

The Tri-Weekly CITIZEN.

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CANTON, MISS.

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 24.

THE FOOD QUESTION.

Whilst the minds of the leading men of our country seem to be perfectly overburdened with the necessity of filling the ranks of our army, it seems perfectly paradoxical to us, that all thoughts of a commissariat seem to have been thoroughly ignored. Fill the army, fill the ranks, seems to be the only cry and only idea that fills their minds and thoughts. The provisioning, clothing, and protection of such an army, seems never to have entered their heads. Hence they cry, everybody (except themselves) should at once enter the army—everybody should leave wife and children, (half starving, it may be,) shoulder their musket, and enter the tented field for the war.

Now we are the last person in the world to retard enlistments or throw cold water upon any project that has for its end and aim the filling of the ranks of our army, but do believe, and contend, that a half starved, half clothed, and half disciplined army is far less effective than one-half their number properly cared for, and provided in all the necessities of camp life. Therefore it is we are so perfectly astonished at all conscript laws, enlistment laws, and all other laws looking to the efficiency of our army should be so totally destitute of all provisions looking to the support of the same as well as support and maintenance of the families of women and children left at home. Why it is that whilst many of our leading men in Congress are introducing bills to take everybody and place them in the army, no practical man has yet appeared upon the arena and proposed some sensible plan whereby these troops are to be clothed and fed, we are at a loss to know? In this department we all know the condition of the commissariat, and we all know the necessity of keeping it in a healthy and abundant condition, and why it is our sensible representatives permit the matter to be wholly overslaughed by the senseless cry of everybody to arms, we cannot comprehend. Overseers and farmers, to superintend agricultural pursuits, are as essential as muskets in the field, and the politician that neglects it, will learn to the cost of his country, the folly and error of his doings.

The Tri-Weekly Citizen has become a fixed institution, and we hope our friends will form clubs and forward subscriptions as rapidly as possible. With proper encouragement we can make it the most readable paper that can visit the family fireside.

A FINE HORSE FOR SALE.—By referring to the advertisements it will be seen that Mr. B. W. Stewart offers his fine stallion, Morgan, for sale, on next Monday.

NO PAPER ON SATURDAY.—There will be no paper issued from this office on Saturday next. Printers wish to enjoy the holidays as well as other people.

If anything exciting should come over the wires, we will, however, issue extras.

Our friends will confer great favor by furnishing us any late Yankee papers they may chance to get, also anything local of interest. Letters from the front or different branches of the army, short and pithy, very acceptable.

Mr. Train's railway omnibus in Paris has had a collision with the carriage of Prince Napoleon, who received a slight contusion in the ribs.

For the Citizen.

HALLS, Miss., Dec. 18, 1863.

The cavalry brigade composed of the 1st Mississippi, commanded by Col. R. A. Pinson, and the 4th Texas, under Col. Ross, and known as Ross' Brigade, has been dissolved, and the two regiments ordered to rejoin their commands; the former having been detailed from Gen. Cosby's, and the latter from Gen. Whitfield's Brigade. This splendid organization we regret to see broken up, as it, for the past six weeks, has been continually upon the "war path," inflicting severe loss upon the enemy in a number of hotly contested engagements, showing how effective this arm of our defense can be rendered when under the guidance of officers of energy and valor. After covering the Tennessee valley in Northern Alabama for several weeks, and skirmishing for five consecutive days with the Federal corps of the infamous Sherman, during which series of sudden attacks and hasty retreats, it lost some of its best men, and among them the gallant young Adjutant Beasley, of the 1st Miss. Never were troops better handled than those of the Ross Brigade, that gallant officer at all times conducting himself with that heroic self-possession in the presence of danger, that marks the bearing of him who knows how to command, he ever making an example of himself to those under him, by courting the post of peril. This intrepid leader hung upon the front flanks and rear of the abolition hosts until they were compelled to cross the river, which they did in haste, and evident alarm. After having delayed Sherman's corps for many days, by continually annoying his front, harassing his rear, and repeatedly dashing into his very midst; the march was taken up for Okaloosa, Miss., where the wagon train was met by this invincible band of troops, who, dressed in summer clothing, had marched and laid out without tents, for more than two months. Seldom have troops ever behaved with more soldierly decorum, or borne up under severer hardships with nobler fortitude.

During these brilliant exploits the chivalrous Col. Pinson, of the 1st Miss., proved himself a hero worthy of the cause of the South, and entitled to the admiration of his soldiers, which is so freely lavished upon him. With his devoted regiment he was first in the onset and last in retreat.

