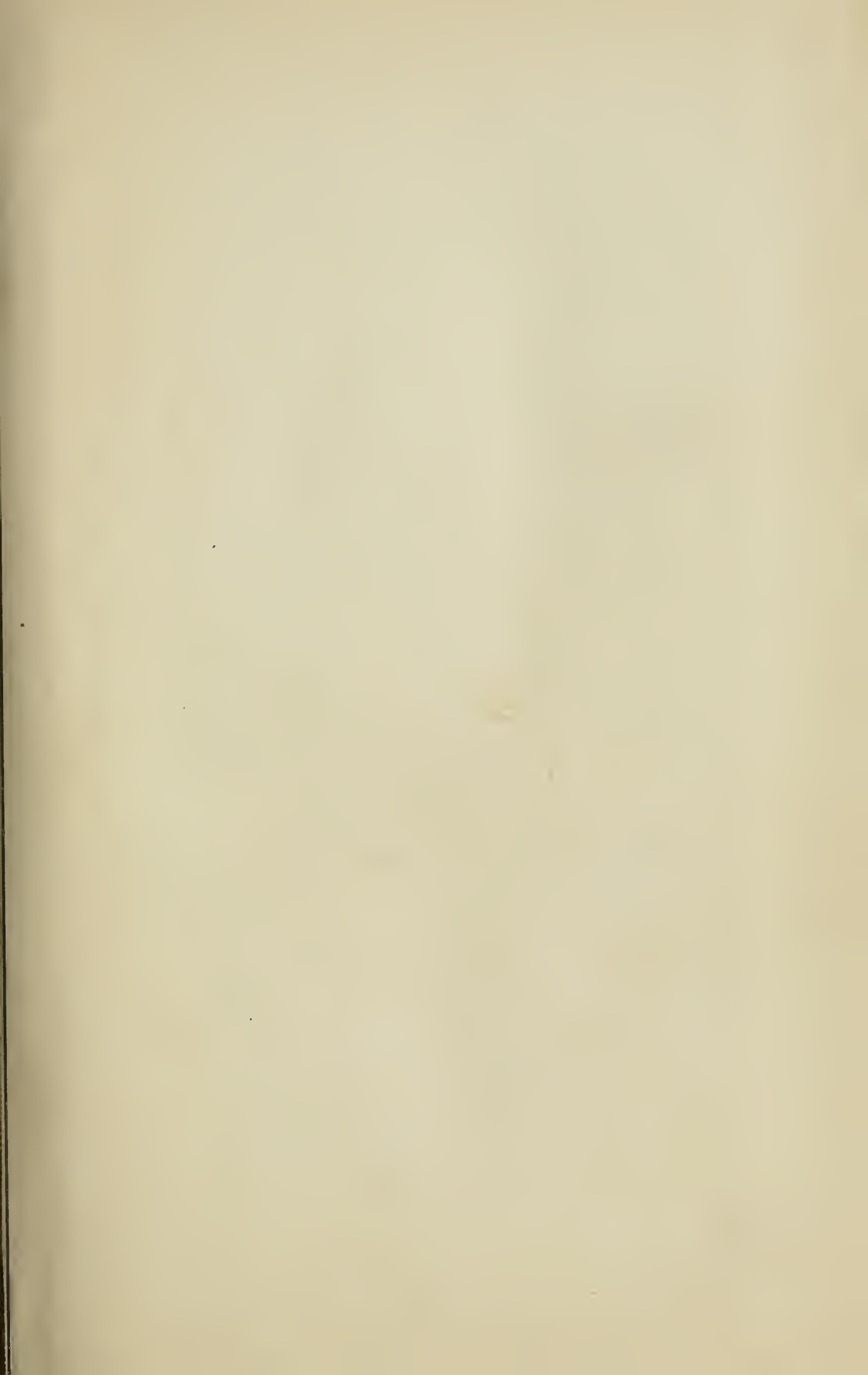




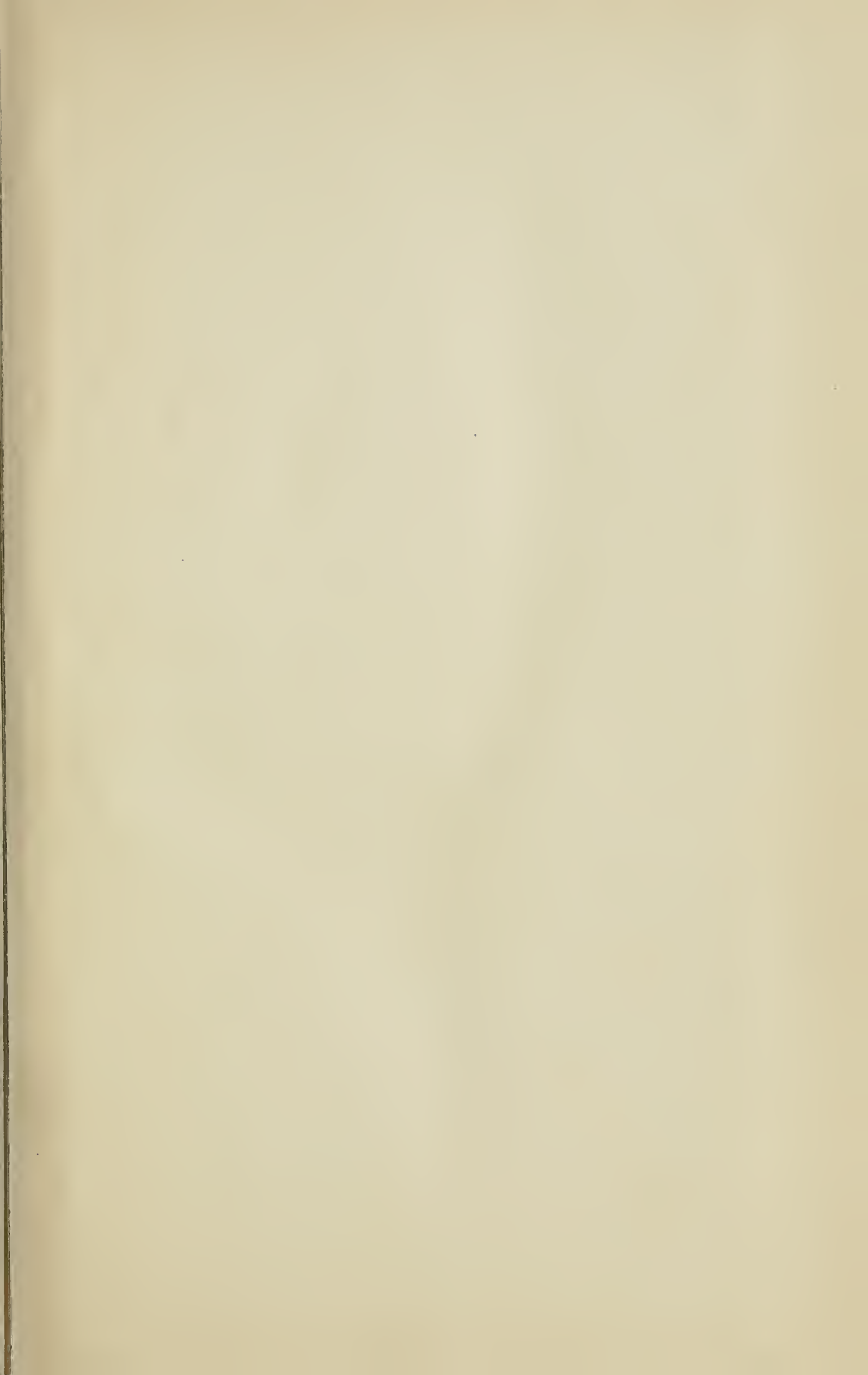
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