

majority of the men who composed them are still living.

The same is true of the naval service. The election returns prove this. So many voters could not else be found. The States regularly holding elections, both now and four years ago, to wit: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, cast 2,982,011 votes now, against 3,870,222 cast then, showing an aggregate now of 3,388,211, to which is to be added 37,022 cast now in the new States of Kansas and Nevada, which States did not vote in 1860, thus swelling the aggregate to 4,075,733, and the net increase during the three years and a half of war to 145,751.

A table is appended, showing particulars. To this again should be added the number of all the soldiers in the field from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, and California, who, by the laws of those States, could not vote away from their homes, which number cannot be less than 90,000. Nor yet is this all the number. In the organized Territories it is triple now what it was four years ago, while thousands, white and black, join us as the national arms press back the insurgent lines. So much is shown affirmatively and negatively by the election.

It is not material to inquire how the increase has been produced, or to show that it would have been greater but for the war, which is probably true. The important fact remains demonstrated, that we have more men now than when the war began, that we are not exhausted, nor in process of exhaustion, that we are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the conflict indefinitely. This as to men.

Our material resources are now more ample and abundant than ever. The national resources, then, are unexhausted. The public purpose to re-establish and maintain the national authority is unchanged, and, as we believe, unchangeable.

The manner of continuing the effort remains to choose. On careful consideration of all the evidences accessible, it seems to me that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader could result in any good. He would accept of nothing short of separation of the Union. His declarations to that effect are explicit and oft repeated. He does not attempt to deceive us. He affords us no excuse to deceive ourselves. We cannot voluntarily yield it. Between him and us the issue is distinct, simple, and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war and decided by victory. If we yield, we are beaten; if the Southern people yield, he is beaten; either way would be the victory and defeat following war.

What is true, however, of him who heads the insurgent cause, is not necessarily true of those who follow. Although he cannot re-accept the Union, they can. Some of them, we know, already desire peace and re-union. The number of such may increase. They can, at any moment, have peace, simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution. After so much, the Government could not, if it would, maintain war against them. The loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conference, courts and votes, operating only in Constitutional and lawful channels.

Some certain and other possible questions are and would be beyond the Executive power to adjust. For instance, the admission of Members into Congress and whatever might require the appropriation of money. The Executive power itself would be greatly diminished by the cessation of actual war. Pardons and remissions of forfeitures, however, would still be within Executive control. In what spirit and temper this control would be exercised, can be fairly judged of by the past.

A year ago a general pardon and amnesty, upon specified terms, were offered to all, except a certain designated class, and it was at the same time made known that the excepted classes were still within contemplation of special clemency. During the year, many availed themselves of the general provision, and many more would, only that the signs of bad faith in some led to such precautionary measures as rendered the practical process less easy and certain. During the same time also, special pardons have been granted to individuals of excepted classes, and no voluntary application has been denied. Thus practically made, the door has, for a full year, been open to all, except such as were not in a condition to make a free choice, that is, such as were in custody or under constraint. It is still open to all, but the time may come, and will come, when the public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that, in lieu, more vigorous measures than heretofore shall be adopted.

In presenting the abandonment of armed resistance to the national authority on the part of the insurgents, as the only indispensable condition to ending the war on the part of the Government, I retract nothing heretofore said as to slavery. I repeat the declaration made a year ago—that while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by terms of that proclamation, or by any of the Acts of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it my executive duty to re-enslave such persons, another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it.

In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it.

Signed, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY TELEGRAPH.

City Point, 1.

The Richmond Examiner of to-day admits that Sherman will succeed in reaching the sea coast, and other papers admit that he has crossed the Oconee.

(Signed) GRANT.

Gregg's cavalry was sent south this morning on a reconnaissance, more particularly to discover if the enemy were moving troops south. The following dispatch is just received in relation to it:

Headquarters army Potomac, 3 p. m., 1. To Grant:—I have just heard from Gregg. His dispatch dated 4 p. m., reports having captured Stony Creek Station, which was defended by infantry and cavalry, in the works with artillery. He captured two pieces of artillery, but had no means of bringing them off, so he spiked them and destroyed the carriages. He had 190 prisoners, wagons and 30 mules. He burned the

depot, with 3,000 sacks of corn, 500 bales of hay, a number of cars and a large amount of bacon, clothing, and ammunition and other stores, and destroyed all the shops and public buildings. The 2nd brigade, Gregg commanding, had the advance, and are reported to have most gallantly carried the enemy's position. Gregg is now returning to camp.

No information has been obtained of any troops being seen going southward, either cavalry or infantry. The bed of the Branch Road from Stony Creek was seen to be graded, but no rails were laid. At Duval's station, south of Stony Creek, much property was destroyed and a large amount of railroad iron was found. Efforts were being made to destroy it by fire when the staff officers who brought the dispatch left. The enemy showed signs of having concentrated and were following, but the staff officer thinks that Gregg will be in camp by midnight.

(Signed)

MEADE.

New York, 2.

