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The Press on President Lincoln's Message.

The New York Herald likes the conciseness, brevity and general tone of the document, and praises the schemes of raising the revenue from taxation, especially by an excise tax on the mineral products of the country. The operations of the General Amnesty Proclamation, toward a reconstruction of the Union, is ridiculed, and it is predicted that the whole scheme will be inadequate, and result in failure. The Tribune thinks the President's plan of reconstruction practicable, and says that slavery alone obstructs the way to peace and reunion, and if the Proclamation of Amnesty be seconded in the loyal States, it will go far to break the back of the rebellion. The influence of the document in Europe, it is said, will be immense. The Times applauds the Message, and the plan for reconstructing the States as completely adapted to the end desired. It takes it for granted that the public mind upon reflection will accept the document as another signal illustration of the practical wisdom of the President. The World thinks the Message is a creditable specimen of political dexterity, in view of the approaching Presidential campaign. As a scheme for the reconstruction of the Union it is deemed simply absurd. The whole network is pronounced impracticable and altogether preposterous.—The Evening Post concedes the practicability of the plan for reconstruction suggested, but says the proclamation in itself is an exhibition of magnanimity, and honorable leniency towards a greatly weakened, but still refractory portion of the people of the United States. The Evening Express treats the Message derisively, and hopes it will be the last that Abraham Lincoln will send to Congress. The Daily News treats of the document as the edict of a despot, and says it is rambling, vague, and evasive upon every subject save the "negro," and the political prospects of the Radicals. The Baltimore American accepts the reconstruction principle, and says on the whole the people will be pleased with the Message, although certain politicians may not be. It praises the President's magnanimity in offering amnesty to the Rebels, and his firmness indicating his intention to carry out the Emancipation Proclamation to the fullest extent of its meaning. The National Intelligencer looks upon the Proclamation of Amnesty as a stroke of civil policy in comparison with the Proclamation of Emancipation, claimed to be a military measure. It commends the document to the people, and says the President "shows a disposition to conciliate, as far as practicable, without renouncing the form of the Emancipation edict, the natural sensibilities of the Southern people, when he pledges his acquiescence in any provision which may be adopted by a restored State Government in relation to the freed people of such State." The Boston Post praises the composition of the message, but doubts the success of the practical application of the President's scheme for reconstruction. It says the position taken by the President, with regard to the return of the Southern people to their allegiance is liberal to every interest but to slavery; and instead of letting this alone it presents the Proclamation as on a par with the Constitution." The Boston Commercial Advertiser sees wisdom in the plan for reconstructing the State Governments, and is sanguine of the ultimate success of the plan.—[Phila. Inquirer.

REPORT OF MAJOR GEN. HALLECK.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The report of Major Gen. Halleck gives a summary of the military operations during the past year. Referring to General Lee's invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, he says: To General Meade belongs the honor of a well earned victory in one of the greatest and best fought battles of the war. When the Rebel army was about to move on those States General Dix sent all his available force from Norfolk and Fortress Monroe up York River for the purpose of cutting off Gen. Lee's communications with Richmond, and of attacking the place, which was known to be at that time defended by only a handful of militia. The expedition failed to accomplish the single object for which it had been fitted out. The failure resulted, it was alleged, from the inefficiency of one of the generals commanding.

In speaking of the attack on Fort Sumter on the 7th of April, he says: It being unsuccessful, nothing apparently remained to be done by the land forces. A siege of Charleston and its defences by land had never been contemplated, and, therefore, was no part of the plan.

Referring to the events in connection with Vicksburg, he says: No more brilliant exploit than that of General Grant can be found in military history. It having been alleged and extensively published that Gen. Grant had positively disobeyed the instructions of his superiors, General Halleck says that General Grant never disobeyed an order or instruction, but always carried out to the best of his ability every measure or suggestion made to him by the Government; nor did he ever complain that the Government did not furnish him all the means and assistance in its power to facilitate the execution of any plan which he saw fit to adopt.

