From the Mobile Register,

In addition to 200,000 strugglers, it is demanded that nine-tenths of the producers be put in the field, and women, children and dotards be left alone to clothe and food an army. In other words, we want everybody to go into an army, already naked, hungry, and ill equipped, and nobody left to anpport them.
Again, se to the size of armies. Is it

the number of men or the handling of them that wins battles? Were Pemberton's men wed fought at Batters erect? The battle of Chickamauga, that were driven from one of the strongest position on the continent at Lookout and Missionary ridge. Minus Longstreet's corps, Lee whipped Hooker at Chancellorsville; plus that corps, with Jenkins, Jones and others added, he was repulsed at Gettysburg. Fif-teen thousand fighting men won the first battle of Manassas, and less than forty thousand achieved the victories of Shiloh and Murfreesboro'. More than forty thousand men have never, since the war began, been brought into action to advantage by either side. And now we are called upon to believe that big mobs of raw recruits, be properly enforced, and absentecism prehalf-starved and poorly equipped, are to do next spring what veterans have not been able to do after three years of hard and repeated trials. What we want is the genius to conceive and the courage to dare -not unwielding hordes of awkward Russia, and place the liberties of the peosquads, with nobody at home to support ple in the hands of the military power, them.

From the Chattanooga Rebel.

We are inclined to believe that if the unnecessary garrisons were withdrawn from the towns and cities, where they are of little use, (except to dun citizens who are quietly walking the streets and attending to their business, for passes); that there would be as many men in our armies as most of our generals could manage. Every provost martial at a railroad that threatens them, wealth would fade station must have a guard sufficient to do picket duty for a brigade. What earthly use they are, no one can see. That they are an insufferable annovance to the people where they are quartered, no one can deny. Their officious intermeddling with quiet citizens is a burlesque upon military rule and an outrage upon civil rights, as intolerant as it is offensive and annoying. From the Atlanta Intelligencer.

Congress desires what was never known in the civilized world—the entire male population of the country abandoning all civil pursuits and taking up arms. We are not blind to the importance of reinforeing our army. We feel the necessity, but believe that other measures can be adopted to perform the desired work .-Congress has called into service the seventy or seventy-five thousand able bodied men who have put substitutes in the army. These, with the one hundred thousand now absent from their commands, are am ply sufficient to meet all emergencies, and the civil pursuits of the country can still go on, for, if interrupted any more than it is now, fearful hardships and sufferings will be the result.

It may be said that getting the one hundred thousand men absent from duty is easier said than done. We will show a way to do it: Abolish the abominable practice of punishing men by branding in the forehead, wearing barrel shirts, and putting them in the stocks. Remove from command and reduce to the ranks those officers who are tyrannizing over their men and treating them like brutes; and anahier all those who, from their want of proper diseigline and loose treatment of their soldiers, absolutely encourage desertion, and are as much to blame as the deserters .-

Let this be done, and then let the President issue a proclamation to all soldiers absect without leave to return to their commands by a certain date-or suffer the penalty of death, and as soon as the day fixed has expired, shoot every deserter

caught afterward. These will do more to reinforce our army than all the sweeping conscriptions.

From the Montgomery Mail.

The danger is not that Congress will do nothing, but that it will do too much. Carry out the recommendation in reference to increasing the army, and put the whole male population in the service, and we are vanquished and overrun before the first of the crop and start it to growing .pext September; not by Lincoln's armies. but by starvation. We are confronted by two foes, neither one less dangerous than of much scientific as well as practithe other. The Yankees and want of food menace us on each side, and we must have forms us that the late spell of snow s vigilant eye to both. Abstract the whole white male population from production and famine stalks over the land.

From the Macon Telegraph.

Senator Brown proposes that every able bodied man, irrespective of age or occupa-tion, be conscripted. Members of Congress, Senators, Governors of States, Judges and the President himself, not to be exempted. Everybody is to go into the army. Senater Brown admits that armies have to be fed and clothed, and his proposition provides that after all the able boded men are in the army, if the lame, the halt and the blind are not sufficient to support the men in the field, as well as to carry on the thousand and one affairs of civil

for this purpose from the army. But who is to make these details? The President, being commander in chief, is the only one who can do so. What a beautiful system! The President of a Republic will detail from the army the Cabinet, the Senators, the members of Congress, the Governors of States, the Judges, the farmers, the manufacturers, the editors, the merchants! If any of these gentry should do or say any-thing displeasing to His Excellency, his detail is revoked, and he is ordered back to his company for his presumption.

