

From the Daily Progress.
Synopsis of the President's Message.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8.—The President rapidly reviews events of the past year, and says that whilst our successes have not equalled our expectations, we have checked the enemy every where in his advances. Our relations with foreign nations is discussed at considerable length. The President regrets that there has been no improvement since his last message in January, and says that the conduct of European nations is less impartial and in some cases positively unfriendly. Our Commissioners were sent abroad for the purpose of entering into negotiations proper to the relative rights and obligations between the Confederate and United States under treaties entered into with foreign powers prior to the separation which has taken place, but this tender on our part was declined. Hence, as we have been refused the benefits of these treaties, they certainly have ceased to be binding and in the opinion of the President our relations with European powers are now controlled exclusively by the general rules of the law of nations.

Legislation upon the subject of finance is earnestly recommended. Although the magnitude and duration of the war was not at first anticipated, still the resources of the country are so ample and the spirit of the people so devoted to the cause that relief is within our reach. The financial policy of the Government since its formation is discussed, and the President contends that whilst the provision of the Permanent Constitution in regard to direct taxation cannot be carried into effect in the mode pointed out, it is plain that the duty of Congress is to execute the general intent of the Constitution by making the tax uniform throughout the country. These considerations are greatly enforced by the reflection that an attempt to apportion the taxes amongst the States, some of which are wholly or partially in the occupation of the enemy, would subvert the whole intention of the framers of the Constitution and be productive of most revolting injustice, instead of that just correlation between taxation and representation which was their purpose to secure.

With large portions of some of the States occupied by the enemy, what justice would there be in imposing on the remainder the whole amount of taxation of the entire State? What else would this be in effect but to increase the burden of those who are the bravest soldiers by the war, and make our own inability to protect them from invasion, as we are required to do by the Constitution, the ground for adding to their losses by an attempted reticence to the letter, in violation of the spirit of that instrument. No such purpose could have been entertained and no such result was contemplated by the framers of the Constitution. We may add weight to those considerations if we reflect that although the Constitution provided that it should go into operation with a representation temporarily distributed among the States, it expressly ordains that after providing for a census within three years after this temporary distribution the representative power is to end until such enumeration shall be made. Would any one argue that because the census cannot be made within the fixed period, the government, at the expiration of that period, shall perish for the want of a representative body.

In any aspect in which the subject can be viewed, I am led to the conclusion already announced, and which is understood to be in accordance with the vote taken in one or both Houses at the last session. I shall, therefore, until we are able to pursue the precise mode required by the Constitution, deem it my duty to approve any law levying taxation, which you are bound to impose in defence of the country, in any other practicable mode; which shall distribute the burden uniformly and impartially on the whole property of the people. In your former legislation you have sought to avoid an increase of the volume of notes in circulation, offering inducements of voluntary funding and measures were adopted for that purpose, but proved only partially successful, and the evil has now reached such a magnitude as to permit no other remedy than a compulsory reduction of the currency to the amount required by the business of the country. This reduction should be accompanied by a pledge that under no stress of circumstances will that amount be exceeded. No possible mode of using the credit of the government can be so disastrous as the one which disturbs the basis of all exchanges. It renders impossible all calculations of the future values, arguments in constantly increasing proportions the price of all commodities, and so depreciates all fixed salaries and incomes, as to render them inadequate to a bare subsistence. If to these be added the still more fatal influence on the moral character of the people, I am persuaded that you will concur in the conclusion that an inflexible adherence to a limitation of the currency, at a fixed sum, is an indispensable element in any system of finance now to be adopted. The holders of currency now outstanding can only be protected in the recovery of just claims by substituting for notes some other security. If the currency is not greatly and

immediately increased, the present scale of inflated prices will not only continue to exist, but by the very fact that the large amount thus made necessary in the conduct of the war, those prices will reach rates more extravagant and the whole system fail under its own weight, thus rendering a reduction of the debt impossible and destroying its whole value in the hands of the holder. If, on the contrary, a funded debt, with interest secured by adequate taxation, is substituted for the outstanding currency, its entire amount will be available to the holder, and the Government will be in a condition enabling it to prosecute the war, in a successful manner. It is therefore demanded, as well by the interest of the creditor as of the country at large, that treasury notes be converted into bonds bearing adequate interest, with a provision for taxation sufficient to ensure punctual payment and final redemption of the whole debt.

The President recommends to the consideration of Congress the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and hopes it will engross the consideration of that body until disposed of in a proper manner and the important results which the country anticipates from its action attained.

