

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States:

It is again our fortune to meet for devising measures necessary to the public welfare whilst our country is involved in a desolating war.

The sufferings endured by some portions of the people excite the deep solicitude of the Government; and the sympathy thus evoked has been heightened by the patriotic devotion with which these sufferings have been borne.

The gallantry and good conduct of our troops, always claiming the gratitude of the country, have been further illustrated on hard-fought fields, marked by exhibitions of individual prowess which can find but few parallels in ancient or modern times.

Our army has not flattered in any of the various trials to which it has been subjected, and the great body of the people has continued to manifest a zeal and unanimity which not only cheer the battle-stained soldier, but give assurance to the friends of constitutional liberty of our final triumph in the pending struggle against despotic usurpation.

The vast army which threatened the Capital of the Confederacy has been defeated and driven from the lines of investment, and the enemy, repeatedly foiled in his efforts for its capture, is now seeking to raise new armies on a scale such as modern history does not record to effect that subjugation of the South so often proclaimed as on the eve of accomplishment.

The perfidy which disregarded rights secured by compact, the madness which trampled on obligations made sacred by every consideration of honor, have been intensified by malignity engendered by defeat. These passions have changed the character of the hostilities waged by our enemies, who are becoming daily less regardful of the usages of civilized war and the dictates of humanity.

The moneyed obligations of the Confederate Government are forged by citizens of the United States, and publicly advertised for sale in their cities, with a solicitude which sufficiently attests the knowledge of their Government; and its complicity in the crime is further evinced by the fact that the soldiers of the invading armies are found supplied with large quantities of these forged notes, as a means of despoiling the country people, by fraud, out of such portions of their property as armed violence may fail to reach.

Yet, the rebuke of civilized man has failed to evoke from the authorities of the United States one mark of disapprobation of his acts; not is there any reason to suppose that the conduct of Benjamin F. Butler has failed to secure from his Government the sanction and applause with which it is known to have been greeted by public meetings and portions of the press of the United States.

Retaliation in kind, for many of them, is impracticable, for I have had occasion to remark in a former message, that under no excess of provocation could our noble-hearted defenders be driven to wreak vengeance on unarmed men, on women, or on children.

Deeply as we regret the character of the contest into which we are about to be forced, we must accept it as an alternative which respect manifestations give us little hope can be avoided.

The exasperation of failure has aroused the worst passions of our enemies; a large portion of their people, even of their clergymen, now engage in urging an excited populace to the extreme of ferocity; and nothing remains but to vindicate our rights and to maintain our existence by employing against our foe every energy and every resource at our disposal.

I append for your information a copy of the papers exhibiting the action of the Government, up to the present time, for the repression of the outrages committed on our people. Other messages now in progress will be submitted hereafter.

In inviting your attention to the legislation which the necessities of our condition require, those connected with the prosecution of the war command undivided attention.

The acts passed at your last session intended to secure the public defence by general enrollment, and to render uniform the rules governing troops in the service, had led to some unexpected criticism that is much to be regretted.

will exhibit in detail the operations of that department. It will be seen with satisfaction that the credit of the Government securities remains unimpaired, and that this credit is fully justified by the comparatively small amount of accumulated debt, notwithstanding the magnitude of our military operations.

The legislation of the last session provided for the purchase of supplies with the bonds of the Government; but the perseverance of the people for Treasury notes has been so marked that legislation is recommended to authorize an increase in the issue of Treasury notes, which the public service seems to require.

No grave inconvenience need be apprehended from this increased issue, as the provision of law by which those notes are convertible into eight per cent. bonds forms an efficient and permanent safeguard against any serious depreciation of the currency.

Your attention is also invited to the means proposed by the Secretary for facilitating the preparation of these notes, and for guarding them against forgery. It is due to our people to state, that no manufacture of counterfeit notes exists within our limits, and that they are all imported from the Northern States.

The report of the Secretary of War, which is submitted, contains numerous suggestions for the legislation deemed desirable, in order to add to the efficiency of the service.

I invite your favorable consideration especially to those recommendations which are intended to secure the proper execution of the Conscription Law, and the consolidation of companies, battalions and regiments, when so reduced in strength as to impair that uniformity of organization which is necessary in the army.