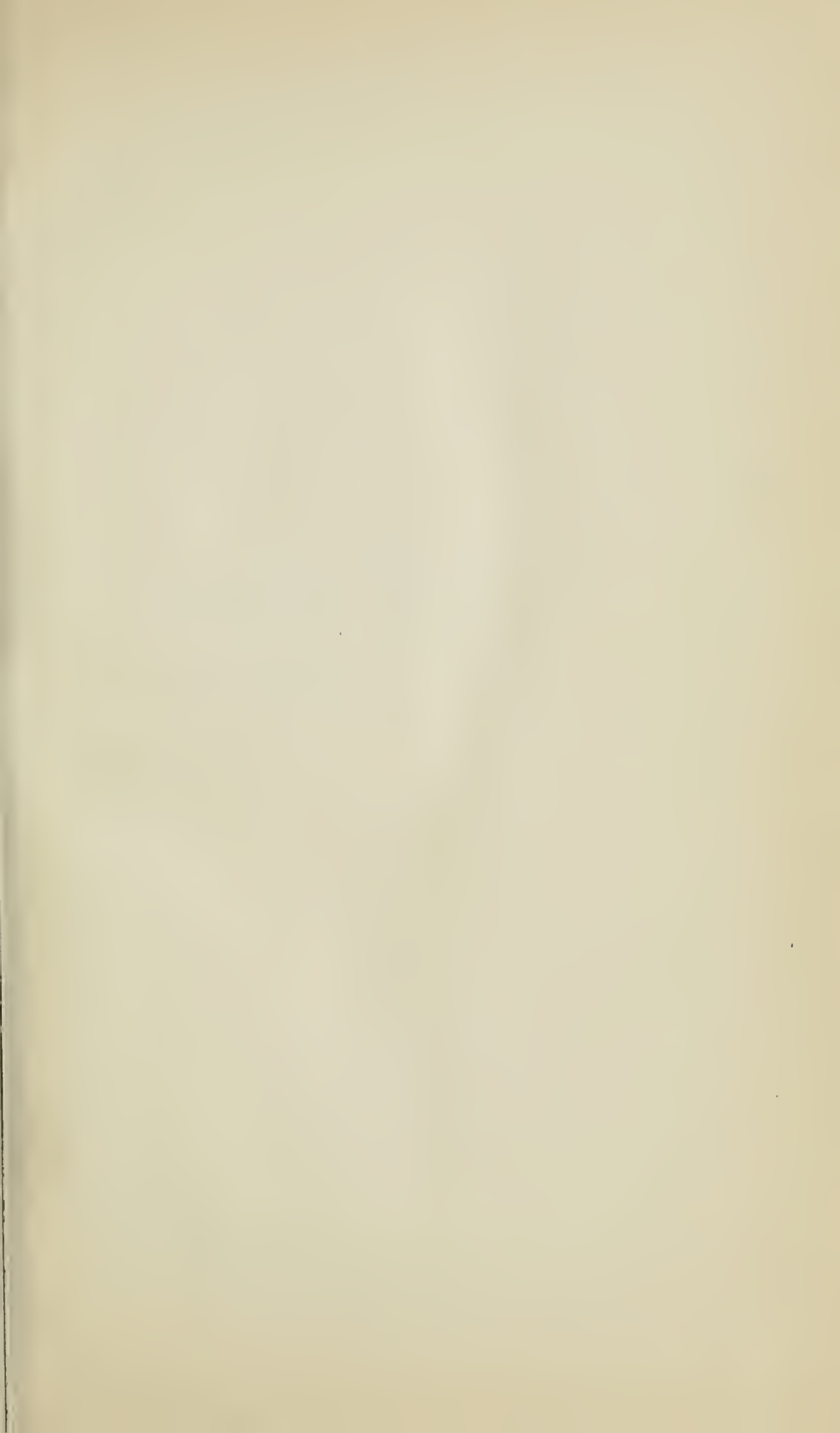
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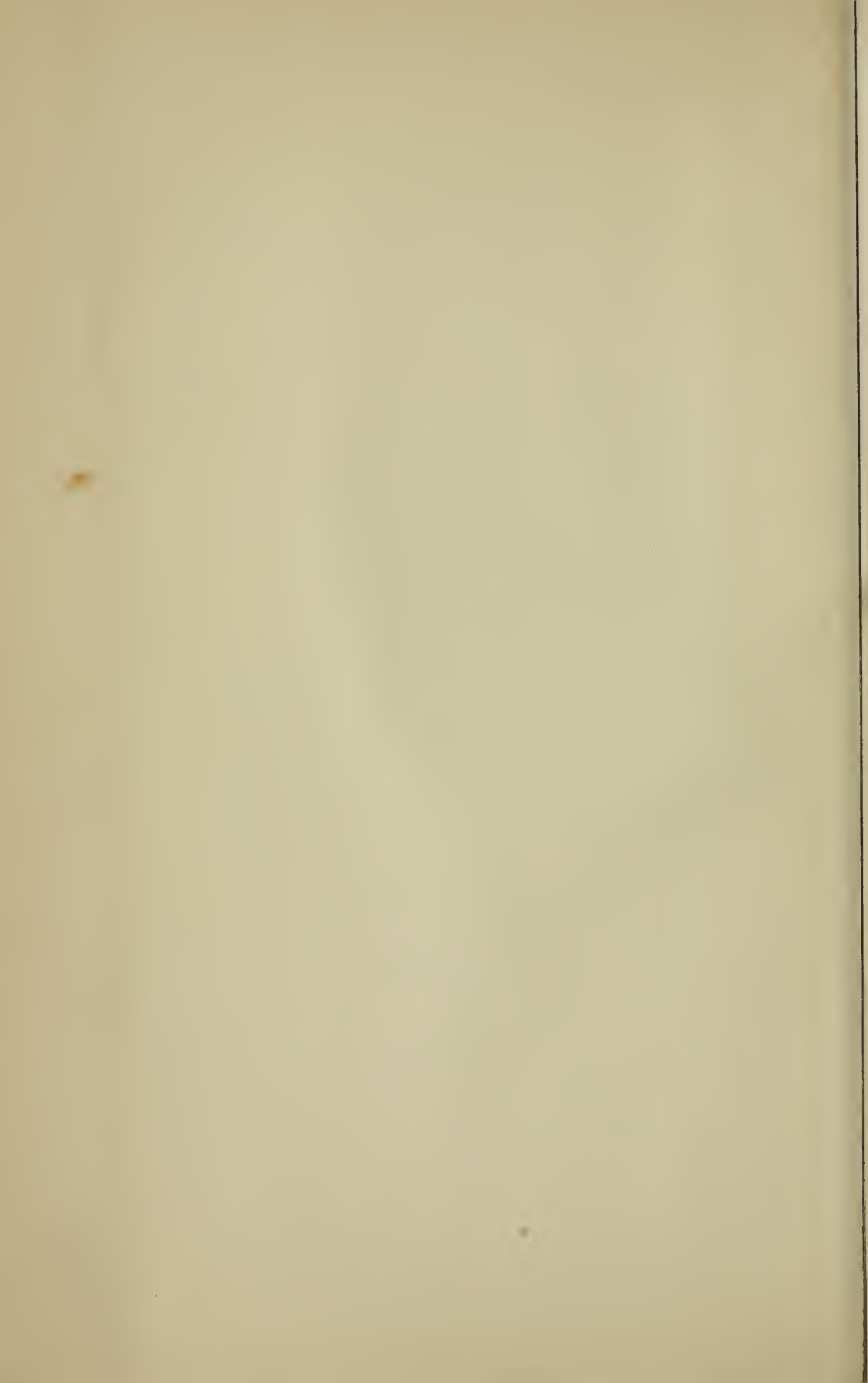