The President believes the army to be in a better condition than at any previous period of the war. He recommends the restoration to the army of all who are improperly absent, putting an end to substitution, modifying the exemption law, restricting details and placing in the ranks able-bodied men now employed as wagoners, nurses, cooks, and other employes doing service for which negroes may be found competent. He concurs in the opinion expressed by the Secretary of War that there is no ground for objection that a new provision, to include those who have furnished substitutes under former calls, would be a breach of contract. The action of the several Executive Departments is reviewed, and the gratifying announcement is made that the receipts of the Post Office Department are six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars in excess of expenditures.

The communication with the trans-Mississippi is obstructed so as to render it difficult to comply with the Executive needs. Legislation is required providing for the exercise of temporary authority, especially in the Postal and Treasury Department, for which sub-Secretaries are recommended, while for military affairs it would seem to be sufficient to authorize the President and Secretary of War to delegate to commanding Generals so much of the powers vested in them as the exigencies of the service shall require.

The President adverts to the savage ferocity of the enemy in conducting the war, and holds up to public execration the refusal of the Lincoln Government to execute the cartel for exchange of prisoners; but the patriotism of the people had proved equal to every sacrifice demanded by the country's need, and God had blessed us with success in proportion to our means, and under his divine favor our labors must at last be crowned with success.

FROM TENNESSEE.

We get very little from this quarter. The following items may prove of interest. If General Johnston has been placed in command, we look for the rapid restoration of the army. Public confidence will be unmistakably manifested, and the effect of it upon the army organization and efficiency will be speedy and decisive.

The dispatches below show, if not what has been done, at least what was designed by Gen. Longstreet. We suppose that circumstances were unfavorable to their successful prosecution, and he was compelled to raise the siege of Knoxville:

We learn that a correspondence which has been pending for several days between the President, Generals Hardee, Johnston and Bragg has culminated in an arranged reorganization of the command of the army above.

General Joseph E. Johnson is to take supreme head of affairs, with General Bragg as chief of staff—a combination long sought by the country, and presenting a cheering front to the future. We have no words to express our delight at so equitable, popular and proper an adjustment of the vexed problem. With Johnston to plan, supervise and direct, and with Bragg to conduct the office details and paper of the army, it will restore confidence as it will be itself restored. The people and the soldiers will accept this tardy tribute to their discerning sense, with gratitude and confidence.—*Atlanta Confederacy 8th.*

DALTON, Dec. 6.—There is nothing reliable from Gen. Longstreet. One account says his assault on Knoxville was unsuccessful; another, and the latest received, states that the enemy had suffered a disaster. The communication is broken, and hence nothing direct and reliable is received.

Four Federal corps, consolidated into two, have left Chattanooga and been sent towards Knoxville. Another corps has been sent in an unknown direction.

All is quiet here. The Confederates hold Ringgold.

Gen. Brockbridge was not suspended, but replaced (superseped?) in the com-

CAROLINA WATCHMAN.
SALISBURY, N. C.
MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 11, 1862.

REMOVAL.—We have been requested by Capt. MYERS, to say that he has removed his Office to the brick building nearly opposite the Mansion Hotel and formerly occupied by Mr. Enniss, where he will be happy to see all who may be disposed to aid the cause by bringing in their produce. The Captain is very desirous to purchase pork, and appeals to the humanity as well as the patriotism of our people.

EXECUTED.—Jacob Murph, who was sentenced at last November Term, of Rowan Superior Court, by his Honor Judge Bailey, to be hanged, for the murder of Cope, suffered the penalty of the law on Friday last, near this place. A large crowd witnessed the execution.

FOR GEN. LEE'S ARMY!
Mr. C. A. Moore will be at Third Creek Station on the 5th January, 1864, to take charge of any boxes or packages, and at Salisbury on the 6th, for the same purpose. Persons having boxes, &c., are informed that four dollars will be charged for every box to pay expenses. "Nat" wants a box, and desires the Editors of the Irredell Express to notify his friends. We are sure "Nat" will get it, too.

THE COCHRETT AND TABLEAUX, mentioned in our last, came off on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings last, and was a complete success. On both evenings the hall was filled almost to overflowing. The music was excellent, and the Tableaux we are sure could not be surpassed, and the receipts we are informed amounted to a very handsome sum, and will relieve the wants of many who it is feared might have suffered.

The Legislature will most probably adjourn to-day. We will give a synopsis of the acts and resolutions passed in our next. The bill amending the Home Guard law has passed the Commons and is pending in the Senate. We will publish this law in full, so that the people may have an opportunity of seeing at once the changes made.

