from the Progress, the proceedings of Congress of the 29th and 30th December.

In the Senate, on the 29th, Mr. Semmes, from the committee on finance, reported a bill to fund Confederate notes. This bill provides among other things that after a certain date "no treasury notes outstanding at the time of the passage of this act shall be receivable in payment of public dues."

It will be seen that the Generals of the Tennessee army are dictating measures to Congress! In the course of the debate on the subject Mr. Foote said:

"Again, if the letter of our worthy officers has not been misunderstood, he had another exceedingly grave objection to it. It seems to suggest the propriety of extending the operation of the conscript law to all persons between the ages of sixteen and sixty. Now, he suspected not these officers of any evil intent. He was sure they were as true friends of the rights of the States of this Confederacy, and of the people thereof, as they have ever started undoubting conviction was, that a measure of this kind, without some modification of the existing conscript system, which he had not yet heard mentioned, would have the inevitable effect of utterly destroying State rights and State sovereignty, and of establishing a huge and overwhelming Military Despotism, beneath which all the remnants of civil freedom will be crushed into utter extinction."

He did not think that these excellent officers had any such scheme in contemplation; but he would now tell them, and tell the country, that there are persons of some consequence, in the army and elsewhere, who are openly advocating the concentration of all military power in the hands of the President; and really, if you extend the conscript law in the manner now recommended, the President, as the commander-in-chief, would have more power given to him than any monarch now living. Whatever officers may think, he was well satisfied, from his own knowledge, from past experience, that he was not at all likely to yield it either wisely or with due regard to the reserved rights of the States and people. He had no right to cede away the liberties of his constituents. He still had an old-fashioned affection for liberty, and whatever part others might act, he should ever be found on the side of those priceless rights for which this war had been commenced, and for the vindication of which, thus far, this war had been carried on. He knew that in another wing of this Capitol, a distinguished gentleman, under foot and put the whole country under military rule, as recommended by the gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. Brown). He was not prepared for such a condition of things as this. He did not believe there was any necessity for it."

Mr. Johnson, of Georgia, said it struck him there was no necessity for the passage of the bill under consideration. The bill reported by the Military committee covered the whole ground. It extended the conscript age to fifty-five, and all the substitutes in the army, he thought, would be found to be under that age. Should the committee bill be adopted, any legislation on this subject will be found unnecessary. He would, therefore, suggest the propriety of laying aside this bill until the bill of the committee shall have been acted upon. He moved its further consideration be postponed till Wednesday.

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The House passed a bill to punish any one inciting, aiding, and harboring deserters, or purchasing soldiers' arms, equipments or clothing, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars and imprisonment not more than two years; also a bill to grant a copy-right to Gen. Hardee for his infantry tactics—year 41, days 17.

Resolutions were adopted instructing the military committee to report a bill to repeal exemptions now allowed by law between eighteen and forty-five, except for disability, for State or Confederate officers, ministers of the Gospel, government employes in ordnance departments, and to regulate details. The Chairman stated that the committee had already nearly matured a bill of a sweeping character, and would soon report.

Resolutions were adopted instructing the military committee to inquire into the expediency of providing some relief for some classes of persons who have furnished substitutes if they be required to go into the army.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

RICHMOND, Dec. 30.—The special committee of finance appointed by the House at the commencement of the session have not yet reported. Leave was granted them early after they were appointed to hold their deliberations during the sessions of the House, and they have not been in their seats in the House for many days. They are constantly engaged in the committee room trying to agree upon a plan to remedy our financial embarrassments. It is not known what progress they are making.

FEDERAL ATROCITIES.—The Federals, under Gen. Wild, recently made a raid with white and negro troops through the Counties of Camden and Pasquotank, in this State. They burnt and destroyed much property, and carried away a number of negroes. It seems that this man Wild caused a Confederate soldier to be hanged on the ground that he was a guerrilla; and one of his negro soldiers having been captured by our forces, he took two ladies and held them as hostages for the safety of the negro. These ladies, it is stated, were imprisoned in Norfolk jail, badly treated, and guarded by negroes. A General who would thus war upon women is a demon in human form. Is there no retaliation by which such monsters can be compelled to act with some regard for the usages of civilized warfare?

HIGH PRICES FOR NEGROES.—At a recent sale of slaves in Franklin County, in this State, by Dr. G. M. Cooley, administrator, the following prices were obtained on a credit of nine months: Charlotte, aged 44 years, \$1,875; Henry, aged 40 years, \$3,000; Helen, aged 16 years, \$3,700; Fanny, aged 14 years, \$3,700; Gordon, aged 9 years, \$3,000; Elijah, aged 28 years, \$5,457; Daniel, aged 24 years, \$6,000; Warren, aged 24 years, \$6,450; Dick, aged 20 years, \$6,450—aggregate \$29,139 for nine, or an average of \$4,348 each.