Here Gen. Lee could not long permit his favorite Brigade remain inactive. On the 28th of November boots and saddles were shouted from the bugle's brass throat, and soon the column was moving cheerily on the road to meet a band of raiders that had started on a mission of their wonted destruction, and to teach them a lesson on invasion, but this, like all other thieving forages on Mississippi soil, more bent on obtaining jewels from the fingers and ears of our fair daughters, than on plucking laurels from the field of honorable strife, where "Honor's eye's on daring deeds," &c. They were crystallized with fear, and could not allow our eager boys to come within the proximity of our longest rifle range, much less the gaming distance of our murderous double-barrels. All night long did the frozen ground echo the heavy tramp of our pursuing cavalcade, under the heroic Lieut. Col. Montgomery, of the 1st Miss. Just as day was dawning over the eastern hills the camp fires of the cowardly foe were dimly descried in the distance. There they lay, locked in fancied security from the distance they had thrown between themselves and their pursuers, undisturbed by the dreams of plunder which had visited as cherished pensioners their slumbers of the night previous. Not a moment was to be lost in falling upon the marauders. The quick eye of the Lt. Col. saw that a deep creek intervened as an obstacle to a charge on horse, and immediately one hundred men were dismounted and sent forward to the attack, but before a crossing could be effected the coveted prize snuffed danger in the first breath of morning, and seeking safety in flight, put themselves beyond our reach before we were able to inflict much damage upon them. And thus terminated what was intended as a devastating raid through our State.

Scarcely had these gallant troopers returned from driving back the insolent raiders, in whose pursuit they had ridden for hours; until their clothes froze on them, when the ever active Lee had planned new achievements in a different quarter. Moscow, they were told is to be attacked by you, and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad torn up at Salsbury, as a diversion in favor of Gen. Forrest on his march into Tennessee, at the head of a fine Brigade, with supplies of arms and munitions of war, for the many volunteers who are expected to fall into his command in that State. The railroad was torn up for several miles, when they immediately marched upon Moscow. In this expedition were Ross' Ferguson's and Chalmers' Brigades. When within a short distance of the

place, across an old field was seen a long Yankee column of cavalry dismounted, and standing in horse, waiting for the rear to close up, which was crossing Wolf river. Immediately the gallant Col. Pinson, at the head of his regiment, which was in front, gave the command, "Front into line," and before the movement could be wholly performed, with brandished blade above his head, he shouted "Charge." At the instant the earth began to resound with the thunders of the chargers' hoofs, as their desperate riders urged them on to victory and death. The enemy, which afterwards proved to be the notorious Hatch, at the head of his robbers, brinks before the invincible sweep of this immortal band, and fled in confusion. Many were pierced by our bullets—many found their winding sheets in the loving waters of Wolf river, and many more found themselves prisoners in our hands. At the bridge they made a short stand, but were soon driven away with a loss on our side of seven killed and about fifteen wounded. The enemy's loss was about two hundred and fifty eight, and among them the incendiary Hatch, himself.

Col. Ross afterwards complimented Col. Pinson and his regiment for their conduct, and said he and his regiment had won fame immortal, in whipping and putting to flight the brag Yankee Brigade of this Department. Never did a regiment more deservedly win such a compliment.

A commission appointing Col. Pinson a Brigadier General, would be hailed by the troops under him as a welcome messenger, and as an indication of a returning sense of just appreciation of merit, felt by those who have inflicted so many inefficient officers upon the country. More Anon.

BAGGS.

CURRENCY.

We extract to-day, from the Mississippian, a portion of a letter from their correspondent, which accords with the views we expressed on the same subject a month or two since. We hope the members of Congress will be freed from outside influence and preserve the land from such wholesale swindling:

I know of no one rife for it in this direction but debtors and speculators, those that have had their debts tied up until one year after the war, and since then selling their products and property at ten prices, they want this done I know. As many of this class no doubt have sought seats in the Legislature to legislate themselves out of debt, and could they get Congress to disregard their oaths by making Confederate notes a legal tender, they would then pay off their stayed debts at ten cents in the dollar. This would be very comfortable after getting their debts stayed until one year after the war, to give them a chance, as they said, to pay in par funds. But as one good turn deserves another, they now ask Congress, before the courts are open for the collection of those debts, to make it lawful to pay creditors off in a currency one thousand per cent. under par. Is it patriotic, sir, or honest, after many of these debtors have been bloating their pockets with Confederate notes by the sale of bacon at \$3 per pound, beef at 40 cents, pork at \$1, sweet potatoes at \$3 per bushel, and wheat at \$5, to ask Congress to make the money so obtained a legal tender in the payment of debts that are not pressing them at all, nor never, can as the law now stands, until one year after the war? Now, sir, is it not enough for creditors to have their claims laid upon the shelf, and tested by the Confederate and State Governments the same as property that are making products to sell at the above exorbitant prices without forcing on them a currency at par which is not worth more than ten cents in the dollar? Has this war, sir, caused all honor to disappear between man and man? Have we made a constitution to protect the weak against the strong? Or have we made one to be expanded or contracted as a slip of India rubber into every shape that majorities may desire? If so, our lives and property are not protected under the Government we are now fighting for.