From the Columbus, Georgie, Su Dangress mitches worth a see that he fore reserving to extreme measures of to gislation. If Congress will adopt some plan whereby the swarms of provest guards, conscript officers, unnecessary attuckes to the different workshops and Government manufactories throughout the Confederacy, and the large number of abscutees can be put into active duty, the army will be increased thereby at least one-third, and that a further extension of the conscript act would be unnecessary, even were it practicable. It is conceded by those professing familiarity with the War Department, that if the existing law could vented, the Confederate States would be able to marshal an army of between four and five hundred thousand effective men. If this law passes it will amake Mr. Davis as much an Autocrat as is the Czar of

A PEOPLE BLIND.

From the Mobile Evening News.

It is strange, but true, that fierce as the pending war has been, our people have not yet realized the grandeur of the contest, nor nerved the mselves to its height. The crazy pursuit of gain proves it; for in the realized presence of the true danger away into proportions of contemptible insignificance. Who would hoard money" and property if he believed in his heart that he was only amassing it for the Yankee conqueror and master ! No, we are not in earnest in this war; we have trusted to our Government to take care of our liberties, to our brave soldiers to fight for them, and we have filled our barns, and feasted and rested in content and safety. Yet the mailed hand of invasive war knocks at our doors, and the language of the spirit to the rich man in the parable, exclaims, " thou fool! this night shall thy soul be demanded of thee!" This year, dreamer and fatalist! the Yankees will demand thy wealth, thy liberty, thy home, thy all that is worth posessessing, unless thou wakest from thy simmber, and usest the means which God and nature have given thee to defend thy heritage. The war has grown to proportions that requires be spared. The able must fight; the noncombatants from infirmity or age, the woman, the very child, all have their parts to perform, and can do something in the great work.

Alas! it our people only felt this while it is time, there would then be no need for despondency; no need to look forward to the gloomy prospect of yet more years of suffering and trial. A people nerved to the crisis and putting forth the "might that slumbers in a freeman's arm," could by one grand and herois effort be ready in the spring to drive the enemy from the soil and redeem every foot of it to the occupancy and possession of its rightful owners. This time has not come, we fear; but it will come later, when the more terrible realities of war shall have forced the conviction of duty and danger upon eyes that will not see and ears that will not hear .-Deep must be the infatuation and dreadful the sins of a nation that requires affliction so fearful and an atonement so bloody. We are still blind men, groping in darkness, but the chastening rod of God will yet restore our vision.

THE WHEAT CROP.

The Danville Register has been informed from different portions of the surrounding country, that the wheat is looking poorly. It thinks a heavy snow would greatly benefit One of the best and most successful farmers in this county-a gentleman cal knowledge of agriculture-inand frost in this section has done considerable injury to the wheat .-The alternate spells of thawing and freezing is tearing the plant up from its roots and checking its growth. His opinion is that after a therough thaw the wheat should be well rolled with a heavy roller to fasten it well in the ground .- State Journal.

When Aristole was asked what were the advantages of learning, he replied; "It is an ornament to a man in prosperity and a refuge in adversity."

MUNICIPAL STATE CONGRESS PRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1864.

Mr. Chilton, of Ala, read an extract of a letter from the agent in charge of the Post Office business West of the Missisippl, which declared that if Congress refused to exempt contractors for carrying the mail the postal service in that Department would be entirely dissolved and destroyed. Mr. Chilton stated that the entire number exempted for this reason under the law was not over 500.

Mr. Staples, of Va., said : That the Committee on Military Affairs at the last seathe one now under consideration. It was change in the policy of the Government rejected in this House by a decisive vote. ket us devoutly hope that this bill may share the same fate. He had voted against the proposition then. There was nothing in the condition of the country, or in the reasoning of the honorable gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. Miles) that would induce him to change the opinion then entertained. He (Mr. Staples) argued at considerable length to show that the Secretary of War could not perform the duties this bill would impose upon him; that he (the Secretary) would be compelled to delegate the power to innumer-able boards and agents dispersed through out the country; that these boards would open new sources of patronage and power; that they would be exposed to all the temptation of personal, political and family influence, to fraud, corruption and bribery -creating by their decisions, dissatisfaction amongst people and discontent in the