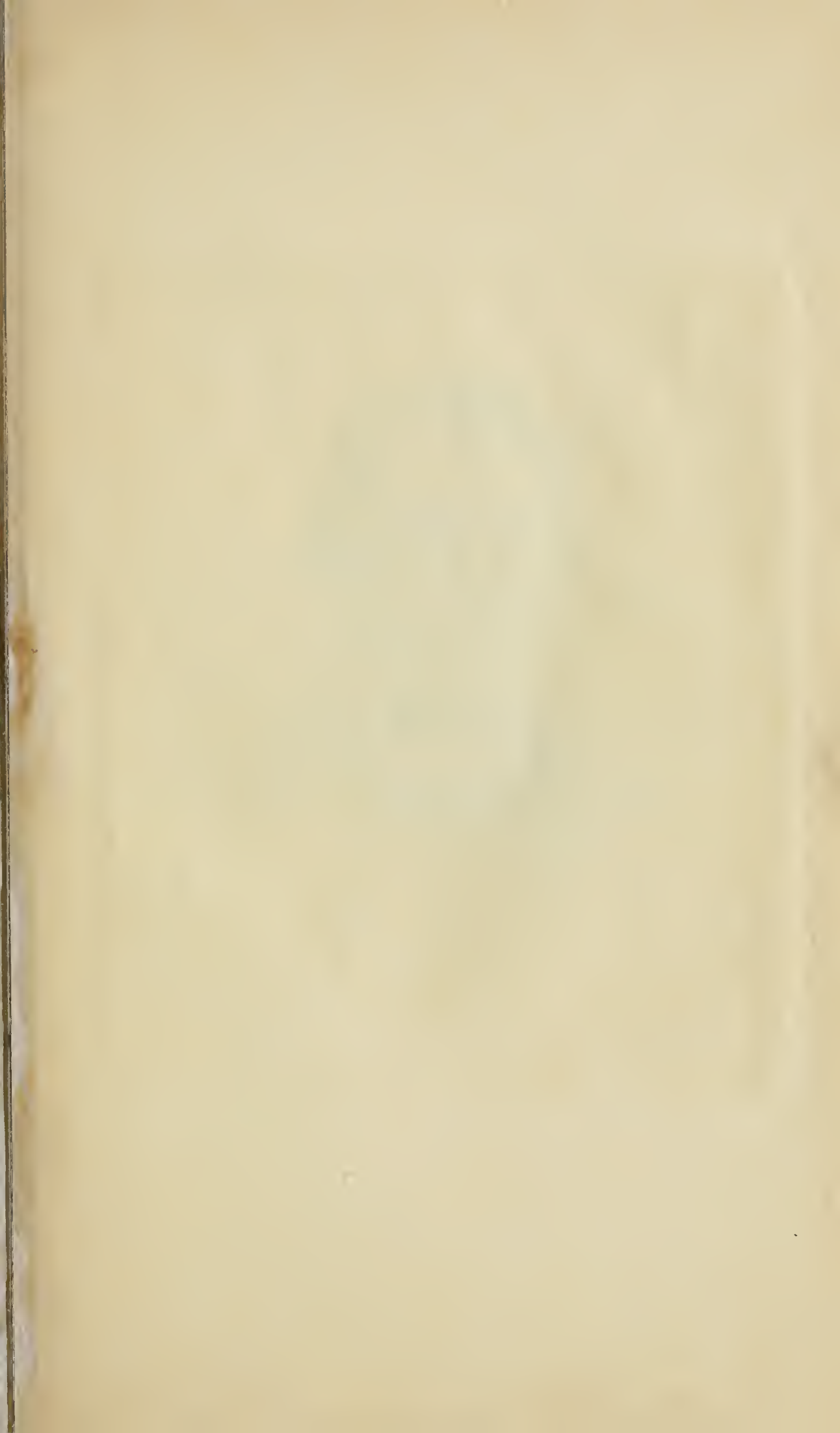
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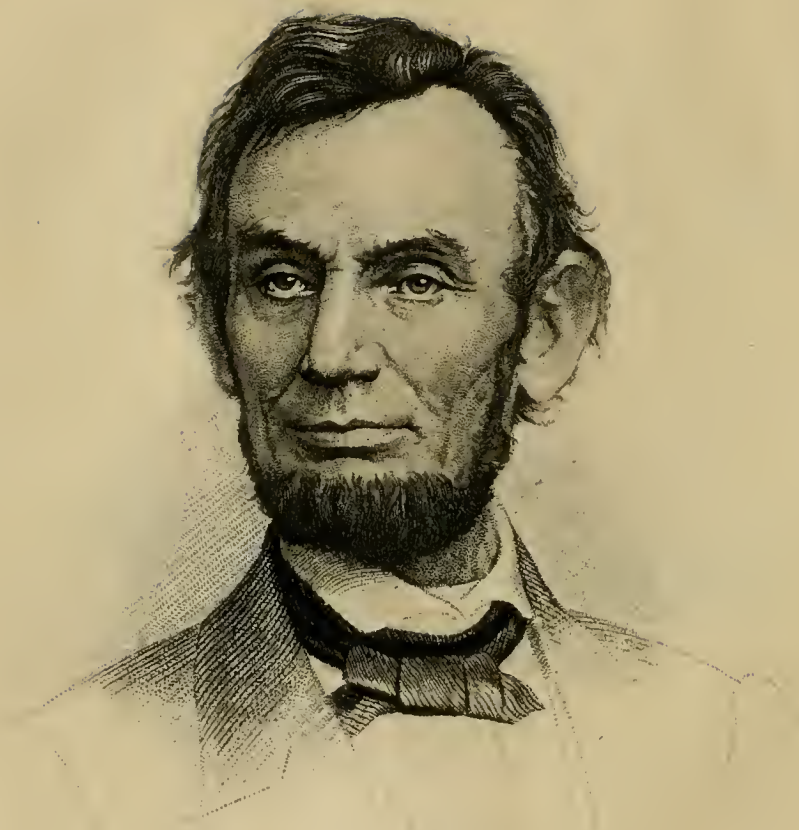
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Complete Works *of* Abraham Lincoln

Edited by

JOHN G. NICOLAY *and* JOHN HAY

With a General Introduction *by*
RICHARD WATSON GILDER, and Special Articles
by OTHER EMINENT PERSONS

