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The People's Press,

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BY L. V. BLUM,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Miscellaneous.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, JEFFERSON DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

SIR:—In common with the great mass of your fellow citizens, I have read with the highest satisfaction, not unmingled with gratitude, your recent earnest address to "The Soldiers of the Confederate States" on the interesting subject therein discussed. I agree with you perfectly, that we have at last reached a most trying and perilous crisis in our public affairs, and that "no alternative is now left us but victory or subjugation, slavery and the utter ruin of ourselves, our families and our country." I agree with you that "the victory is within our reach. We need but stretch forth our hands and grasp it." It is, I hope, equally true, as you assert, that "for this all that is necessary is that those who are called to the field by every motive that can move the human heart, should promptly repair to the post of duty, should stand by their comrades now in front of the foe, and thus so strengthen the armies of the Confederacy as to ensure success." If, there be no error in this view of the subject, then, the only question remaining to be solved is: How shall the strength of our armies be so increased as to enable them to meet and to overcome the cohorts of the foe now trampling the sacred soil of the South? You seem to think that in order to attain the desired end it will be sufficient that you should forcibly describe the brutalities everywhere practiced by our vandalic enemies, address a thrilling and ingenious appeal to the sensibilities of our patriotic soldiery, promulgate a free pardon to those who have been heretofore guilty of desertion, and solemnly "conjure" your "countrywomen" the wives, sisters and daughters of the Confederacy—"to use their all powerful influence in aid" of your "call." I feel bound to say that, while you have done your duty as a patriotic President—and performed it skillfully and well—in sending forth your seasonable and well drawn proclamation, and whilst I am happy to say that it has evidently had already a wholesome and beneficial influence upon the general popular mind, something more is yet necessary to be done in order to refill the ranks of the army, to inspire that confidence and enthusiasm which so happily marked the earlier stages of our revolutionary struggle. There are other causes of desertion from the army existing besides those you have enumerated—there are other influences at work besides those which the persons immediately in contact with you would be likely to suggest, which have diminished the numerical force of our soldiers in the field, have discouraged the voluntary enlistment, have depressed the spirits and unnerved the energies of our valiant defenders in camp, and have induced, as I learn, certain weak-kneed and timid hearted gentlemen in our old State of Mississippi and elsewhere to talk in whispers about the reconstruction of the Federal Union. Some of these causes I shall now attempt to unfold to yourself and the country though I am quite aware that in venturing to declare *known truths*, in the language of the strictest courtesy, I shall incur the hazard of calling down upon myself the fierce condemnation of those whose hopes of advancement depend upon never doing or saying anything calculated in the least degree to give annoyance to those occupying the seats of civil and military authority. Being satisfied that the time has come when it is necessary to speak in language of bold sincerity in order to save the Republic itself from ruin, I shall dare to discuss topics which the adulators of official greatness will never think of bringing to your notice, relying upon your own good sense and elevated love of country to justify the freedom which I am about to exercise.

It is but natural that you should desire to add to the numerical strength of our armies in the field, to bring back those who have heretofore deserted, and to revive in the bosoms of your countrymen everywhere the old feeling of confidence in our ultimate success, which will be of itself the surest harbinger of victory. Sir, I rejoice to assure you that it is in your power to do all this in the next sixty days. You alone can do it. The fate of our noble cause is confidentially in your hands. You can save your country, and you can ruin it! Sir, eleven millions of people, equal in all the attributes which dignify humanity in its most elevated condition to any people yet known to history, a little over two years ago unanimously called you to the high official position which you now occupy. They did so because they confidently believed you to possess in an eminent degree the capabilities and virtues which would enable you to present to an admiring world the imposing image of a second Washington. They felt assured by numerous evidences connected with your former public life, that you were honest, and patriotic, and wise, and energetic, and magnanimous; free from all narrow and illiberal prejudices or partialities, whether personal or sectional; impervious to the influence of flattery, and prepared to appreciate merit and ability wheresoever these might be found.—They expected you to call around you the ablest and most accomplished men which these Confederate States could furnish as your cabinet advisers, men of the purest morals, of the most disinterested patriotism, of the greatest weight of character, and of the most extended fame. Permit me to say that it is even now a common opinion among your fellow citizens, that had you been more fortunate in the construction of your cabinet, many of the disasters which we have heretofore experienced would have been avoided. I beseech you not to doubt that your countrymen are disposed to make the most liberal allowances for all the difficulties by which you have been surrounded from the outset of your career as President. They know well that you have not been thus far efficiently sustained by those whom you selected to fill high official stations in the Executive Department of the Government; they know likewise that all to whom you have entrusted the command of armies have not shown that ability in the field which it was expected they would exhibit. But with the prompt and judicious displacement of all who have thus shown themselves unworthy they cannot doubt that such a cause as that in behalf of which we are enlisted must in the end triumph over all opposing obstacles. They are aware that few of the greater blessings of life are bestowed upon us gratuitously by a bounteous Providence; that all the nobler achievements of existence are the result of adequate exertion on the part of those by whom they are attained; that no solid good or enduring fame was ever yet acquired except by the diligent employment of the means suited to their acquisition. Entertaining these views, your loving and admiring countrymen are very far from despairing of ultimate success in the pending struggle. Indeed they cannot but regard it as a highly encouraging circumstance that we have at least clearly ascertained the causes of our present sufferings, and that we find them not to be of a nature necessarily permanent in their operation, but for the most part such as will be found easy of removal by the prompt and energetic employment of Executive wisdom. Let us, I pray you, at this awful conjuncture in our affairs, boldly look the evils which surround us in the face, with a view to their early amelioration. As Patrick Henry exclaimed on a very noted occasion: "Let us know the worst, and provide for it!"