He insisted that the expense would be enormous; that no man could estimate the injury that would be inflicted upon all the industrial interests of the country by the sudden stoppage of so many callings and pursuits, until the Secretary of War shall determine who shall be detailed, and for what purpose. The honorable gentleman from South Carolina says that Congress cannot agree upon a bill; that the committee cannot agree upon a bill. The gentleman is mistaken. It may require time; but an actual vote will always test the sense of the House upon any proposition for exemptions. The same process of reasoning would lead us to delegate to the President the whole subject of taxation and currency. Upon that question there were wider differences of opinion than any other in the whole range of political economy -differences as to principle and differences as to detail. But sir, these difficulties do not relieve Congress, from the obfinance as the necessities of the country event than such a bill as this. demand. The whole subject of conscription and exemption belongs to Congress, and to Congress alone. It is a legislative power, a legislative discretion, and a legislative obligation. Congress must deter mine who are to compose the armies, and who are to be exempt from military service. For the proper exercise of this trust, the members are responsible to their constituents, to their country, and to posterity .-Who so capable of discharging this trust as the men upon this floor, fresh from the people and familiar with all their wants, their necessities and the diversified interests of an extensive country? Why, sir, we are sent here for this purpose, and when we acknowledge ourselves incapable of performing this legislative duty, we should resign our seats, and go back and so tell our constituents.

This bill clothes the President with the powers of an autocrat. It invests him with prerogatives before which those of Napoleon sink into insignificance. Pass this bill, and no man can pursue a mechanical occupation-no man practice medicinepublish a newspaper, or ascend the pulpit and proclain the tidings of the Gospel without crawling to the footstool of power and humbly asking permission from the lips of an omnipotent Executive favor and patronage. We shall have the War Department and the Executive mansion beleagured by an innumerable throng of suppliants and beggars for "the thrift that follows fawning." Members of Congress. too, will be expected to swell the host of applicants. We shall be seen, hat in hand, crowding the ante-rooms of the War Department and the avenues that lead to the Executive office, humbly asking for the detail of a shoemaker, or tanner, or minister of the Gospel for our constituents.

I will not vote to expose the people to influences so demoralizing. I will not subject myself to the loss of that manly independence so necessary to aerepresentative in his whole intercourse with the Executive departments of the Government. I will not say that an obnoxious member or an obnoxious editor might not prove as successful in those applications as one who basks in the beams of Executive favor. But this may be said: there will be constant temptation to favoritism, to abuse, and, in some instances, to oppression. I know the present Secretary of War, and know him to be a man of the most elevated talents and patriotism. Nothing but the sternest dictates of duty could induce him to encounter the annoyances and labors that belong to his position. But, in the contingencies of war, he may be removed, or may resign, and I cannot tell who may be his successor. The liberties of a people are payer erfs, if dependent upon the ele-noter or patriotism of one man.

Mr. Staples insisted that the great abso-

of the times did not grow out of the set of exemptions. They originated in the system of details allowed by the Government. Here is the mischief, and here the remedy should be applied. It is this that is destroying the vitality of the army and the energies of the struggle. He dwelt at much length upon this point, and said if the detailed men, able to do duty, were put into the ranks, the deserters brought back, and the exemption law modified in many particulars, we should have an army

we should have upon us a protracted and bloody struggle-a struggle such as Prussia had when one-sixth of the whole male population perished on the field of battlethe authority of magistrates and laws suspended, and the horrors of pestilence and famine added to the atrocities of war. But if the measures be indicated were adopted, has been done to protect the town, or he was satisfied the army would be increased; that another year-would terminate the struggle; the clouds would pass away, and the bow of peace once more its citizens. This is a matter which span the arch of the heavens, Mr. Dargan, of Ala., also opposed the

bill, believing it to be, in its present form, fatally defective. He would prefer to have no exemption law at all to such as this, but as one was essential, he preferred to say who should be exempted. The fact that the subject is referred to the Secretary of War was a broad admission that there must be some exemptions. He'knew tion; but he knew, personally, of instances of the most mergiless tyrranuy practiced by the subordinates of the War Departbrought up before a conscript officer and curofled, who had never walked a quarter of a mile in his life and never would, and it was only after a long time, and when he was-declared physically unfit for military duty, that he was released. Hr. (Mr. D.) had sent an application to the Secretary of War for his release, but either they had as is most likely, were handed over from one officer to another until they were lost or worn out. This bill would merely enlarge the powers of these subordinates for the purpose of oppressing the already oppressed. The success of this war depended on the confidence of the people in the Government, and when that confidence was shaken the cause was at an end, and ligation of maturing such measures of nothing could more conduce to such an

FIGHT ON COSBY.

Last Thursday, the 24th, Gen. Vance had abrush with some 300 tories, on the the head of Cosby Coeek, Cocke county, Thenn., some 45 or 50 miles from this place. The enemy were strongly posted, but after a few rounds our men charged them and they fled, leaving three dead, three wounded, all their camp equipage, and a number of horses, and a few guns behind. Gen. Vance captured six or eight of the gang.