New and Enlarged Edition

VOLUME XII

New York

FRANCIS D. TANDY COMPANY

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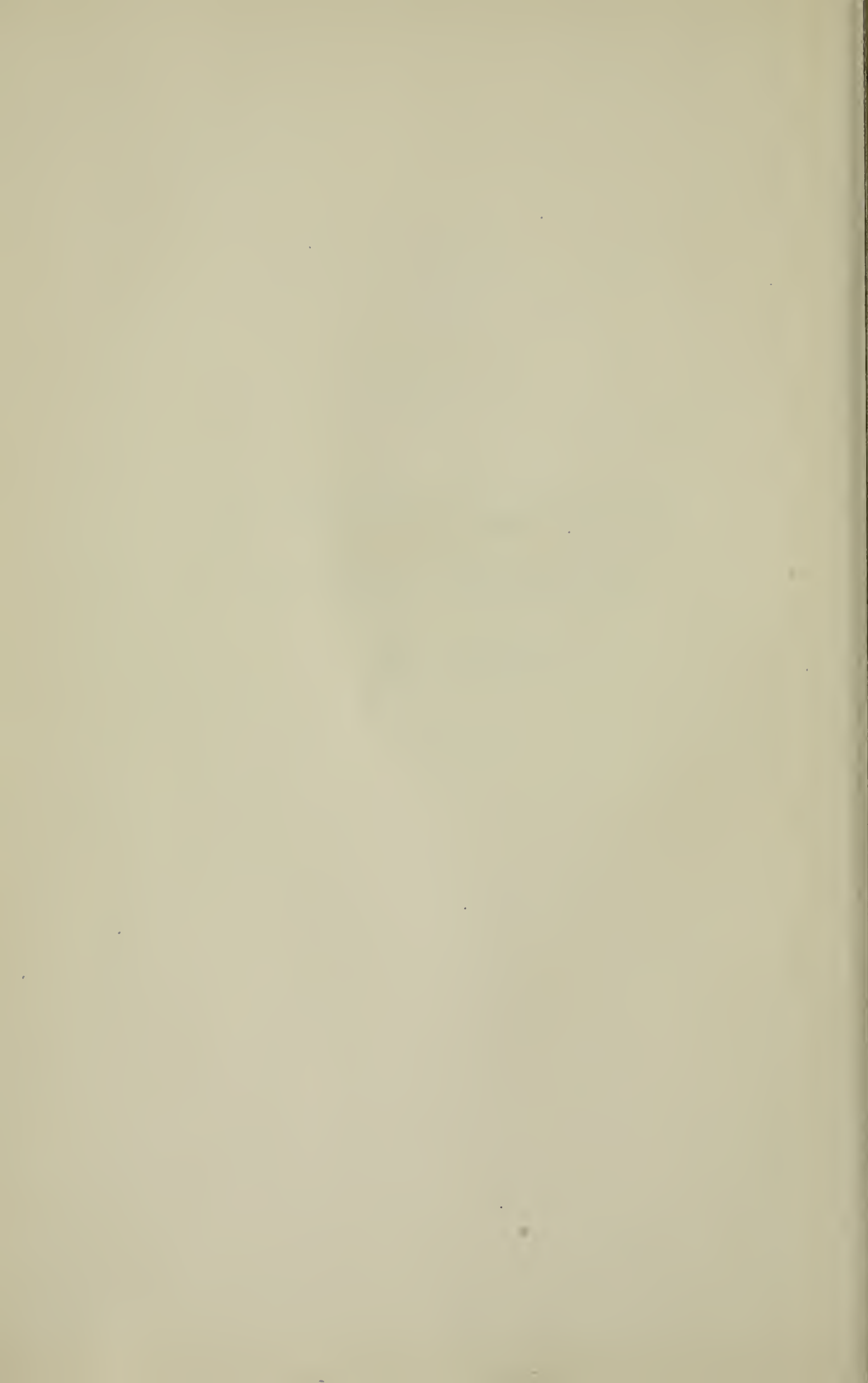
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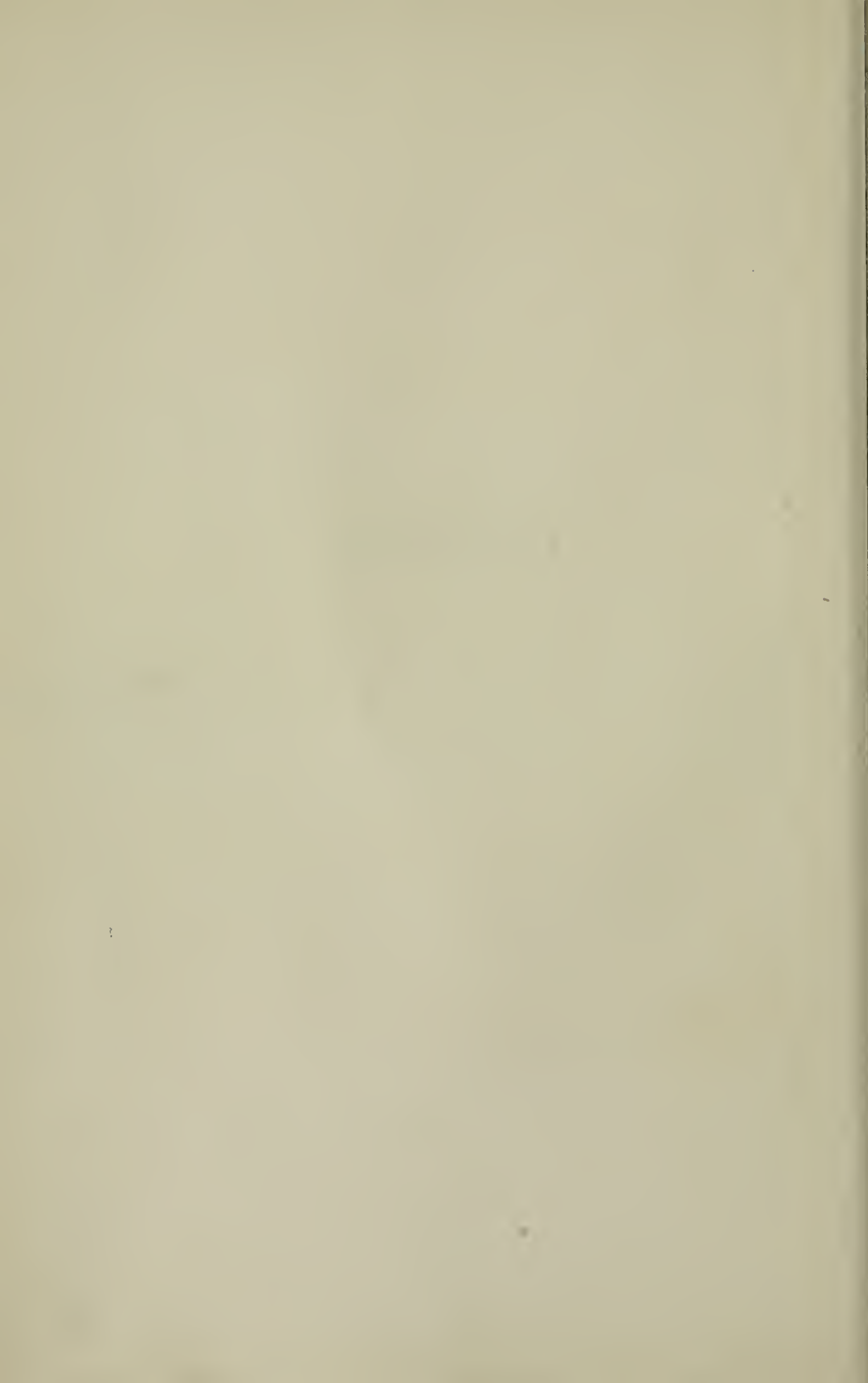


Complete Works of
Abraham Lincoln

Volume XII



Anthology.