The necessity for some legislation for controlling military transportation on the railroads, and improving their present defective condition, forces itself upon the attention of the Government, and I trust you will be able to devise satisfactory measures for attaining this purpose.

The legislation on the subject of general officers involves the service in some difficulties which are pointed out by the Secretary, and for which the remedy suggested by him seems appropriate.

In connection with this subject, I am of opinion that prudent provisions for the increase of the army in the event of emergencies not now anticipated. The very large increase of forces recently called into the field by the President of the United States, may render it necessary hereafter to extend the provisions of the Conscription Law so as to embrace persons between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five years.

The vigor and efficiency of our present forces, their condition, and the skill and ability which distinguish their leaders, inspire the belief that no further enrollment will be necessary. But a wise foresight requires that, if a necessity should be suddenly developed during the recess of Congress requiring increased forces for our defence, means should exist for calling such forces into the field without awaiting the re-assembling of the legislative department of the Government.

In the election and appointment of officers for the provisional army, it was to be anticipated that mistakes would be made, and incompetent officers of all grades introduced into the service. In the absence of experience, and with no reliable guide for selection, Executive appointments, as well as elections, have been sometimes unfortunate. The good of the service, the interests of our country require that some means be devised for withdrawing the commissions of officers who are incompetent for the duties required by their position.

Within a recent period we have effected the object so long desired of an arrangement for an exchange of prisoners, which is now being executed by delivery at the points agreed upon, and which will, it is hoped, speedily restore our brave and unfortunate countrymen to their places in the ranks of the army, from which, by the fortunes of war, they have been, for a time separated.

The details of the arrangement will be communicated to you in a special report, when further progress has been made in their execution.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy embraces the operations and present condition of this branch of the public service, both afloat and ashore, the construction and equipment of armed vessels at home and abroad, the manufacture of ordnance and ordnance stores, and the establishment of workshops and the development of our resources of coal and iron.

The difficulties now experienced on this point are fully stated in the Secretary's report, and I invite your attention to providing a remedy. The report of the Postmaster General discloses the embarrassment which resulted in the postal service from the occupation by the enemy of the Mississippi river, and portions of the territory of the different States.

The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.: MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 25, 1862.

It Crowded Out.—We have been forced to omit a number of notices and communications intended for this paper. Our friends must bear with us.

LATEST.—The latest intelligence from the two armies in Virginia, represent Pope as retreating towards Manassas, and our army in pursuit. There is a rumor that three hundred of the enemy, left behind to destroy a bridge and protect a train of cars, were captured, and with them the train, and the bridge saved.

The Confederate Congress met last Monday. The President's Message, short and business like, will be found in this paper.

The most important subject that has thus far engaged the attention of Congress is that of raising more troops to meet the extraordinary force being raised in the Northern States. Several propositions have been made, but no plan has yet been matured. One is to extend the Conscription law so as to take all the men between 35 and 45. Another is, to take all between 16 and 50 years.

Col. Vance made his farewell address, and took leave of, his regiment on the evening of the 15th August. It was a touching moment to his officers and men who were all devotedly attached to him.

COMMENDABLE GENEROSITY.

The Salisbury Hospital Committee take pleasure in announcing the receipt of \$62.00 from the office of the Telegraph company at this place, and the amount of subscriptions to the News club not yet paid in will also be given to us as soon as received.

The generosity of the Telegraph company is really refreshing in these dark days when our country has so many enemies to combat, the worst of all being the speculators, who, like a swarm of locusts, are devouring every green thing, and who are sending hunger and nakedness to the homes of the poor.

McClellan's army has left James River. They destroyed every thing they could not carry off. Their fortifications, trenches &c., were immensely strong; so much useless expenses and labor.

Halleck has refused to answer Gen. Lee's communication and our government orders accompanying it in regard to outrages by Butler, Pope's army, &c. He says they are insulting to his government; but no doubt the true reason is, he cannot defend the acts complained of.

The irrepressible conflict between white and black labor has broken out in quite a number of the Northern cities. There have been some six or seven terrible rows between the Irish and Dutch on one side and the free negroes on the other, growing out of the fact that the negroes work for lower prices than the white laborers.

The Yankees are running away to avoid the draft, which was ordered for the purpose of raising 600,000 more soldiers. Thousands have gone to Canada, but Lincoln's officers are on the watch, and they arrest every man they can find who is leaving the country. Thousands have been thus arrested.