The Orleans Era contains details of Lee's great cavalry expedition, and says Col. Ford, of the 118th Illinois, in command of one column, proceeded to Port Hudson, thence to Jackson. On the 16th, ten miles from Jackson, he surprised a rebel camp, dispersed it, and captured 55 prisoners, 200 stand-of-arms, 100 horses, 25 wagons, and a large amount of military stores. He then moved forward and joined the Union column under Gen. Lee, who, thus reinforced, marched on Liberty.

Another column had been started from Baton Rouge for Liberty, under Col. Marsh, of the 20th Illinois cavalry. This column reached Liberty, and surprised the rebel Gen. Hodge in command there, but he escaped capture by jumping from a back window. All the members of his staff were taken, including Lieut. Davis, nephew of Jeff.

Col. Marsh remained here until the arrival of Lee, when the two expeditions were dispatched still further into the interior of the enemy's lines, one going to Brookhaven, under Ford, and the other to Summit, under Col. Bassford, of the 14th New York cavalry.

At Brookhaven a train of cars, loaded with all kinds of military stores, was captured and destroyed, also a building containing quartermaster's stores. Fifty prisoners, a section of artillery, and 40 wagons, loaded with stores, were taken. Bassford found a large quantity of stores at Summit, as the place was surprised. He secured the whole, destroyed it, and then returned to Liberty with 25 prisoners and some valuable trophies.

While these expeditions were absent, Lee was attacked at Liberty by Col. Scott. A most vigorous fight was kept up for two hours, and although Lee's forces were outnumbered by Scott's the rebels were finally obliged to retire. The result of the fight was the capture of 28 prisoners, and 1 twelve pound howitzer; 30 were left dead on the field. The expedition then returned to Baton Rouge. Our loss was not over 20.

Louisville, 2.

This morning's Journal says Thomas has abandoned his position at Franklin, and formed his line of battle within three miles of Nashville. His left wing rests on Murfreesboro.

Cincinnati, 3.

The Gazette's correspondent gives the following additional particulars of the battle at Franklin: The plan of the battle was very simple. We had no time to get up a complete plan, as the enemy pressed us sorely and obliged us to fight offhand. The original plan was, to withdraw the force of Schofield until meeting our reinforcements, and then give battle in the vicinity of Nashville, but the over sanguine rebels pressed us too hard, and when Schofield perceived that he could not avoid a contest, he drew up his little army in line of battle in front of Franklin. At half past 3 o'clock the rebel assault commenced by Cheatham's corps on the right, Stewart's on the left, and S. D. Lee's corps in reserve on the center.

Cheatham threw his whole corps on Wagner's division with great impetuosity, and after a half hour of desperate fighting pushed Wagner back on the second line, where they became mingled with Cox's and Roger's men on our left and center. The rebels, encouraged by the success of driving Wagner back, advanced with loud cheer on our strong line. Their order of advance was in a peculiar semicircle of two regiments deep, and extended all round our lines, and behind each alternate regiment were placed four others, so that the assaulting columns were six regiments deep.

Capt. Lyman, commanding the artillery brigade of the 4th corps, had placed his batteries in most favorable positions, and from these storms of shot and shell

were hurled into the charging ranks. With the most reckless bravery the rebels rushed on, and when they were within a few hundred yards of our ranks our boys opened upon them with so terrible a musketry fire that it seemed as if nothing could live before it; but no wavering was perceived in the advancing lines—on they came, rushing up to the very parapet of our works, and stuck their bayonets under the edges of the battle-ments.

On the Columbia pike the pressure was so great that some of Cox's and Wagner's men temporarily gave way. At this time a brigade commanded by Col. Opdyke of the 121st Ohio, which had been held in reserve, rushed forward to restore the broken line. The rebels who had crawled over our works had not time to retire, and Cox's and Wagner's men, broken but a moment before, rallied and attacked the enemy on the flank, while Opdyke charged them in front, when a most desperate hand to hand fight ensued with bayonets and butt ends of muskets. Some rebels were captured here and the line was restored.

For two hours and a half the battle raged all along the lines. The men of the 4th and 23d corps vied with each other in bravery. Riley's brigade of the 23d corps covered the ground in front of it with rebel dead. Seventeen distinct attacks of the enemy were repulsed. At dusk the rebels were repulsed at all points, but firing did not cease till nine o'clock. At least 5,000 rebels were killed, wounded and captured, while our loss will probably reach 1,500. We have taken from the enemy thirty flags, some of the regiments (among them the 20th Ohio) taking half a dozen a piece.

Gen. Schofield directed the battle from the fort on the north bank of the stream, where some heavy guns and batteries of the 23d corps were placed, and which did great service in damaging the enemy's right wing.

Washington, 3.

Government has received information that Gen. Sherman captured Millen, on the Georgia Central railroad, on the 29th ult.

Official information from Gen. Thomas, is that he has so concentrated his forces at the fortifications of Nashville as to be prepared for any movement Hood may venture to make.

New York, 3.

Gov. Vane, in his regular Message to the Legislature of North Carolina, confirms the report that laws can't be enforced in the interior of that State, owing to the existence of a band of desperadoes, consisting of rebel deserters. They make raids upon the mountain frontier, murder, burn and destroy with savage cruelty. He recommends outlawing and driving them from the State.