A New Judge.—The Legislature of this State has elected Hon. Edwin G. Reade, of Person County, a Judge of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity, in place of Judge Bailey, resigned. Mr. Reade is a good lawyer, possesses a fine judgment, and is a devoted friend to civil liberty. He will prove an ornament to the bench.

New Method of Tanning Leather.
We have just seen some three very fine specimens of Leather tanned upon a new method discovered by S. A. Hickel, of Roane County, Va. One in Mr. Harrison Cook's Yard in Davie county, in 41 days, the others in from 23 to 33. Messrs. Hickel & Thomason, the proprietors of the Patent are now here, and are ready to dispose of either Shop, State or county rights. From what we have seen, the system appears to be good and must save in time and expense largely. The leather is soft and pliable, and to the public must be of immense importance. It surely merits the attention of every person interested in the leather business.

A GOOD MOVE.
It will be seen by the proceedings of the Legislature, that Mr. Costner, the Commissioner from Lincoln county, has introduced a resolution to inquire into the legiti-

lity of the Board of Public Education, and to inquire into the propriety of the Commission, deriving therefrom greater profit than they are allowed by their charters to make, and thus doing manifest injury to the public interest.

Mr. Costner's resolution is a proper one for something is really demanded to protect the people against the extortionate charges of railroad companies in which the State is a Stockholder. And there is no good reason why the railroad companies cannot carry freights as easily as the Express company does, and at a great deal lower rates, and then make remunerating profits. Those people who are all "for" the Express Company, and who say "we hope will now rally to the support of Mr. Costner's object and help in remedying a growing evil."

It will also be seen that Mr. Brown, the Commissioner from this county, introduced a bill to amend the Revenue Act so as to tax Express Companies \$500 in each county to which they receive or deliver packages. We repeat, what we have often said heretofore, that the Express Company as now managed is a monopoly that ought not to be tolerated. The charges are enormously high, but people are compelled to submit, because the railroads have "farmed out" their lines to the Express Company, and the only way to get freight transported with any sort of certainty is to hire the Express Company to do it and pay whatever prices are charged. We like Mr. Brown's bill, but we would like it better if it restricted the Express Company to carrying small packages—say under 50 lbs. in weight—or restrict the charges to a fair compensation.

For our own part we have always found the Agents of the Express Company very accommodating, and obliging to us, and it is not against the Agents or employees that we make complaint, but against the Company as a Company, enjoying a monopoly and exercising a power which should not be allowed. The Railroad companies should be compelled to carry freights instead of farming out their roads to the Express company, and the business and charges of the Express company should be limited and restricted. In saying what we have said in this article, we think we express the sentiments of nine-tenths of the people of the State.—*Western Democrat.*

WE SECOND IT.

Every word of the above is true to the letter. The thing has become absolutely intolerable, and amounts to bare faced swindling. We call upon the Legislature in the name of the People to remedy this great and growing evil, and make the roads what they were designed by their projectors, a means of accommodation to the public.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

In the South Carolina Legislature, on the 5th instant, the following important resolutions were presented and referred to appropriate Committees:

Resolved, That the following resolutions, which were referred to the Committee on Confederate Relations:

Whereas our currency has depreciated in such a degree that the standard value of all the necessities of life have advanced many fold; and whereas the families of our soldiers are supported by the pay of the soldier, which is now rendered inefficient for that purpose; and whereas it is against reason and humanity to suppose that our brave and gallant soldiers can contentedly remain at their post of duty, knowing that their families are at home suffering for the necessities of life, in the form of food and clothing; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the General Assembly of South Carolina respectfully advise and recommend the Secretary of War, and the Congress of the Confederate States, that the pay of the soldiers be increased to twenty dollars per month, and that our members to Congress from this State be instructed to use their influence to the furthering of this end.

Resolved, That the following resolution, which was ordered for consideration on Monday next:

Whereas, our ports are now said to be blockaded by the enemy, and our mints closed by the refusal or neglect of the Government of Richmond to pass the necessary and proper laws on that subject, and as the States have surrendered the power of coining money to the Confederate Government, be it therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of South Carolina, now sitting in General Assembly, that our Senators and members of the House of Representatives, in the Confederate Congress, be, and they are hereby, expressly, earnestly, and urgently requested to use all proper means in their power during next session of Congress, to have the mints of Charlotte, North Carolina, and at Dahlonega, Georgia, put in operation as soon as may be practicable, or at least, one of them; and that the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to send a copy of this resolution to each of the Senators and members of the House of Representatives in the Congress at Richmond, that they may have due notice thereof.