I shall confine my observations at present to the condition of our military affairs, and to the suggestion of such expedients as seem to be now necessary to the invigoration of our armies in the field and their eventual triumph over the foe; leaving certain reforms, evidently now most imperiously needed, in the several Executive Departments, to your own enlightened discretion, and, not doubting that you will perceive the necessity of yielding to the wishes of your fellow citizens in connection with this grave and momentous subject, all that they have long most earnestly desired.

It is a fact not to be denied that the greater part of the Southwest is now overrun by the enemy. Missouri, Kentucky, Northwestern Virginia and Maryland are exclusively occupied by the Abolition forces. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, are at this moment either actually invaded or menaced with invasion. I am happy to discover that Smith, Taylor and Magruder, in lower Louisiana, have met with some leading successes of late, and under such enterprising and skillful commanders we have a right to hope for the early deliverance of our countrymen in that part of the world from the oppressions under which they have been so long groaning. The heroic Price, it is authentically stated, has in a few months been able to draw together an army of forty thousand men beyond the Mississippi river, at the head of whom, if his energies are not paralyed by the interference of Holmes, he will soon be able to redeem both Arkansas and Missouri. A strong army of the enemy is hourly threatening to break over the barrier of the Cumberland Mountains, and, after establishing their dominion in East Tennessee, it is hoped to inundate South Carolina, Georgia and Southern Alabama, all of which, I hold can be easily prevented by appointing a suitable commander to take charge of the Army of Tenn. and sending Gen. Bragg elsewhere, whose incompetency to direct the movements of a large army in the field no intelligent man now doubts, and whose continuance in his present position will infallibly ruin us. I have no personal unkindness for this gentleman; I have never doubted his patriotic devotion to our cause. I freely admit that he would perhaps make also a valuable General that could be found in the Confederacy; but the events of the last twelve months have amply proved to every discerning man, either in the army or elsewhere, that to entrust him with the control of large armies in the field, is virtually to surrender these Confederate States into the hands of the enemy. His speedy removal to some other theatre of operations is indispensable to the efficiency of the valiant army under his command. Longer delay in the performance of this necessary act will put at hazard all that depends upon the efforts of the Army of Tennessee, which, under a commander in whose ability they have confidence, are prepared to perform achievements that will fill the civilized world with admiration and astonishment.