Anthology of Sayings of Abraham Lincoln.

HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.” I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided.—*Speech at Springfield, Ill., June 16, 1858, vol. III, p. 1.*

WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.—*Second Inaugural Address, Mar. 4, 1865, vol. XI, p. 46.*

Abraham Lincoln

LET BYGONES BE BYGONES

Let bygones be bygones; let past differences as nothing be; and with steady eye on the real issue, let us reinaugurate the good old "central ideas" of the republic. The human heart is with us. God is with us.—*Speech at Chicago Banquet, Dec. 10, 1856, vol. II, p. 311.*

FEW THINGS WHOLLY EVIL

The true rule, in determining to embrace or reject anything is not whether it have any evil in it, but whether it have more of evil than of good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good.—*Speech on Internal Improvements, June 20, 1848, vol. II, p. 37.*

FAITH THAT RIGHT MAKES MIGHT

Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.—*Address at Cooper Institute, New York City, Feb. 27, 1860, vol. V, p. 328.*

FOOLING THE PEOPLE

You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all of the time.—*Speech at Clinton, Ill., Sept. 8, 1858, vol. III, p. 349.*

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE

We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.—*Gettysburg Address, Nov. 19, 1863, vol. IX, p. 210.*

VIOLATION OF LIBERTY

Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty.—*Lyceum Address, Jan. 27, 1837, vol. I, p. 43.*

READING THROUGH AN EAGLE

The plainest print cannot be read through a gold eagle.—*Speech at Springfield, Ill., June 26, 1857, vol. II, p. 338.*

POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION

In this age, and in this country, public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail; against it, nothing can succeed.—*Notes for Speeches, Oct. 1, 1858, vol. IV, p. 222.*

CONTROLLED BY EVENTS

I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me.—*Letter to A. G. Hodges, Apr. 4, 1864, vol. X, p. 68.*

STAND WITH THE RIGHT

Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill. Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 243.*

EMANCIPATION IRREVOCABLE

If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an executive duty to re-enslave such persons [negroes], another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it.—*Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 6, 1864, vol. X, p. 310.*

SEEING THROUGH THE GUINEA

The dissenting minister who argued some theological point with one of the established church was always met by the reply, "I can't see it so." He opened the Bible and pointed him to a passage, but the orthodox minister replied, "I can't see it so." Then he showed him a single word—"Can you see that?" "Yes, I see it," was the reply. The dissenter laid a guinea over the word, and asked "Do you see it now?"—*Speech at New Haven, Conn., Mar. 6, 1860, vol. V, p. 344.*

DIFFERENCE IN CONSCIENCES

Consciences differ in different individuals.—*Notes for Speeches, Oct. 1, 1858, vol. IV, p. 213.*

CLEAR BEFORE HIS OWN CONSCIENCE

At least I should have done my duty, and have stood clear before my own conscience.—*Memorandum, Aug. 23, 1864, vol. X, p. 204.*

INFLEXIBILITY OF PRINCIPLE

Important principles may and must be inflexible.—*Last Public Address, Apr. 11, 1865, Vol. XI, p. 92.*

ORIGIN OF THE WILL

Will springs from the two elements of moral sense and self-interest.—*Speech at Springfield, Ill., June 26, 1857, vol. II, p. 338.*

EASTERN APHORISM

It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him an aphorism to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words, "And this, too, shall pass away."—*Agricultural Address, Sept. 30, 1859, vol. V, p. 255.*

DEMAND FOR FACTS

No man has needed favors more than I, and, generally, few have been less unwilling to accept them; but in this case favor to me would be injustice to the

public, and therefore I must beg your pardon for declining it. That I once had the confidence of the people of Sangamon is sufficiently evident; and if I have since done anything, either by design or misadventure, which, if known, would subject me to a forfeiture of that confidence, he that knows of that thing, and conceals it, is a traitor to his country's interest.—*Letter to Robert Allen, June 21, 1836, vol. I, p. 15.*

TRUTH AND PRUDENCE

I never encourage deceit, and falsehood, especially if you have got a bad memory, is the *worst* enemy a fellow can have. The fact is, truth is your truest friend, no matter what the circumstances are. Notwithstanding this copy-book preamble, my boy, I am inclined to suggest a *little prudence*.—*Letter to George E. Pickett, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 191.*

JUDGMENT DEFERRED

There is something so ludicrous in promises of good or threats of evil a great way off as to render the whole subject with which they are connected easily turned into ridicule. "Better lay down that spade you are stealing, Paddy; if you don't you'll pay for it at the day of judgment." "Be the powers, if ye'll credit me so long I'll take another jist."—*Temperance Address, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 202.*

FOR THE MAN WHO WORKS

I am always for the man who wishes to work.—
Indorsement of Application for Employment, Aug.
15, 1864, vol. X, p. 192.

MEN MORE THAN MONEY

Gold is good in its place, but living, brave, patriotic men are better than gold.—*Response to a Serenade, Nov. 10, 1864, vol. X, p. 264.*

RARE WANT ENCOURAGED

The lady bearer of this says she has two sons who want to work. Set them at it if possible. Wanting to work is so rare a want that it should be encouraged.—*Note to Major Ramsey, Oct. 17, 1861, vol. XI, p. 120.*

LINCOLN THE HIRED LABORER

I am not ashamed to confess that twenty-five years ago I was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on a flatboat—just what might happen to any poor man's son. I want every man to have a chance.—*Speech at New Haven, Conn., Mar. 6, 1860, vol. V, p. 361.*

CAUSES OF POVERTY

If any continue through life in the condition of the hired laborer, it is not the fault of the system, but be-

cause of either a dependent nature which prefers it, or improvidence, folly, or singular misfortune.—*Agricultural Address, Sept. 30, 1859, vol. V, p. 250.*

MEN WORTHY OF TRUST

No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty—none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned.—*Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 3, 1861, vol. VII, p. 59.*

SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE

Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built.—*Reply to New York Working-Men, Mar. 21, 1864, vol. X, p. 54.*

LAND TO BURY HIM

Part with the land you have, and, my life upon it, you will never after own a spot big enough to bury you in.—*Letter to John D. Johnston, Nov. 4, 1851, vol. II, p. 150.*

WORK WHERE YOU ARE

If you intend to go to work, there is no better place than right where you are; if you do not intend to go to work, you cannot get along anywhere.—*Letter to John D. Johnston, Nov. 4, 1851, vol. II, p. 150.*

PLACE IN HEAVEN CHEAP

You say you would almost give your place in heaven for seventy or eighty dollars. Then you value your place in heaven very cheap, for I am sure you can, with the offer I make, get the seventy or eighty dollars for four or five months' work.—*Letter to John D. Johnston, Jan. 2, 1851, vol. II, p. 145.*

IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRY

You do not very much dislike to work, and still you do not work much, merely because it does not seem to you that you could get much for it. This habit of uselessly wasting time is the whole difficulty; it is vastly important to you, and still more so to your children, that you should break the habit. It is more important to them, because they have longer to live, and can keep out of an idle habit before they are in it, easier than they can get out after they are in.—*Letter to John D. Johnston, Jan. 2, 1851, vol. II, p. 144.*

WAGES OF LABORERS AND PRESIDENTS

An honest laborer digs coal at about seventy cents a day, while the President digs abstractions at about seventy dollars a day. The coal is clearly worth more than the abstractions, and yet what a monstrous inequality in the prices.—*Speech on Internal Improvements, June 20, 1848, vol. II, p. 37.*

POSTERITY PAYS NO WAGES

Few can be induced to labor exclusively for posterity; and none will do it enthusiastically.—*Temperance Address, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 201.*

INSPIRATION OF HOPE IN LABOR

Free labor has the inspiration of hope; pure slavery has no hope. The power of hope upon human exertion and happiness is wonderful.—*On Slavery, July 1, 1854, vol. II, p. 185.*

SELF-INTEREST UNIVERSAL

Unless among those deficient of intellect, everybody you trade with makes something.—*Address on Negro Colonization, Aug. 14, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 7.*

ADVANCEMENT THE UNIVERSAL ORDER.

Advancement—improvement in condition—is the order of things in a society of equals.—*Fragment on Slavery, July 1, 1854, vol. II, p. 185.*

CURSE OF THE SHIFTED BURDEN

As labor is the common burden of our race, so the effort of some to shift their share of the burden onto the shoulders of others is the great durable curse of the race.—*Fragment on Slavery, July 1, 1854, vol. II, p. 185.*

MUST HAVE A JOB

You must make a job for the bearer of this—make a job of it with the collector and have it done. You can do it for me and you must.—*Letter to James Pollock, Aug. 15, 1861, vol. VI, p. 344.*

LABOR AND ITS PRODUCT

Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored, and others have without labor enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy subject of any good government.—*Tar-riff Discussion, Dec. 1, 1847, vol. I, p. 307.*

“MUD-SILL” LABOR THEORY

A Yankee who could invent a strong-handed man without a head would receive the everlasting gratitude of the “mud-sill” advocates.—*Agricultural Address, Sept. 30, 1859, vol. V, p. 251.*

WANTS TO SEE THE MONEY

We would always be easily satisfied, provided we could see the money—but whatever fee we earn at a distance, if not paid before, we have noticed, we

never hear of after the work is done. We, therefore, are growing a little sensitive on that point.—*Letter to James S. Irwin, Nov. 2, 1842, vol. XI, p. 99.*

SOLIDARITY OF LABOR

The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds.—*Reply to New York Working-Men, Mar. 21, 1864, vol. X, p. 53.*

CAPITALISTS' RULE OF HARMONY

These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert, to fleece the people, and now, that they have got into a quarrel with themselves, we are called upon to appropriate the people's money to settle the quarrel.—*Speech before Illinois Legislature, Jan. 1837, vol. I, p. 24.*

PRINCIPLE OF HARMONY

✓ The same spirit says, "You toil and work and earn bread, and I'll eat it." No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle.—*Reply at Alton Debate, Oct. 15, 1858, vol. V, p. 65.*

SATAN AND THE BIBLE

He has warred upon them as Satan wars upon the Bible.—*Reply at Alton Debate, Oct. 15, 1858, vol. V, p. 45.*

GOD AND THE RIGHT PREVAIL

If we do right God will be with us, and if God is with us we cannot fail.—*Proclamation for Day of Prayer, July 7, 1864, vol. X, p. 149.*

PROBABILITY OF REVELATION

If it is probable that God would reveal His will to others on a point so connected with my duty, it might be supposed He would reveal it directly to me.—*Reply to Committee from Religious Denominations of Chicago, Ill., Sept. 13, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 29.*

MEN NOT FLATTERED BY VERACITY

Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them.—*Letter to Thurlow Weed, Mar. 15, 1865, vol. XI, p. 54.*

NEITHER MAGIC NOR MIRACLE

The way these measures were to help the cause was not to be by magic or miracles.—*Letter to Charles D. Robinson, Aug. 17, 1864, vol. X, p. 194.*

SHORN LAMB AND TEMPERED WIND

How true it is that "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," or in other words, that He renders the worst of human conditions tolerable, while He permits the best to be nothing better than tolerable.—*Letter to Mary Speed, Sept. 27, 1841, vol. I, p. 179.*

NOT HIS KIND OF RELIGION

I am not much of a judge of religion, but, in my opinion, the religion that sets men to rebel and fight against their government, because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently help some men to eat their bread in the sweat of other men's faces, is not the sort of religion upon which people can get to heaven.—*Memorandum, Dec. 3, 1864, vol. X, p. 280.*

FORGIVENESS ON REPENTANCE

On principle I dislike an oath which requires a man to swear he has not done wrong. It rejects the Christian principle of forgiveness on terms of repentance. I think it is enough if the man does no wrong hereafter.—*Indorsement, Feb. 5, 1864, vol. IX, p. 303.*

EARNESTNESS OF REBEL PRAYERS

The rebel soldiers are praying with a great deal more earnestness, I fear, than our own troops, and

expecting God to favor their side; for one of our soldiers . . . said that he met with nothing so discouraging as the evident sincerity of those he was among in their prayers.—*Reply to Committee from the Religious Denominations of Chicago, Ill., Sept. 13, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 29.*

PRAYERS TO THE SAME GOD

Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces.—*Second Inaugural Address, Mar. 4, 1865, vol. XI, p. 45.*

VALUE OF EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Extemporaneous speaking should be practised and cultivated. It is the lawyer's avenue to the public.—*Notes for a Law Lecture, July 1, 1850, vol. II, p. 141.*

FOLLY OF SUSPICION AND JEALOUSY

The way for a young man to rise is to improve himself every way he can, never suspecting that anybody wishes to hinder him. Allow me to assure you that suspicion and jealousy never did help any man in any situation. There may sometimes be ungenerous attempts to keep a young man down; and they will

succeed, too, if he allows his mind to be diverted from its true channel to brood over the attempted injury.—*Letter to William H. Herndon, July 10, 1848, vol. II, p. 57.*

YOUNG MEN MUST PUSH

You must not wait to be brought forward by the older men. . . . You young men get together and form a "Rough and Ready Club," and have regular meetings and speeches. Take in everybody you can get. . . . Let everyone play the part he can play best,—some speak, some sing, and all "hol-ler."—*Letter to William H. Herndon, June 22, 1848, vol. II, p. 50.*

SAFETY ASSURED IN DISTANCE

I think perhaps it might be wise to hand this letter from me, in to your good uncle through his room-window *after* he has had a *comfortable dinner*, and watch its effect from the top of the pigeon-house.—*Letter to George E. Pickett, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 191.*

WORTH OF MAN'S SELF

It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him.—*Address on Negro Colonization, Aug. 14, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 5.*

BEST OF A BAD BARGAIN

If you make a bad bargain, hug it all the tighter.
—*Letter to Joshua F. Speed, Feb. 25, 1842, vol. I, p. 213.*

FORCE OF UNIVERSAL FEELING

A universal feeling, whether well or ill-founded, cannot be safely disregarded.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 207.*