ABSENT FROM THE ARMY.—The New York Journal of Commerce say that "the number of officers who are absent on furlough cannot easily be estimated, but it must be something prodigious, judging from the crowds of them who overflow the hotels and make up a large percentage of the pedestrians of Broadway. And yet we should suppose that at no period of the war was the presence of every available officer and soldier in the field more imperatively required than just at this time." New York, it seems, is not singular in this respect. The Philadelphia Ledger says: "This city seems to be full of officers and privates who apparently have no other business here than to promenade the streets and lounge in hotels and bar-rooms. Our exchanges satisfy us that Philadelphia is not singular in this respect."

A man that astonishes at first, soon makes people impatient if he does not continue in the same enlivening key.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

GEN. JOHN H. MORGAN HAPT.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 24.—Gen. J. H. Morgan passed through this city this morning. He walked to Walthell, S. C., and came thence by rail.

OKALOOSA, Dec. 23.—All quiet at Sumter. No firing from the enemy for 24 hours. Moultrie has kept a steady fire on working parties at Battery Gregg. Some changes being made on Gregg and Wagner, nature of which has not yet transpired. The fleet remains inactive. Our gunboats have been practicing to-day, and doing some fine shooting.

OKALOOSA, S. C., Dec. 23.—Some prisoners captured near Warrenton Junction, brought up to-day, report all quiet in their lines.

RICEMOND, Dec. 23.—Private dispatches from Union, dated yesterday, says the Yankees have not been here. Averill is reported to have passed White Sulphur Springs, on the 20th, on his return badly wounded. It is reported one of his largest regiments, 14th Pennsylvania, was cut off.

Most of to-day in the House spent discussing bill to put men in service who have heretofore furnished substitutes.

The decided interest manifested by members from first to last, various amendments proposed, all voted down, and bill as amended passed is as follows: Whereas, in present circumstances of country it requires aid of all who are able to bear arms, Congress do enact that no person shall be exempt from military service by reason of having furnished a substitute, provided that nothing in former clause shall be so construed as to relieve substitutes from any obligation or liability contracted or assumed by him as such substitute, but this act shall not be so construed as to affect persons who, though not liable to render military duty, have nevertheless put in substitutes. This bill was adopted by vote of fifty-two to thirteen. A motion to reconsider was voted down by a large majority.

House passed a bill agreed to by Senate yesterday, to pay provisional Government of Kentucky one million dollars to clothe Kentucky soldiers. Bill awaits President's approval. Senate bill to protect members from passport agents was voted down—twenty-nine to twenty-eight. Senate bill to allow farmers to pay potato tax in money passed; and awaits the President's signature.

Military committee reported back bill heretofore referred to them to repeal act authorizing destruction of property as military necessity, with recommendation that it do not pass it, was placed on calendar. President sent Senate a communication from Secretary of War, in response to inquiry as to who is now filling office of Quartermaster General, which elicited lengthy speeches, somewhat severe on the President for appointing Gen. Lawton to that office, charging that it was without authority of law.

LATE NORTHERN NEWS.

The following articles we copy from the St. Louis Democrat, of the 9th inst.

Rumors generally credited that Gen. Pleasanton has been appointed to the army of the Potomac. It is reported that Gen. Sedgwick and Warren were previously tendered the command, but declined.

BUTLER'S ORDER.—Gen. B. has issued a lengthy order relative to colored troops, the effect of which is to call upon male negroes to volunteer to fight for the freedom of their race, and instructs every officer and soldier of his command, to aid the forwarding of every colored person into our lines. Negro soldiers are to be paid a bounty of \$10 and \$10 per month, while their families are to be furnished with subsistence. Gen. Butler, in his order, calls on Congress to place negro soldiers on the same footing as others.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The army of the Potomac preparing winter quarters.

Advices from the army of the Potomac up to last night state all was quiet. Our troops are working like bees on their camps, to make them comfortable.

The Boston Commercial Bulletin relates the following amusing experiment of Henry Ward Beecher:

When the steamer Asia on her last trip over reached Halifax, and the crew had begun to break out the cargo, which was to be landed there, (but which it afterwards became too evident, was to go much further South,) Henry Ward Beecher and a few others got ashore to stretch their legs by a walk on the pier. The first case of goods came hard, and the force on the fall and tackle was increased by the voluntary offer of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, whose additional muscle on the rope, speedily brought out the case bang on the wharf.

He was somewhat aghast, however, to find, as his friends gathered about the river to examine it, that he "had leant a hand" to land a case of muskets for the Southern Confederacy.

The Memphis Argus states that the Hawkeye States was fired into recently by guerrillas some twenty-five miles above the city. The Argus says several shots struck the boat, but no one was injured on board.