Vicksburg and Port Hudson have of late fallen into the hands of the enemy; nearly 30,000 troops, cooped in those places, having been basely and criminally starved into surrender. These are far the most disgraceful occurrences of the war, and whoever shall turn out to be responsible for the failure to provision those fortresses in season should be held to a prompt and terrible responsibility. The condition of affairs in Vicksburg in connection with supplying the army there with the means of subsistence, was freely exposed during the last session of Congress, long before the act of surrender; the abuses there prevalent in the unlawful use of the Government Transportation in aid of speculative enterprises in sugar and molasses, were laid bare, and the sad catastrophe which has since occurred was boldly predicted. Truly, Mr President, the Republic is no longer in need of the services either of Pemberton or Northrup. The whole Confederacy expects and demands their immediate decapitation, and I cannot doubt that you will lend a favorable ear to the universal demand of your countrymen on this subject. In asking this at your hands, we are asking what has been asked frequently before, both in ancient and modern times, and what no wise and considerate ruler ever yet refused to do under similar circumstances. Allow me to say, what I know, that the army ignominiously surrendered by Pemberton will never again serve under him; to attempt to force him upon them will produce an amount of disaffection which has not been heretofore exhibited in the ranks of our gallant army; even the attempt to retain him at all in command will be productive of mischief compared with which desertion will be but a slight evil. As to the case of the illustrated Northrup, who has already done more injury to our cause than any hundred thousand of the enemy's troops, let me respectfully call your attention to what the illustrious William III. did, under similar circumstances, during his memorable Irish War. I cite from the pages of Macaulay as follows:

"The sufferings of the army in Ireland called forth strong expressions of sympathy and indignation. The Commons did justice to the firmness and wisdom with which Schomberg had conducted the most arduous of all campaigns. That he had not achieved more was attributed chiefly to the villainy of the Commissariat. The pestilence itself, it was said, would have been no serious calamity if it had not been aggravated by the wickedness of man. The disease had generally spared those who had warm garments and bedding, and has swept away by thousands those who were thinly clad, and who slept on the wet ground. Immense sums had been drawn out of the Treasury; yet the pay of the troops was in arrear. Hundreds of horses, tens of thousands of shoes, had been paid for by the public; yet the baggage was left behind for the want of beasts to draw it; and the soldiers were marching barefoot through the mire. Seventeen hundred pounds had been charged to the Government for medicine; yet the common drugs with which every apothecary in the smallest market town was provided were not to be found in the plague stricken camp. The cry against Shales was loud. An address was carried to the throne, requesting that he might be sent for to England, and that his accounts and papers might be secured. With this request the King readily complied."

To proceed with our examination of the condition of our Military affairs. The fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, together with the late unfortunate raid of the valiant Morgan into Indiana and Ohio, has opened the navigation of the Mississippi river to the people of the Northwest without further exertion on their part to secure this desirable object in the way of negotiation or arms, and has for the present suspended the peace movement in the region from which so much benefit was at one time anticipated. The recent invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, under that wise and energetic commander, General Lee, how ever judiciously conceived or skilfully conducted, has in all probability, enabled the enemy to bring into the field against us some three hundred thousand additional soldiers. Meanwhile the organization of African regiments is going on with most fearful rapidity, and it is boastfully announced by Gen. Thomas that he will shortly have on foot one hundred black regiments along the banks of the Mississippi.

How shall we contrive to meet and vanquish the opposing hosts? How shall we recruit our exhausted armies? How shall we fill with confidence once more the hearts of our desponding countrymen? You can do all this, Mr. President! I repeat that you can do it in sixty or ninety days. Commence the needed work of reform, I entreat you, in the army, and in every department of the government at once. Dismiss incompetent functionaries everywhere. Hunt out corruption, and punish it. Dismiss from your mind and heart all ill-grounded prejudices and partialities. Let no man command a Brigade, a Division, or a Corps, who does not possess the full confidence of the soldiers placed under his control, and who does not deserve to possess it. Throw yourself magnanimously upon your valorous and high-minded countrymen for their support, and you will receive it to the utmost measure that you will find yourself abundantly able to effect all that your own patriotic heart could desire. It is true that the conjuncture in which we are involved is one of great peril; the present is overcast with clouds; the future is not unmixed with gloom; but you have it in your power at once to disperse the dangers which encompass us, to cause the sun of success once more to beam upon us, and to gild the prospects of the future with glories more resplendent than have ever heretofore marked the history of the world.

Before I bring this communication to a close, which in all probability is the last which I shall trouble either yourself or the public with for some time to come, I feel bound to invite your attention specially to a subject most closely connected with the topic already discussed.