PINCHED TOES AND BAD MOTIVES

Ready are we all to cry out and ascribe motives when our own toes are pinched.—*Letter to Gen. Rosecrans, Mar. 17, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 228.*

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS

“A drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall.” So with men. If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend. Therein is a drop of honey which catches his heart, which, say what he will, is the great high-road to his reason.—*Temperance Address, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 197.*

MAXIM TO REMEMBER

Now, boy, on your march, don't you go and forget the old maxim that “one drop of honey catches more

flies than a half-gallon of gall." Load your musket with this maxim, and smoke it in your pipe.—*Letter to George E. Pickett, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 192.*

BETTER PART OF LIFE

The better part of one's life consists of his friendships.—*Letter to Joseph Gillespie, July 13, 1849, vol. II, p. 125.*

EFFECTS OF MISREPRESENTATION

When a man hears himself somewhat misrepresented, it provokes him—at least, I find it so with myself; but when misrepresentation becomes very gross and palpable, it is more apt to amuse him.—*Reply at Ottawa Debate, Aug. 21, 1858, vol. III, p. 223.*

SILENCE NOT ALWAYS SAFE

It is not entirely safe, when one is misrepresented under his very nose, to allow the misrepresentation to go uncontradicted.—*Speech at Columbus, O., Sept. 16, 1859, vol. V, p. 141.*

RELIEF FOR EMBARRASSMENT

When one is embarrassed, usually the shortest way to get through with it is to quit talking or thinking about it, and go at something else.—*Speech at Cincinnati, O., Sept. 17, 1859, vol. V, p. 190.*

ACT WELL YOUR PART

He who does *something* at the head of one regiment, will eclipse him who does *nothing* at the head of a hundred.—*Letter to Gen. Hunter, Dec. 31, 1861, vol. VII, p. 70.*

MILITARY SUCCESSES WANTED

Only those generals who gain successes can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship.—*Letter to Gen. Hooker, Jan. 26, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 207.*

NO HOLIDAYS IN WAR TIMES

War does not admit of holidays.—*Letter to T. H. Clay, Oct. 8, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 55.*

ROSE-WATER WARFARE

Would you drop the war where it is? Or would you prosecute it in future with elderstalk squirts charged with rose-water?—*Letter to Cuthbert Bullitt, July 28, 1862, vol. VII, p. 297.*

CARRIED AWAY BY COWARDLY LEGS

If the Lord gives a man a pair of cowardly legs, how can he help their running away with him?—*Telegram to Gen. Meade, Sept. 11, 1863, vol. IX, p. 117.*

CÆSAR'S HEART WITH FALSTAFF'S LEGS

"Captain, I have as brave a heart as Julius Cæsar ever had; but, somehow or other, whenever danger approaches, my cowardly legs will run away with it."
 —*Speech on the Sub-treasury, Dec. 20, 1839, vol. I, p. 136.*

ONLY MCCLELLAN'S BODY-GUARD

It is called the Army of the Potomac, but it is only McClellan's body-guard. . . . If McClellan is not using the Army I should like to borrow it for awhile.
 —*Letter to Gen. McClellan, Apr. 9, 1862, vol. VII, p. 141.*

COLOR OF JULIUS CÆSAR'S HAIR

I personally wish Jacob Freese, of New Jersey, to be appointed colonel of a colored regiment, and this regardless of whether he can tell the exact shade of Julius Cæsar's hair.—*Note to Sec. Stanton, Nov. 11, 1863, vol. IX, p. 206.*

TO CAPTURE THE MAN IN THE MOON

To move down the Cumberland Valley, will, in my unprofessional opinion, be quite as likely to capture the "man in the moon" as any part of Lee's army.
 —*Telegram to Gen. Thomas, July 8, 1863, vol. IX, p. 23.*

GENERALSHIPS NOT PLENTIFUL

You must know that major-generalships in the regular army are not as plenty as blackberries.—*Telegram to R. Yates and William Butler, Apr. 10, 1862, vol. VII, p. 145.*

LET THE CROP GO TO WASTE

I believed that General Meade and his noble army had expended all the skill, and toil, and blood, up to the ripe harvest, and then let the crop go to waste.—*Letter to Gen. Howard, July 21, 1863, vol. IX, p. 39.*

BOARD AT HOME AND ATTACK ENEMY

I understand the main body of the enemy is very near you, so near that you could “board at home,” so to speak, and menace or attack him any day.—*Telegram to Gen. Rosecrans, Oct. 4, 1863, vol. IX, p. 154.*

ANIMAL VERY SLIM SOMEWHERE

If the head of Lee’s army is at Martinsburg and the tail of it on the plank road between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the animal must be very slim somewhere. Could you not break him?—*Telegram to Gen. Hooker, June 14, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 315.*

GOING IN AND COMING OUT

The most interesting news we now have is from Sherman. We all know where he went in, but I can't tell where he will come out.—*Response to a Serenade, Dec. 6, 1864, vol. X, p. 311.*

HEROIC CONFEDERATE RECRUITING

We are contending with an enemy, who, as I understand, drives every able-bodied man he can reach into his ranks, very much as a butcher drives bullocks into a slaughter-pen.—*Letter to Gov. Seymour, Aug. 7, 1863, vol. IX, p. 60.*

HOLDING ON WITH BULL-DOG GRIP

Hold on with a bull-dog grip, and chew and choke as much as possible.—*Telegram to Gen. Grant, Aug. 17, 1864, vol. X, p. 193.*

LOSS OF ENEMIES NOT A GAIN

The loss of enemies does not compensate for the loss of friends.—*Telegram to Sec. Seward, June 30, 1862, vol. VII, p. 245.*

LET THE THING BE PRESSED

Gen. Sheridan says "If the thing be pressed I think that Lee will surrender." Let the *thing* be pressed.—*Telegram to Gen. Grant, Apr. 7, 1865, vol. XI, p. 77.*

FLOURISHING ON THE SKEWHORN PRINCIPLE

Doubtless a small force of the enemy is flourishing about in the northern part of Virginia on the "skewhorn" principle.—*Telegram to Gov. Curtin, Apr. 28, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 257.*

HOLD POSITION AND HIVE ENEMY

If you can hold your present position, we shall hive the enemy yet.—*Telegram to Gen. McClellan, July 5, 1862, vol. VII, p. 261.*

SMOKY LOCALITIES HELD RESPONSIBLE

Experience has already taught us in this war that holding these smoky localities responsible for the conflagrations within them has a very salutary effect.—*Letter to J. R. Underwood and H. Grider, Oct. 26, 1864, vol. X, p. 254.*

RANK ON PAPER A SMALL MATTER

Truth to speak, I do not appreciate this matter of rank on paper as you officers do.—*Letter to Gen. Rosecrans, Mar. 17, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 228.*

MERELY A QUESTION OF LEGS

Assuming this, it is for you a question of legs. Put in all the speed you can.—*Telegram to Gen. McDowell, May 28, 1862, vol. VII, p. 198.*

ON THE FENCE

I would not take any risk of being entangled upon the river, like an ox jumped half over a fence and liable to be torn by dogs front and rear without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other.—*Telegram to Gen. Hooker, June 5, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 292.*

UNCLE SAM'S WEB-FEET

Nor must Uncle Sam's web-feet be forgotten. At all the watery margins they have been present.—*Letter to James C. Conkling, Aug. 26, 1863, vol. IX, p. 101.*