Jackson's fight and victory, at Cedar Run turns out to have been a serious affair to the Yankees. They admit a loss of 3000 men. Our loss was 600.

"Freeing the Niggers."—At the battle of Baton Rouge the Yankees placed 300 negroes in front of their lines to protect their men. 150 of them were killed, and thus by the tender mercy of the Yankees set free!

There is still any amount of talk about European mediation, intervention, &c., between the North and the South. But our advice is, place no confidence in any promises of aid or deliverance from this source. Trust in a righteous and merciful God, and go forward in every patriotic and virtuous work, as your only hope of a successful issue out of these our terrible trials.

Col. Vance's majority it is thought will reach about 35,000. His vote floats up, as far as heard from, 49,911; Mr. Johnston's, 16,323. Six of the counties yet to be heard from are within the enemy's lines; and the vote of three others (new counties) may have been counted with the old counties to which they formerly belonged. So that there are only four whose votes are much relied on.

Advertisements.—There are a number of advertisements in this paper marked (B) or (M) "fill forth," which in these exciting times may have escaped the attention of those who caused them to be inserted. Will all concerned please look over them and give such instructions to us in the premises as they may deem proper.

Speaking of the Yankee evacuation of Berkley, on the James River, the Examiner says: We are glad to be able to say that McClellan put no further constraint upon the liberties of our citizens who were in his power than to forbid their passing beyond his lines.

The Hon. Warren Winslow died in Fayetteville on the 17th instant.

The Hon. Abram Rencher, until recently Governor of New Mexico, has returned to his old home near Pittsburg, in this State.

The Petersburg Express says Yankee deserters are coming into our lines daily.

The enemy fancy they have discovered a grave mistake in their past military policy. Their favourite plan of surrounding us on all sides, and crushing us to death, as with the folds of an anaconda, is now abandoned. The disasters they have suffered are all ascribed to the fallacy of this plan of operations, from the exposure to which it subjected them, and the New York Tribune openly ridicules the famed Anaconda as an exploded humbug.

Concentration is now the favourite tactics; and we are to be assailed from the line of the Rapidan by a vast army made up of all the troops that can be collected and spared from the four quarters of the compass. The army of McClellan is to be transferred to the region of the Rappahannock, there to reinforce the army which has been brought together from the great distances for the command of Pope. The forces which have been ravaging the counties of Western Virginia are withdrawn from that quarter to swell the host concentrating on the hills and plains stretching from Fredericksburg to the Blue Ridge.

We are, therefore, on the eve of great events; and it is not to be disguised that the danger which threatens us from that direction is serious in the extreme. We cannot doubt the ability of our generals to oppose a successful resistance to the combined armies which they have now to cope with; but we cannot resist a feeling of impatience for an early and decisive engagement. It is so obviously our policy to deliver battle at the earliest practicable moment, that every day of delay fills us with apprehension.

It is not to be doubted that the enemy is capable of massing an immense army in front of Washington City, not only for defensive but for offensive purposes. They have persuaded themselves that the true base for a march upon Richmond is the Potomac and Rappahannock, of which idea they have grown as fond as they are sick of the thought of the York or the James.

Impressed with this idea, they have required McClellan to "change his base" a second time; and now that they fancy they have discovered the right base and have realized that concentration is the true plan of war, they will, without any doubt, make the boldest, most determined and altogether the most vigorous effort for the capture of Richmond that we have yet had to withstand.

That there are serious defects and flaws in their present plan of approach, is apparent enough; but their measures are sufficient to excite our most anxious solicitude; if for no other reason, at least from the formidable numbers they have marshalled for the onset. We feel unbounded confidence in our army, but we are, nevertheless, exceedingly impatient for the news of a decisive engagement.

Richmond Examiner.

The penalty for passing counterfeit Confederate notes is death. An act of the last session of the Provisional Congress provides this punishment for this crime during the existence of the present war between the Confederate and the United States, and until within one year after the ratification of a peace. The same penalty applies in the case of altering or passing any altered Treasury note of the Confederate States.

A man is to be hung in Richmond on the 22d inst., for counterfeiting Confederate Treasury Notes. Matches sell in Petersburg, Va. at one cent a match.

MCLELLAN'S MOVEMENTS.