It cannot be denied that there is at present great dissatisfaction in the public mind growing out of the general course of your Administration. Several members of your Cabinet have utterly failed to conciliate the kindly regard of their countrymen or to secure the requisite amount of popular confidence.—The remarkable tenacity with which you have adhered to them thus far, and to certain military commanders on either side of the Mississippi river, the gross incompetency of some of whom and the atrocious malefactions of others, have awakened universal disgust and horror; together with the signal disasters which have befallen our arms of late, and which many suppose it would have been quite easy to avoid—these, with other causes, have produced a state of things which, I confess, is to my own mind not a little alarming. I cannot but be aware that some of those in different parts of the Confederacy who were among the earliest supporters of Disunion, have recently become most zealous advocates of Reconstruction, and that thousands who are not yet reconstructionists are evidently beginning to despair of our cause. No time is to be lost in suppressing the fermenting elements of mischief ere they gain strength enough to overwhelm us with disasters which other governments and people have been heretofore known to experience. It is the language of the most philosophic and sagacious statesman of any age [Mr. Burke] that I cite when I venture to say: "I do most seriously put it to the Administration, to consider the wisdom of a timely reform. Early reformations are amicable arrangements with a friend in power; late reformations are terms imposed upon a conquered enemy; early reformations are made in cool blood; late reformations are made under a state of inflammation. In that state of things the people beheld in government nothing that is respectable.—They see the abuse, and they see nothing else; they fall into the temper of a furious populace provoked at the disorder of a house of ill-fame; they never attempt to correct or regulate; they go to work by the shortest way—they abate the nuisance; they pull down the house!" It was the failure to observe the course of true wisdom herein indicated so strikingly by Mr. Burke, which has involved Lincoln and his Cabinet into the present perplexing predicament and brought the evil of civil revolution upon a once happy and prosperous people. It was precisely the same, worse than judicial blindness which dragged Charles the First to the fatal block; drove his strangely bigotted and infatuated son, James the Second, across the British Channel, and which, in our own day, induced Louis Philippe, once the delight and idol of his people, to postpone the work of needed government reform, until, when he at last announced his willingness to yield to the oft-repeated demands of his wronged and insulted subjects, he was fated to hear the terrible response, "It is too late! It is too late!"

Thank God! it is not yet too late to save our own honored cause. The people of these Confederate States yet confide in the wisdom and patriotic intentions of their Chief Magistrate; they yet look to him confidently for such action as may rescue them from the horrors of a tyranny more oppressive and degrading than any that has heretofore existed. They well know their resources in all their extent and variety, and they feel that they are unconquerable in this struggle, save by the mismanagement of those whom they have entrusted with power. They do not intend to be conquered. Come what may, they will never submit to an Abolition Despotism; they will endure all sufferings, and try all remedies, sooner than ingloriously yield up the hopes which they yet cherish of separate Liberty and Independence.

May this wise and beneficient Deity, whom it is your country's pride to know that you worship so devoutly, enable you so to act at this fearful crisis as may best comport with His own eternal designs and be most in furtherance of our happiness and honor as a People!

H. S. FOOTE.

General Grant, in his official report of his operations in the Mississippi valley gives the following summary. The result of this campaign has been the defeat of the enemy in five battles outside of Vicksburg, the occupation of Jackson, the Capital of the State of Mississippi and the capture of Vicksburg and its garrison and munitions of war, a loss to the enemy of thirty-seven thousand (37,000) prisoners, among whom were fifteen general officers, at least ten thousand killed and wounded, and among the killed Generals Tracy, Tilghman and Green, and hundreds and perhaps thousands of stragglers, who can never be collected and re-organized. Arms and munitions of war for an army of sixty thousand men have fallen into our hands, besides a large amount of other public property, consisting of railroads, locomotives, cars, steamboats, cotton, &c, and much who destroyed to prevent our capturing it.

TRAGEDY IN LYNCHBURG.—The Lynchburg community was much shocked on Thursday afternoon last, about six o'clock, on learning that in a rencontre, with knives, at the Norvell House, between Mr. Dexter Otey and Lieut. Leonard S. Lyne, C. S. Navy, the former was severely cut in the abdomen, from the effects of which he died in about fifteen minutes after. Lieut. Lyne was also badly cut in the breast, but at last accounts his wounds were not considered dangerous. The difficulty grew out of some previous misunderstanding.

RIOTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN A CENTURY IN ENGLAND.

The conscription riot in New York has led some of the journals to ransack English history for records of great riots which have occurred in that county. The Washington Chronicle succeeds in bringing to light the following:

On the other hand, the frequency of riots in England is very remarkable. Without going very far back, we can point out many very serious instances which agitated that country at the time and disgraced its annals.