While General Grant was operating before Vicksburg information, deemed to be reliable, was received that large detachments were being drawn from Bragg's army to reinforce Johnston, in Mississippi, and accordingly General Rosecrans was required to advance from Murfreesboro' in order to take advantage of Bragg's demoralized numbers and drive him back into Georgia, and, thus force loyal East Tennessee from the Rebels; but General Rosecrans, in a dispatch, counselled caution and patience at headquarters. General Halleck plainly told him that by five or six months' inactivity in his army, it was not to be supposed that his patience was not pretty well exhausted. Several communications passed on this subject, and finally on the 25th of June General Rosecrans commenced his movement.

General Halleck says that as three separate armies were to operate in the same field, it seemed necessary to have a single commander, in order to secure a more perfect co-operation than had been obtained with the separate commands of Burnside and Rosecrans. General Grant, by his distinguished services and superior rank to all the others at that time in the West, seemed entitled to this general command and therefore it was conferred upon him.

Gen. Halleck concluded by saying:

"It is seen from the foregoing summary of operations during the past year that we have repelled every attempt of the enemy to invade the loyal States, and have received from his domination Kentucky and Tennessee, a portion of Alabama and Mississippi, and the greater part of Arkansas and Louisiana, and restored the free navigation of the Mississippi River.—Heretofore the enemy has enjoyed great advantages over us in the character of his theatre of war. He has operated on short and safe interior lines, while circumstances have

compelled us to occupy the circumference of a circle. But the problem is now changed by the reopening of the Mississippi River, the Rebel territory has been actually cut in two, and we can strike the isolated fragments by operating on safer and more advantageous lines.

In a little more than two years we have recaptured nearly every important point held by the Rebels on the seacoast, and we have reconquered and now hold military possession of more than 25,000 square miles of territory held at one time by the Rebel arms, and claimed by them as a constituent part of their Confederacy.

The extent of country thus recaptured and occupied by our armies is as large as France or Austria, or the entire peninsula of Spain and Portugal, and twice as large as Great Britain, Prussia or Italy!

Considering what we have already accomplished, the present condition of the enemy, and the immense and still unimpaired military resources of the loyal States, we may reasonably hope with the same measure of success as heretofore, to bring this rebellion to a speedy and final termination."

ANOTHER ORDER FROM GEN. BUTLER.—

Major Gen. Butler, commanding the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, has issued an order to the following effect:

1. All transfers of property, or rights of property, real, mixed, personal or incorporeal, except necessary food, medicine and clothing, either by way of sale, gift, pledge, payment, lease or loan, by an inhabitant of this Department, who has not returned to his or her allegiance to the United States, (having once been a citizen thereof,) are forbidden and void, and the person transferring, and the person receiving, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment or both.

2. All registers of the transfer of certificates of stock or shares in any incorporated or joint stock company, or association, in which any inhabitant of this Department, who has not returned to his or her allegiance to the United States, (having once been a citizen thereof,) has any interest, are forbidden, and the clerk or other officer making or recording the transfer will be held equally guilty with the transferer.

A man named Henry Marston has been arrested in Washington as a Confederate spy.—On his person was found a number of letters from parties in New York to various prominent men in the South. From information received from him, David and Robert Boyle were arrested in Bladensburg, Md., charged with being spies. On the persons of all these men were found Confederate money, bonds, letters, etc. They were sent to the Old Capitol. Robt. Boyle represents himself as a British subject, and he had a certificate from the British Consul at Baltimore. David Boyle says he is no relation of Robert.

Major Freeman, a defaulting paymaster, in the U. S. Army, who was arrested in the State of Illinois some time since, was brought to Washington on Wednesday, together with his clerks, Freeman (a relative of the paymaster) and Ketchum; the father of Ketchum was also arrested. Fifty-four hundred dollars in five-twenty bonds that the Government had been swindled out of was secured. The party was committed to the Old Capitol.