Washington, 4.

Gen. Merritt, with a large force of cavalry, is thoroughly cleaning out the guerrillas in Loudoun county, Virginia, and destroying everything that can be of service to men or horses, and effectually breaking up the rebels, plan for pillaging in Maryland.

The Hilton Head correspondent of the Herald says: Gen. Foster proceeded up Broad river with an expedition and landed five miles below the Pocotaligo bridge, and marched on and captured the bridge, which after sharp fighting the rebels evacuated. Large quantities of stores were found and destroyed.

New York, 4.

Rebel papers state that Sherman ordered every house east of Tennessee to be burned and the country desolated, and refused to rescind the order on the petition of the citizens of Knoxville. It is reported that Cumberland Gap was evacuated, and that the troops are going to Knoxville.

Head Quarter's Army Potomac, }  
December 2d. }

From information obtained through scouts and deserters, it was ascertained that the rebels are constructing a railroad from Stony Creek on the Weldon railroad, towards Dinwiddie C. H., and that a large lot of supplies are accumulated there. Orders were given to Gregg's cavalry to proceed in that direction and destroy all property round. A column started for there yesterday morning, and on crossing Rowanty Creek our forces met the enemy's pickets who at once retired. The command pushed on passing Dunvall's mills, where the 1st brigade was put in position to protect the flanks of the 2d brigade. Colonel Gregg commanding, advanced towards Stony Creek where the enemy were found in strong position on the south side with three guns sweeping an open field. The 4th, 30th and 16th Pennsylvania regiments took the advance and did most of the fighting. The 4th formed a line at the edge of the

woods, and with loud yells charged across the opening till within 500 yards of the Creek when they dismounted, and crossing the bridge rushed up the bank to the inner works before the rebels could get guns to bear on the bridge. The enemy had previously torn up planks on the bridge, making the crossing more difficult. Those who remained in the fort surrendered, and about 100 escaped. These were met by a squadron of the 4th cavalry which had swam the stream at another point, and many of them in trying to get away were killed and wounded. The 16th, Swann commanding, in the meantime made a similar charge and captured another work, taking no prisoners. The 30th was also busily engaged, and captured six wagons, twenty-two mules, and three guns that were found in the works, two of which were thrown into the Creek; the other being too heavy to handle was spiked. Had the bridge been in a good condition, all would have been brought away. All buildings at the station were burned, besides the following supplies: 1,200 Enfield rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition; 5,000 sacks of grain; 500 bales of hay; a quantity of corn and oats, 500 barrels of coal oil; a quantity of bacon; camp and garrison equipage, and the railroad bridge about 150 feet long. The command was then ordered to fall back, which it did in good order. The enemy had by this time made their appearance in pretty strong force, and indicated the intention of making an attack, but were driven off by a few shells from a battery. On reaching Dunvall's mills the order was given to fire them, and in a few minutes they were in one mass of flame. Here the rebel cavalry, Butler's brigade, attempted another charge and were received with salute of seventy shots of our men and a few well directed shells from a battery, when they fell back, leaving a number on the field who afterwards rallied and followed the column, and, notwithstanding their effort to annoy did not inflict any damage. The division returned to camp at 8 o'clock in the evening with the loss of 29 killed and wounded, all of whom were brought away. We captured 170 prisoners and five officers.

Baltimore, 4.

The American's correspondent at Annapolis says: The Savannah Republican of the 30th, states that Sherman's forces were a few miles beyond Millen, his cavalry having approached that place and returned without molesting it. Sherman is resting his forces preparatory to advance to the seaboard.

—When the late Mr. Noah, who was a Jew, was a candidate for the office of sheriff of the city of New York, it was objected to his selection that a Jew would thus come to have the hanging of Christians. "Pretty Christians, indeed," said Noah, to "to need hanging!"

—A physician, examining his student as to his progress in medicine and surgery, asked him: "If a man should fall into a well forty feet deep, and strike his head against one of the tools with which he had been digging the well, what would be your course, if called in as a surgeon?" Student—"I should advise them to let the man lie, and fill up the well."

—Light acts healthfully on the upper surface of leaves, and hurtfully on the under surface, and if they become displaced by any accidental circumstance, as a strong wind, they seem to make a voluntary effort to restore themselves to their true position.

—The best way to expand the chest is to have a large heart inside of it.

—Recipe to make a woman of fashion: Buy everything you don't want, and pay for nothing you get; smile on all mankind but your husband; be happy everywhere but at home; neglect your children and nurse lap-dogs; go to church every time you get a new dress.

—At a Kentish village in England the other day a Blacksmith was drinking some ale when he remarked, "I have swallowed something; I am afraid it was a wasp; if so, I am a dead man." In a very short time afterwards he fell into the arms of a bystander and immediately expired.

—The tobacco crop of Kentucky will, it is reported, be a beautiful one, and if it can be all got in and secured will realize a large amount of money, since from forty-five to fifty dollars a ton has been offered for what is called the "strips" alone.

—An ingenious Parisian has invented a boat in which a person can bathe, the water flowing through it, and move about the same time—a sort of floating cradle, with a tent roof and sides, and a kind of hand propeller.