The Exhibition of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum.—The Chapel of this Institution was solemnly filled, on Friday night last, the 4th instant, with an attentive and intelligent audience, who witnessed the exhibition

of musical instruments, and the singing of psalms, and we were glad to learn that the first time at any former period, and next year an increase is confidently expected. The prospects of the Institution were never brighter. The proficiency of the various classes was plainly attested and the mode of instruction pursued in teaching the pupils fully elucidated in the course of the examinations held; and it was pleasant to see how happy and contented these unfortunate beings appeared. None present could fail to perceive the benefits conferred by this Institution. The exercises consisted of music upon the piano, violin and organ, singing, abstruse questions in mental arithmetic and algebra, which were performed correctly and swiftly, questions in geography, history, &c. The position of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, as given by blind pupils, compositions, etc., upon the black board by the deaf mutes, and an exhibition of the language of signs.

Rail Standard.

TELEGRAPHIC.

FROM THE WEST.

DALTON, December 7.
The Yankee prisoners, captured by Wheeler's cavalry near Charleston and Cleveland, reached here to-day. Six of them comprised the pickets of the rear guard. One hundred and twenty-five men were stationed at the former place. Our forces passed Cleveland twelve hours after the enemy's supply train, which was 12 miles in the rear. Its army officers report no enemy at either place. Two of the enemy's corps passed through Cleveland and have gone to Georgetown, (a route for Knoxville, their advance have reached London. Reports from Knoxville are conflicting. The enemy are laying waste the country on their march.

DALTON, December 8.

The enemy's cavalry appeared yesterday at Ringgold, but being attacked by a force under Col. Grigsby, were routed and driven back. No casualties. The weather cold and rainy.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

RICHMOND, December 9.

The report of the Secretary of War is very lengthy, and is a highly important document. It chiefly refers to the principal operations of the army in its several departments, and says that the campaign in Mississippi was certainly disastrous. It is difficult to resist the impression that those disasters were not inevitable, but that the course of enquiry investigation of the whole campaign, which met in Atlanta in September, (but in consequence of the vicinity of the enemy demanding the presence of witnesses, judges, other points have been suspended temporarily,) but they expect soon to reassemble.

The deficiency in resource and men, and the want of provisions, rather than reverses of the battle, caused the withdrawal of our men from Middle Tennessee. He next alludes to deserting, straggling and absentees. He says the effective force of the army in the late battle was not over half, nearly two-thirds of the men were on the roads. He next recommends the repeal of the substitutes and exemption laws, and that provision be made for all having substitutes to be immediately required to enter the field; that the privilege which Congress granted to put in substitutes can be regularly and constitutionally abridged. He says the compact entered into between the Government and persons furnishing substitutes, as alleged, can be regarded only a privilege accorded, instead of complaining of the abrogation they should be grateful that what was heretofore allowed them. He recommends the abridgement of exemptions by Congress of all, making details to meet the wants of society at home.

He says three years men, whose terms expire cannot be finally discharged;—that they should be retained, allowing the existing companies, under present organization, to remain in some arm of the service. He recommends the consolidation of companies and regiments be not reduced below a certain complement.

He pays a glowing tribute to the heroic endurance and unflinching devotion of the soldiers.

The lamented dead have yielded their lives as a sacrifice upon the altar of Liberty.

He closes by saying, our very reverses are showing a united determination to endure everything that we may establish our independence, and that must convince the enemy of the fatality of his efforts to subdue us.

FROM VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, December 9.

The Governor's Message was delivered yesterday before the Virginia Legislature. It embraces a long review of State affairs.

The general policy of the country are his remarks upon the substitutes and the currency. He says substitutes have been accepted for three years under laws passed by both State and Confederate Governments and it became a binding contract, and should be respected that no government, which violates contracts between itself and individuals, can maintain its character.

On the currency he says, our issues of paper have been regulated by no principle, and the consequence of our issues are causing distrust in view of their redemption; that we must reduce the excess except for further uses and adopt a wise system of taxation combined with basis.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 9.

The Yankees between three and five o'clock opened fire on the City and three eight shells. Moultrie and James Island batteries returned the fire and silenced the enemy's fire. Five buildings were struck, two persons injured.

Only six shots were fired at Sumter to-day. One missed. No casualties.

Buzzard, December 9.

Nothing definite from Longstreet today. Gilmore's brigade encountered the advan-