The letter of Rev. James Sinclair, of Robeson County, containing an account of his recent unconstitutional arrest by order of Gen. Whiting, and defending himself against unfounded and injurious charges, has been received, and shall appear in our next.

We hear rumors that the enemy are reinforcing at Newbern, Washington, and Norfolk, with cavalry and mounted infantry. Let our authorities be vigilant. A raid towards the interior may be contemplated.

Dangers to North-Carolina.

We are now reaping the bitter fruits of "Peaceable Secession" in forcing from their once happy and peaceful homes into the army, all from eighteen to forty-five years of age, and the people thereof, as they have ever started undoubting conviction was, that a measure of this kind, without some modification of the existing conscript system, which he had not yet heard mentioned, would have the inevitable effect of utterly destroying State rights and State sovereignty, and of establishing a huge and overwhelming Military Despotism, beneath which all the remnants of civil freedom will be crushed into utter extinction."

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ABUSE OF THE HABEAS CORPUS.—The admirable spirit, striking facts, and clear and forcible style, of the communication which we publish in another column, on abuses of "the great writ of right," will strike all who may read it. The author has had peculiar opportunities of informing himself, both upon army matters and legal proceedings, and the result is that he makes suggestions which may, if properly observed, defeat all cases of fraud while it will leave the rights of honest applicants unimpaired. We ask publication to the article.—Fay et al. v. Oberster.

We copy the article alluded to above. There is no doubt that the Habeas Corpus writ has been used, recently, for base purposes; and lawyers, who ought to have been to the army fighting for their country, have been too busy for a large fee, to get men released from military service.—Charlotte Democrat.

This is a grave charge against members of the bar. If it be true that any of them "have been too ready for a large fee, to get men released from military service," they have acted very improperly. But we do not believe it. For every man improperly released by the aid of lawyers, ten have been unjustly and illegally forced into service. The writ of *habeas corpus* is the great bulwark of personal liberty. A government which fears the operation of this writ, or interposes its power in any way to prevent its operation, is despotic in its purposes, if not in its character, and does not deserve the respect or the confidence of freemen. That the writ has been abused we do not doubt—every good thing is liable to be abused; but this does not justify covert attacks on the writ itself. The Fayetteville Observer was at one time a fearless and outspoken champion of this writ, and of every other means by which tyranny could be checked and the Constitutional rights of the citizen maintained; but since it has joined the Destructives it seldom if ever raises its voice in favor of personal liberty or against the strides of military power.

The communication in the Standard to day, over the signature of "Justice," is from one of the most intelligent and influential men in Western Carolina. He speaks the sentiments of nine-tenths of the people of his section.

Extract from a letter to the Editor of the Standard, dated

ROBESON COUNTY, Dec. 19, 1863.

"The dressing you gave the Richmond Enquirer for its insults to North-Carolina—your vindication of the State against unjust attacks from whatever quarter—and the manner in which you have maintained the freedom of the press, and insisted that the civil law should always prevail over the militia, have commanded my warm approval. That old and respected paper, the Fayetteville Observer, I am sorry to see has gone over to the Destructives. The original non-commissioned officer—seven those who were talking in 1861 about tearing down the Observer's office. It has got into bad company, and with such association it will elect any candidate it may endeavor to defeat. * * * Please publish the act of the last Legislature, exempting militia and home guard officers, magistrates and others from conscription."

Our correspondent will find the act referred to in our paper of to day.

THE PATH OF DUTY.—The Path of Safety.

Mr. ENROUS.—The suggestions and terms of peace, made by Mr. Lincoln in his late message to the Federal Congress, to say the least of them, are remarkable. Occupying the position of the Federal Administrator of the Union, under the sanction of an oath, it is extremely questionable whether he has the right to prescribe an oath different from his own. To those struggling for the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution, it is a bitter pill to swallow. I speak not of his motives nor misinterpret his meaning, but if he expects the South to assume the whole responsibility of this war, and repent in sackcloth and ashes for an error which he has committed, he is far from being a man of his own mind. Ours is a common calamity. Every man, tending and force of the body politic has been shaken and sundered by it. It must be driven to the wall, or it will not stand. But few of us now possess innocence of any participation either in the past or in the war, in fact all have more or less incited the combatants. Then let us bring all the good and the evil together and let the altar of the Constitution and the consent of the people be the basis of our reconstruction. When that auspicious moment arrives it will be an easy task to heal the breach between us, and then either as a separate or united people, we will go on our way rejoicing.