In 1780 the noted Porteous riots occurred at Edinburg, as described with vivid power in Scott's "Heart of Mid Lothian." A police officer had rendered himself obnoxious to the mob, who broke into the prison where, he was confined, dragged him out, took him to the place of execution and hanged him there. The city was in the hands of the rioters while this was being done, and the whole proceedings were in direct violation of the laws of man and God.

In 1753, there were riots in many parts of England on account of the excessive price of food and the great exactions of tolls upon the turnpike roads. The very safety of the Government was threatened, and it was considered necessary to reduce the cost of bread and lessen the number of toll bars.

In 1765, when the English Parliament rejected a bill which was intended to act as prohibitory on the importation of foreign and protective of the manufacture of English silks the Spitalfields weavers proceeded to rioting in London, and the military had to be employed to disperse them It was on that occasion that the first Lord Holland said: "What evil an artful man might do with these mobs!" The full details are to be found in "Horace Walpole's Memoirs."

In 1780 occurred the "No Popery" riot, of which the best description is to be found in Dicken,s "Barnaby Rudge." A young man, Lord George Gordon, son of a Duke, himself a member of Parliament and unfortunately so feeble minded that his insanity was never doubted, constituted himself champion of the cause of ultra Protestantism in England, headed the Protestant Association, and after having encouraged the multitude of idle, quarrelsome and rascally persons of both sexes, was unable to control them when they broke into riot.—London was at their mercy, the civic magistrates not daring to enforce the law against them. The Government itself was paralyzed for some days, during which rapine and even worse crimes were rampant in the capital of the kingdom. Persons were burned to the ground and their inmates liberated; churches were destroyed; private dwellings gutted, plundered and demolished. In fact, for several days, the mob ruled and revelled, audacious and cruel, such of them as were not incapacitated by drink, applying themselves to the business of pillage and murder.

In 1811, there were the Luddite riots in Notts and Derby; in 1816 the celebrated Spa-Fields' riots, when London was again at the mercy of the mob; and in 1830, the agricultural machine destroying riots in Surry, Kent and Sussex.

In 1831, while the Reform Bill was under discussion, the mob used violent means to intimidate the peers known, or supposed to be hostile to the measure, assaulted the Duke of Wellington in the streets of London, grew tumultuous in Derby, where they attacked the prison and liberated all the prisoners burned the Castle of Notingham and plundered the dwelling house of neighboring peers and country gentlemen. In the city of Bristol the mob were into even worse excesses, burning and plundering the residences, of the Mayor Bishop and other obnoxious persons as well as the prisons, custom-houses, excise office, and other public buildings, wholly destroying Queen square, and, in it 42 private houses, causing the destruction of property to the value of $2,500,000. Next to the Gordon riot of 1780 this was the most disastrous outbreak of mob violence ever known in England. The Rebecca riots of 1818, which took place in Wales and were mainly directed to the demolition of turnpikes, too numerous in the poor agricultural country of South Wales, and which for a long time defied all the efforts of the Government to suppress them, may close this catalogue.

TORY RAID IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Some of the disaffected along the Tenn. line are getting quite bold. We find the following in the Asheville News of the 27th:

Goldman Bryson, at the head of about 120 disloyal men, made a raid on the town of Murphy, Cherokee county, last Sunday week. They did but little damage to private property, but demolished the Jail, and carried off some 50 or 60 guns and considerable ammunition which belonged to the State, and had been sent to Cherokee for the use of the militia. They met with no opposition, there being nobody in town but a few old men, and the women and children.

Bryson is a native of Cherokee county, but seems to have gone clean over on the wrong side. He left the following document behind him:

G. W. Hayes, D. F. Ramseur, M. Fain, and J. R. Dyche:—Dear Sirs: I am acting under the authority of the U. S. Government. I have paid a visit to the town of Murphy with a few of the boys to subjugate the place. We wish to establish and sustain the laws of the old U. States Government, and as such you may consider me, and I will protect such. I have long acted under such laws, and therefore I shall try to carry out the laws of the constitution and the Lincoln government and an enemy to the Jeff. Davis government, certain, sure. You know me, gentlemen, and you will ever find me acting under that rule.

Yours, with due esteem, G. BRYSON.

DESERTERS.