The movements of McClellan since Sunday night last, when he evacuated his position on James river, are so shrouded in much uncertainty. On that night his transports, said to have been one hundred and eight in number, and all supposed to have been loaded with troops, are known to have dropped down the river. Facts have, however, come to our knowledge which favour the idea that these vessels carried only the baggage and stores of the army, whilst the army itself proceeded overland to the York or Pamunkey rivers.

At a late hour Sunday night, our pickets at Turkey island and Malvern Hill observed the light of numerous extensive fires, apparently within the enemy's encampment. At daylight the next morning, General Cobb, with his legion, approached the enemy's lines and found them deserted. Immense piles of commissary and quartermaster stores were burning; hundreds of horses and mules browsed at will, and countless tents flecked with white the woods and field. Miles of entrenchments furrowed the face of the country; but no cannon were there to make them terrible, and the only thing visible in the shape of a Yankee was a number of "log figure" sentinels, who had been perched on the entrenchments to deceive distant observers.

Pursuing on in the direction of the court House, our cavalry came in sight of the rear of the enemy's columns, and became aware that his force was very heavy. Not being of sufficient strength to make an attack, our cavalry hung upon the enemy's rear for the purpose of watching his movements. From personal observations, and the reports of the country people, our officers were induced to believe that McClellan, with the whole or the greater part of his army, between fifty and seventy-five thousand men, were in front of them.

During Monday evening the enemy crossed the Chickahominy at Providence Forge, burnt the bridges in his rear, and it was thought, took the route for New Kent Court House.

Being stopped from further pursuit by the destruction of the bridges over the Chickahominy, our cavalry counter-marched and returned. From some of these men who, on their return, visited McClellan's late encampment, we have received very interesting accounts, which we regret our want of space prevents us from laying before our readers. But we must dispose of them in a few words. Behind redoubts and entrenchments with which the Yankee works in front of Richmond are as mole hills, lies the deserted camp. The same waste and destruction of property that occurred at Fair Oaks and Savage's is here observable. While most of the stores, wagons, &c., have been fired, many thousand dollars worth, among which were valuable medicines and chemicals, and a great number of muskets lie scattered about uninjured. At last accounts, there being no government officers on the ground to take care of the property. Numbers of free negroes from the county were busy with carts hauling off clothing and other valuable plunder.

LATER.

Since the above was in type, we have come into possession of some entirely reliable and highly interesting information regarding McClellan's movements. At eight o'clock, yesterday morning, the superintendent of the York River Railroad left Richmond with an engine intending, owing to the uncertainty of the enemy's movements, to go only as far as "Dispatch" station. But on arriving at this point he received a message from Col. Roper, commanding our cavalry in New Kent, that he might safely proceed to the White House, the enemy not being, or likely to be, in the neighborhood of the road. Proceeding down the road, at Tunstall's he had an interview with Major Roper, from which he received satisfactory information of the enemy's movements. It seems that on Monday, McClellan crossed the Chickahominy into New Kent, with between ten and fifteen (not fifty) thousand men, and wheeling to the right, marched towards Williamsburg. Information received direct from Williamsburg yesterday morning is to the effect that he was then passing through that town, en route for Yorktown or Fortress Monroe.

From this information, upon the authenticity of which we have every reliance, we conclude that McClellan, having on last Sunday night sent off by water all of his forces that the transports would accommodate, determined to march the remainder to Fortress Monroe, or some other convenient point, to meet the transports on their return from Fredericksburg. This march he was on yesterday performing. He has by this time been rejoined by his transports, and is embarking on them for his final destination—Fredericks or Aquia Creek.

To give a quietus to the rumour prevailing here yesterday, that McClellan was debarking all his forces at the White House, we will mention that the gentlemen to whom we are indebted for the above information, yesterday morning visited that locality, remained several hours and returned without seeing a Yankee, except three deserters, who were brought in by our cavalry, and whom he brought with him to this city.

How to be a Man.—"When Carlyle was asked by a young person to point out what course of reading he thought best to make him a man, he replied in his characteristic manner: 'It is not by books alone, or by books chiefly, that a man is in all points a man. Study to do faithfully whatsoever thing in your actual situation then and now, you find either expressively or tacitly laid down to your charge. This is your post. Stand in it like a true soldier. Silently devour the many diatribes of it—all situations have many—and see you aim not to quit it, without doing all that is your duty.'"