It is true we have had partial handouts from the Constitution, but not until it was violated by those who now attempt to dictate to us terms of peace. We admit that we were guilty when we abandoned the shield of liberty and sought the protection of the Federal arm, and we admit that we had no cause for our conduct would be false. Nor can we ever have any oath not sanctioned by the authority of the Constitution.

There is no man so strange to the truth but he is aware that the right to carry slaves into the territories, was the apple of discord in this struggle, and that the Constitution guarantees this right, and it is sustained by the Supreme Court there are none so blind as they who refuse to see what is before them. We are not interested in the issue. Notwithstanding the territories are common property, yet if times have so altered since the days of our forefathers that we are debarred from carrying our slaves thither, let us lay down our arms, and let the future for ourselves and posterity. If to exclude African slavery from the territories will secure our peace, happiness and prosperity, let it be so, let it be so. What measure is to be adopted, let it be decided. What the greatest number of us may be interested in, is the correct policy; and there is no better plan than to submit such measures to the action of the people at the ballot box. Much has been said of the national liberty laws of the Northern States. Upon the principle of the States' rights they had perfect freedom to enact any law for the benefit of the people of the States, and which did not interfere with the liberty of the citizens of a sister State. Their enactments, however, were not more wise than those of the Southern States, both sides occupying opposite positions, and the difference being that one side shall not carry the negro where the laws prohibit slavery, and the other, that he shall go where the Constitution tolerates, and it wanted. The people are the best judges of their own interests in all these matters, however, and it is for them alone to decide.

We are told that the President in his late message to Congress, had England and France have mocked at our calamity. I had thought that the day for such abuses as King Cotton, representation from Missouri and Kentucky, foreign intervention, and peaceable secession, had passed, and that now in the twentieth hour we would hear no more of them. Yet, England and France have been hallowed-hearted, cold-blooded and hypocritical in their difference to our woe, and their own selfishness to the doubt of the motive that prompts the act—a political aggrandizement. Can any man suppose for a moment that France or any other nation would have offered the loan if she has not seen the prospect of our ruin? Whatever may be the views of others, I firmly believe that the day when the power of England and France in this Western Confederacy shall be broken.

And now let the bloody sacrifices of an hundred battle fields suffice to appease the wrath of heaven, and let us be true to the principles of peace, and laying aside prejudice and party animosity, carry our arms from the battlefield to the peaceful and happy home, and let us give us wisdom as to shape our course, that it may be to our glory and our happiness. J. T. L.

SWAMP POTATOES.—We are glad to see that a law has passed Congress allowing farmers to set off a tax in kind, to pay money instead of set potatoes—the amount per bushel to be fixed by the assessor commissioners. This is done in consequence of the difficulty of saving potatoes.

Farmers are also allowed, by special act just passed, to pay tithes in salt pork instead of Lecon.—Char. Dem.

DIVIDENDS.—The Bank of Charlotte has declared a regular semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent, and an extra dividend of 10 per cent.

The Charlotte and S. C. Railroad Company has declared a semi-annual dividend of 13 per cent.

The Bank of Washington, at Greensboro, has declared a dividend of 5 per cent.—Char. Dem.

The Yankee Congress and its Measures Relating to the War and Peace.

Next in interest to the war news is the Yankee Congress at Washington. Such is the interest to know the sentiment and temper of that body in regard to the prosecution of the war, that we embrace under one head the different war measures and propositions that have been brought forward in the body, with the vote on the same. These cannot be other than interesting, from the fact that they are the best medium we have through which to ascertain what the feeling of the people of the North really is in relation to the war.

The following resolutions were introduced by a member from Indiana:

"WHEREAS, The proclamations of the President of January, 1863, and December 8, 1863, in relation to emancipation, impose conditions of pardon and amnesty to persons who have participated in the existing rebellion, as well as conditions precedent to the re-establishment and reorganization of State Governments in the States to which said proclamations apply, which, in the judgment of a large number of the Federal Union, has a tendency to give the rebellion the advantage of a changed issue, and to reinvigorate the otherwise declining insurrection in the South and to prolong the war; and

"WHEREAS, This House cannot but regard with anxiety the unprecedented and extraordinary claims and assumption of high prerogative by the President in said proclamation, especially in view of the fact that the President, in his inaugural address of the 4th of March, 1861, declared: 'I have no personal interest in the States where it exists; I believe I have no right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so'; therefore,

"Resolved, As the judgment of this House, that the maintenance inviolate of the constitutional power of Congress and the right of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions, according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to the balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric of the Federal Union depends; and we denounce, as among the heinous crimes, the invasion or occupation by armed force of any State, under the pretext or for the purpose of coercing the people thereof, to modify or abrogate any of their laws or domestic institutions that are consistent with the Constitution of the United States; and we affirm the principle declared in this resolution to be a law alike to the President and the people of the United States."

