

From the Mobile Register. In addition to 300,000 stragglers, 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 feed an army.

Again, as to the size of armies. Is it the number of men or the handling of them that wins battles? Were Pemberton's men ever fought at Hatter's creek? The same number of men were present at the battle of Chickamauga, that were driven from one of the strongest positions on the continent at Lookout and Missionary ridge.

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 \* \* \* We are inclined to believe that if the unnecessary garrisons were withdrawn from the towns and cities, where they are of little use, (except to the citizens who are quietly walking the streets and attending to their business, for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.

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 reinforcing our army.

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.

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 next September.

From the Macon Telegraph. Senator Brown proposes that every able bodied man, irrespective of age or occupation, be conscripted. Members of Congress, Senators, Governors of States, Judges, and the President himself, not to be exempted.

life, a sufficient number are to be detailed 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.

From the Columbus (Georgia) Sun. Congress has passed a bill for the purpose of resorting to extreme measures of legislation. If Congress will adopt some plan whereby the swarms of provost guards, conscript officers, unnecessary attachés to the different workshops and Government manufactories throughout the Confederacy, and the large number of absentees 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.

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 herved themselves to its height. The crazy pursuit of gain proves it; for in the realized presence of the true danger that threatens them, wealth would fade away into proportions of contemptible insignificance.

Alas! if 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 moved to the crisis and putting forth the "might that slumbers in a freeman's arm," could by one grand and heroic 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.

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 the crop and start it to growing.—One of the best and most successful farmers in this county—a gentleman of much scientific as well as practical knowledge of agriculture—informs us that the late spell of snow and frost in this section has done considerable injury to the wheat.

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

CONFEDERATE STATE CONGRESS. FRIDAY, JAN. 6, 1864.

HOUSE.

Mr. Chilton, of Ala., read an extract of a letter from the agent in charge of the Post Office business West of the Mississippi, 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. Staples, of Va., said: That the Committee on Military Affairs at the last session of Congress reported a bill for the purpose of exempting contractors for carrying the mail from military service. It was rejected in this House by a decisive vote. Let us devoutly hope that this bill may share the same fate.

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.

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 medicine—publish a newspaper, or ascend the pulpit and proclaim 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.

I will not vote to expose the people to influences so demoralizing. I will not subject myself to the loss of that most independence so necessary to a representative 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 banks 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.

are never made, if dependent upon the character or patriotism of one man.

Mr. Staples insisted that the great abuses of the times did not grow out of the act of exemptions. They originated in the system of details allowed by the Government. Here is the mischief, and here the remedy should be applied.

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.

FIGHT ON COSBY.

Last Thursday, the 24th, Gen. Vance had a brush with some 300 Tories, on the head of Cosby Creek, Cocke county, Tenn., 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.

From sources deemed reliable, we learn that Gen. Longstreet had a stiff fight with the enemy in the vicinity of Dandridge, 30 miles East of Knoxville, last Thursday, "walloping" them as his custom is. Our forces now hold all East Tennessee, above Knoxville.—Ashville News, 31st Dec.

What has become of the Great Eastern?

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. Clements, of this county, is now, and has been for some time, engaged in grinding flour, corn, &c., 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 army.

SALISBURY, N. C. 1864. MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 11, 1864.

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 to hear of so large a number of cases, as we have never before, originated from one, of which they heard nothing. We understand that the necessary 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 has been done to protect the town, or provide a hospital in case the disease should make its appearance amongst its citizens.

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 end of Iredell, was entirely consumed by fire on last Sunday morning just before day.

There were about 150 bushels of corn in the house, 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 deserters, because of his zeal in behalf of our cause. We learn that threats had frequently been made to burn Mr. Fraley's property, and at last carried into execution. Every good citizen owes it to himself to aid in ferreting out the perpetrators of this wicked deed.

We learn 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 impressment be made for any thing, this is one of the articles which 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 damage 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 hoarded brandy and whisky.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER—A PROBLEM FOR CONGRESS.

We learn that one of our Confederate quartermasters has been discovered to be a defaulter in the small sum of \$5,000,000. The investigation of his deflections 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 notorious.

This man was living at the rate of five or ten thousand dollars a day—having carriages at his command—everything that was good in the matter of food—ate, like Dives, of the meat that the poor markets of this country afford. In short, was clad in raiment of gold on his sleeves, and wild ducks and pate foi gras on his table. The secret in this case, we are sure, became divulged. The luxurious gentleman had the run of Mr. Memminger's bank at Richmond. No man in his senses ever believed that this country, honestly and earnestly and