Gen. Vance's force consisted of a Home Guards under Capt, Banning, and the Haywood Home Guards under Major Ray. All acted nobly, and when the order to charge was given the Home Guards dashed off with a yell that made the mountains ring. Gen. Vance says veteran troops never acted more gallantly.

From sources deemed robbile, we learn that Gen. Longstreet had a stiff fight with the enemy in the vicinity of Dandridge, 30 miles East of Knozville, Jast Thursday, "walloping" them as his custom is. Our forces now hold all East Tennessee. above Nnoxville .- Ashville News,

"What has become of the Great Eastern I"-The New York Herald

A glance at our advertising columns will solve the mystery. There, under the head of "Auction Sales," may be ascertained the fact that on the 14th of January next, the renowned paddle and screw steamship Great Eastern, 22,791 tons, 679 feet in length, 82 feet in breadth and having four paddle engines of 1,000 horse power, and four screw-engines of 1,600 horse power, will be sold at auction by order of the mortgagees, at the sale rooms, of Messrs. Cunard, Wilson & Co. Liverpool.

PASS HIM ROUND,-W. W. Cloments, of this county, is now, and has been for some time, engaged in grinding flour, corn, doc, at his mill, free of toll, for the wives of deceased soldiers, and of those whose husbands are in the army, and of widows with sons in the

He is entitled to a place on the roll of hon-on. Pass him round.—Ral. Progress.

DAT DIAWA TANSAY DHALAN

SALISBURY, N. C .: MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 18, 5100

SMALL POX .- We learn that there are ten or eleven cases of small pox at the garrison in this place. The disease is of the confluent type. It was a surprise to our community simple to cope with the adversary. Un to hear of so large a number of cas-Son orkariall sense here arisinated from one, of which they heard nothing. We understand that the nocessary steps have been taken in the garrison to prevent the spread of the disease among the prisoners and guard; so far as we know nothing provide a hospital in case the disease should make its appearance amongst should not be neglécted by our town anthorities.

FIRE-Incendiarism .- We learn from a letter from Mr. L. V. Campbell, of Iredell Co., that the dwelling kitchen and smoke-house of Mr. Jacob Fraley, in the North-western the Secretary of War well, and that he end of Iredell, was entirely consumwould be incapable of any tyrannical ac- ed by fire on last Sunday morning just before day. There were about 150 bushels of corn in the house, ment. He had, for example, seen a man beside some other articles of less value, as Mr. F. had sometime since removed with nearly all his property to this County for protection from some lawless citizens and describers, because of his zeal in behalf of our cause. We learn that threats had never got here, or were never returned, or, frequently been made to burn Mr. Fraley's property, and at last carried into execution. Every good citizeu owes it to himself to aid in ferreting out the perpetrators of this wicked

We leave from an officer just from Richmond, that the Government will soon begin to impress whisky and brandy for medical purposes, hospitals, &c., and most earnestly hope this good intention will be promptly executed. If the brandy and whisky now hoarded up in the hands of speculators were appropriated to the use of the Government, it would probably fully supply all the hospitals and armies in the Confederacy. Large quantities are stored in this vicinity, awaiting tall prices or a chance to slip out to some market. If impressment be made for any thing, this is one of the articles which few regulars, and the Henderson should not be exempted; especially is it one that should come under the rule in this time of scarcity of grain. It will, however, make the owners howl. One of them will make more fuss than forty farmers deprived of their grain or bacon. Nevertheless, the public will sustain less darfiage by this seizure of whisky and brandy than by almost any thing else we can think of, and therefore we hope the Government will spare the grain and take the hearded brandy and whisky.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER-A PROBLEM FOR CONGRESS:

We learn that one of our Confederate quartermasters has been discoverd to be a defaulter in the small sum of \$5,000,000. The investigation of his defections had not been completed when this little deficit was discovered. It is not improbable that another cipher will finally have to be added to the shortness of his cash accounts. It were policy to say nothing about this, but it is so much talked of on the streets that no advertisement could make it more

This man was living at the rate of five or ten thousand dollars a day-baving carriages at his command—everything that was good in the matter of food-ate, like Dives, of the ment that the poor markets of this country afford. In short, was clad in raiment of gold on his sleeves, and wild

ducks and pute foi gras on his table.

The secret in this case, he doe more, became divulged. The luxurous gentleman had the run of Mr. Memminger's bank at

No man in his senses ever believed that this country, honestly and earnestly and