Mr. Ginnell moved to lay it on the table, which was agreed to—yes 90, noes 68.

Mr. Smith, of Kentucky, submitted a series of resolutions, of which the following is the first, viz: "Resolved, That as our country and the very existence of the best government ever instituted by man is imperilled by the most causeless and wicked rebellion that the world has seen, and believing, as we do, that the only hope of saving the country and preserving this government is by the power of the sword, we are for the most vigorous prosecution of the war until the Constitution and laws shall be enforced and obeyed in all parts of the United States, and to that end we oppose any armistice, or intervention, or mediation, or proposition for peace, from any quarter, so long as there shall be found a rebel in arms against the government; and we ignore all party names, lines and issues, and recognize but two parties in this war—patriots and traitors."

Mr. Craven moved to lay the resolutions on the table, which was disagreed to—60 against 100.

The above resolution was then agreed to by a vote of 93 yeas to 64 noes.

The vote was next taken on Mr. Smith's resolution, of which the following is the first, viz: "Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of Congress to pass all necessary bills to supply men and money, and the duty of the people to render every aid in their power to the constituted authorities of the government in crushing out the rebellion."

This resolution was agreed to by 152 yeas—only one vote against it.

In the debate on an appropriation asked for by the War Department, Mr. Harding, of Kentucky, offered a proviso that no part of the money thus appropriated should be used for the raising, arming and equipping of negro soldiers. The amendment was rejected—yeas 41, noes 105.

Mr. Yeaman, of Kentucky, has introduced a series of resolutions to the effect that "the citizens of any State in rebellion" may, at any time, resume their civil government, and that the House of Representatives, with any action, to the "Committee on the Rebellious States."

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, has introduced a bill to provide that provisional governments may be established by the people where the military power has subdued the rebellious men in the seceded States.

The present Congress expires on the 17th of February. Propositions have been made to assemble the new Congress as soon as the old one expires but no final action has been had. From the way in which they have commenced we think the present body will do enough for the present.—Progress.

AN EXAMPLE FOR MILITARY MEN.—Gen. Jackson, like all great military commanders, was especially remarkable for his attention to details. Nothing was too small to escape his eagle eye. Upon a march he was always to be found with his wagon train. On one occasion, when one of his wagons stopped in the mud, and the wagons were standing round and cursing the mud, without doing anything to remedy the difficulty, he suddenly rode up, alighted from his horse, took a rail from the fence, and went to work himself—an example which instantly recalled the men to a sense of their duty, and the wagon was soon put on terra firma. He then superintended the filling up of the hole in which it had sunk, so as to secure the uninterrupted transit of the rest of the train. This was Gen. Jackson's style of doing business. It is now how much the great operations of war depend upon what appear to be the most trifling details. He never lost a thousand dollars' worth of public property while he was in the army. Those who imagine that all a commanding General has to do is to fight battles, make an egregious mistake. Some of our military popinjays seem to think that the chief of the battle-field and fustian, fathers make up the sum of military glory. If they would emulate the example of Jackson they must adopt his habits of patient, practical labor, and his thorough and absorbing attention to details.—Rich. Dispatch.

AN ACT TO EXEMPT CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE FROM CONSCRIPTION.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That, in obedience to an act of the Congress of the Confederate States, passed and approved, May 1st, 1863, in relation to exempting certain persons necessary as the State officers in addition to the State officers exempted by the act of Congress, passed October 13th, 1863; the Governor of the State having estimated and obtained the exemption of the following officers necessary to carry on the operation of the State government, viz: All Justices of the Peace, whose appointments were made previous to May 11th, 1863; County Trustees, County Solicitors, Registers, Tax Collectors; one Deputy Sheriff in each County where there is no Tax Collector; Coronors; Constables, who entered into bond previous to the 11th of May, 1863, or their successors in office; one Deputy Clerk for each County, except in those Counties where there is no County Clerk; one County Commissioner and provisions amongst soldiers families; Agents appointed under an act of the Assembly for any duty; commissioned officers of the militia of this State; and commissioned officers of the Home Guard; Mayors and police of Raleigh, Wilmington, Salisbury, Charlotte, Fayetteville, and Goldsboro; Councilors of State; Board Internal Improvements and Literary Board; and employees of the State government in the different Departments.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the General Assembly do further enact, and exempt all the different classes of officers named in section first of this bill, in obedience to the act of Congress, approved May 1st, 1863.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification. Read three times and ratified in General Assembly, this 14th day of December, A. D. 1863.

R. S. DONNELL, S. H. O. GILES, MERRAN, & S. O.