We have believed all along that there were fewer deserters from the North Carolina troops than from those of other States; but it is fashionable in certain quarters to attribute every thing that happens of a disreputable character to our good old State, and hence the stigma in this respect that rests upon her. From the day Roanoke Island fell to the present, she has been made a scapegoat for the sins of others. It was asserted then, by a person very high in place, on the strength of mere street rumor, that her troops behaved badly in the battle on that Island; and from that day to this, though the valor of *her* sons have time and again saved that person from the fate of a refugee and wanderer, yet justice has been denied her, and systematic effort has been made to produce the impression, and to place that impression in history, that she, above all other States, is a harbor for deserters.—It seems, from the following extract from the army correspondence of the Salisbury Watchman that this effort has become so notorious that even the soldiers of other States who desert, claim to be from North Carolina. The correspondent says:

"Yesterday an old member of Co. C, arrived in camp, who had been detailed as a scout to arrest deserters. He was assigned to duty in the neighborhood of Farmville, Va, where, by keeping a vigilant look out, he soon succeeded in capturing several fellows who belonged to the "Wood's Rooster Battalion." He asked them where they were from, their reply was, North Carolina. Others made like inquiries and received the same reply; but when they were brought before the proper authorities, and the truth forced out, the very officers examining them were astounded to learn that they were Virginians and belonged to the 23d Va regiment. A few days later a squad of more North Carolinians were arrested, but in the end turned out to be Georgians. Scarcely a day passed but deserters were taken up, who invariably reported themselves from North Carolina at first, but afterwards proved to be from some other State. A few, perhaps one-fifth, my friend says, were indeed from the old North State, but by far the larger proportion were from Virginia. These facts can be proven beyond a doubt. I do not make these statements at random, simply to tarnish the fair names of our sister States, but I do it to vindicate our own honor. I am sorry that a single soul has ever deserted from the Confederate army; but since men will go, it is not right that they should travel for hundreds of miles under assumed names and on North Carolina credit. It makes our blood boil to hear North Carolina denounced as a harbor for deserters and traitors, when, in fact, there are fully as many in other States."

We admit with regret that there are many deserters in this State, and we fear that the party feeling in the army, gotten up by a few officers with the sanction of the administration at Richmond, will lead to more desertions. But we believe there are two deserters, from other States to one from North Carolina. Mississippi, the President's own State, has more deserters and more men out of the service than she has in it. But Mississippi belongs to the chosen circle, and so nothing is said about Mississippi. Mississippi retained her conscripts to defend her own soil, and yet she was overrun, and the newspapers gave us no information as to the deeds of prowess of those retained conscripts.—*Standard.*

CONSCRIPTION IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Philadelphia Ledger gives one day's scene at the Surgeon's office in that city, where the drafted men and substitutes are examined before being "passed." We make an extract:

Many attempts at fraud are made. Men unfit for service sell themselves as substitutes, foolishly supposing themselves able to conceal their infirmities. They little know the ordeal through which they must pass. They entirely overlook the fact that a surgeon in five minutes can overhaul them as a watchmaker overhauls a watch. There is abundant attempt at fraud all around.—Drafted men claim disqualification on the ground of disability, and men who want substitute money endeavor to conceal their ailment. Both call into practice the utmost skill of the surgeon making the examination.

The substitute, upon presenting himself for acceptance, is taken into a room, where he disrobes himself. The surgeon begins with his teeth, and examines his whole body down to his toes. The examination is even more searching than the examination of an applicant for a policy of insurance upon his life by a life insurance company's surgeon. If the front teeth are gone, so that a man cannot bite off a cartridge paper, he cannot be accepted for infantry service. He may do for a trooper. Every limb is examined. If the lungs are unsound, the temperament apoletic, or the system wasting, the Government does not want the man either as a volunteer, a conscript, or a substitute.

The applicant is made to throw himself into various attitudes. His toes and fingers must be practically perfect. He is made to pick up a grain of corn from the ground without bending his knees; to stand upon the points of his toes, and to show that he is perfect in his anatomy. If he stands this test he is accepted, and a release is given to the man who brings him. The substitute then receives his money, and is taken into the custody of a guard. He is then a United States soldier for three years.

The Peace Questions at Washington.—A dispatch from Washington says: The reiteration of the stories of prolonged debates in Cabinet on the question of the terms on which the seceded States shall be restored to the Union is entirely mythical. It is not believed here that the subject has been before Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet *pro forma*. All these sensations, therefore, are merely based on the views supposed to be entertained by the individual members of the Cabinet, and not on the simple authoritative expression of an opinion. There can be but one motive in these manufactured dispatches, and that is the embarrassment of the administration in its relation with the people.