WALKING TO SAVE SKIN

Does Joe Heiskell's "walking to meet us" mean any more than that "Joe" was scared and wanted to save his skin?—*Telegram to Gov. Johnson, Aug. 2, 1864, vol. X, p. 179.*

WAY TO SUCCEED IS TO TRY

I say "try"; if we never try, we shall never succeed.—*Letter to Gen. McClellan, Oct. 13, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 59.*

ADJUSTING TAXES EXACTLY

If we should wait before collecting a tax, to adjust the taxes upon each man in exact proportion

with every other man, we should never collect any tax at all.—*Address to 164th Ohio Regiment, Aug. 18, 1864, vol. X, p. 200.*

ANY THINKING BETTER THAN NONE

It is better only sometimes to be right than at all times to be wrong.—*Address to the People of Sangamon Co., Mar. 9, 1832, vol. I, p. 8.*

WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS SUCCESS

We can succeed only by concert. It is not “Can any of us imagine better?” but, “can we all do better?”—*Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 130.*

DEEDS, NOT WORDS, WANTED

Tell him, when he starts, to put it through—not to be writing or telegraphing back here, but put it through.—*Letter to Sec. Cameron, June 20, 1861, vol. VI, p. 294.*

HOW TO GET THINGS DONE

Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way. . . . How to do something and still not do too much is the desideratum.—*Speech on Internal Improvements, June 20, 1848, vol. II, p. 46.*

PRACTICE THE BEST PROOF

Practice proves more than theory, in any case.—
Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 128.

MORE THAN BREATH WANTED

The North responds to the proclamation sufficiently in breath; but breath alone kills no rebels.—*Letter to Hannibal Hamlin, Sept. 28, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 50.*

IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME

I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause.—*Letter to Charles D. Robinson, Aug. 17, 1864, vol. X, p. 194.*

VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

It will neither be done nor attempted, unless you watch it every day and hour, and force it.—*Telegram to Gen. Grant, Aug. 3, 1864, vol. X, p. 180.*

PRESIDENT IN NAME AND FACT

I propose continuing to be myself the judge as to when a member of the Cabinet shall be dismissed.—*Letter to Sec. Stanton, July 14, 1864, vol. X, p. 158.*

NOT FOOLED BY GIRLS

Others have been made fools of by the girls, but this can never with truth be said of me. I most emphatically, in this instance, made a fool of myself.—*Letter to Mrs. O. H. Browning, Apr. 1, 1838, vol. I, p. 92.*

FEELING TOWARD WOMEN

Whatever woman may cast her lot with mine, should any ever do so, it is my intention to do all in my power to make her happy and contented; and there is nothing I can imagine that would make me more unhappy than to fail in the effort.—*Letter to Miss Mary Owens, May 7, 1837, vol. I, p. 53.*

NOT SATISFIED WITH BLOCKHEADS

I have now come to the conclusion never again to think of marrying, and for this reason—I can never be satisfied with anyone who would be block-head enough to have me.—*Letter to Mrs. O. H. Browning, Apr. 1, 1838, vol. I, p. 92.*

PLEAD ONLY WHAT YOU MUST

In law, it is good policy to never plead what you need not, lest you oblige yourself to prove what you cannot.—*Letter to U. F. Linder, Feb. 20, 1848, vol. II, p. 3.*

HONOR FOR WOMEN

I want in all cases to do right, and most particularly so in all cases with women.—*Letter to Miss Mary Owens, Aug. 16, 1837, vol. I, p. 56.*

MARRYING SOUTHERN GIRLS

We mean to marry your girls when we have a chance—the white ones, I mean, and I have the honor to inform you that I once did have a chance in that way.—*Speech at Cincinnati, O., Sept. 17, 1859, vol. V, p. 218.*

GOD BLESS THE WOMEN

I am not accustomed to the use of language of eulogy; I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say, that if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of women were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during this war. I will close by saying, God bless the women of America.—*Remarks on Closing Sanitary Fair in Washington, Mar. 18, 1864, vol. X, p. 48.*

GOOD LAWYER IN A BAD CASE

I have sometimes seen a good lawyer, struggling for his client's neck in a desperate case, employing

every artifice to work round, befog and cover up with many words some point arising in the case which he dared not admit and yet could not deny.—*Mexican War Speech, Jan. 12, 1848, vol. I, p. 337.*

GROOMSMAN TO HIS RIVAL

In getting Baker the nomination I shall be fixed a good deal like a fellow who is made a groomsman to a man that has cut him out and is marrying his own dear "gal."—*Letter to Joshua F. Speed, Mar. 24, 1843, vol. I, p. 261.*

READY TO HANG THE PANEL

A jury too frequently has at least one member more ready to hang the panel than to hang the traitor.—*Letter to Erastus Corning, June 12, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 303.*

MOB LAW NOT A REDRESS

There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law.—*Lyceum Address, Jan. 27, 1837, vol. I, p. 44.*

SEVERITY NOT BEST POLICY

The severest justice may not always be the best policy.—*Message to Congress, July 17, 1862, vol. VII, p. 283.*

LAWYERS AS PEACE-MAKERS

Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbor to compromise whenever you can. . . . As a peace-maker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.—*Notes for a Law Lecture, July 1, 1850, vol. II, p. 142.*

NO WRONG WITHOUT A REMEDY

It is a maxim held by the courts, that there is no wrong without its remedy; and the courts have a remedy for whatever is acknowledged and treated as a wrong.—*Reply at Jonesboro Debate, Sept. 15, 1858, vol. IV, p. 60.*

LIFE MORE THAN LIMB

By general law, life and limb must be protected, yet often a limb must be amputated to save a life; but a life is never wisely given to save a limb.—*Letter to A. G. Hodges, Apr. 4, 1864, vol. X, p. 66.*

AN HONEST LAWYER OR NOT AT ALL

Let no young man choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief—resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer.—*Notes for a Law Lecture, July 1, 1850, vol. II, p. 143.*

LEADING RULE FOR ALL CALLINGS

The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man of every other calling, is diligence. Leave nothing for to-morrow which can be done to-day.—*Notes for a Law Lecture, July 1, 1850, vol. II, p. 141.*

HOW PUBLIC PURPOSE IS INDICATED

The most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections.—*Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 6, 1864, vol. X, p. 304.*

TRUST THE PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN

We see it, and to us it appears like principle, and the best sort of principle at that—the principle of allowing the people to do as they please with their own business.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 64.*

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION IMPOSSIBLE

All this talk about the dissolution of the Union is humbug, nothing but folly. We do not want to dissolve the Union; you shall not.—*Speech at Galena, Ill., Aug. 1, 1856, vol. II, p. 295.*

SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION

It is said the devil takes care of his own. Much more should a good spirit—the spirit of the Consti-

tution and the Union—take care of its own. I think it cannot do less and live.—*Opinion on Admission of West Virginia, Dec. 31, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 158.*

ALLAYING PLASTER AN IRRITANT

That very allaying plaster of Judge Douglas' stirred it up again.—*Reply at Alton Debate, Oct. 15, 1858, vol. V, p. 45.*

CURE FOR ARTIFICIAL CRISIS

This crisis is altogether artificial. It has no foundation in fact. It can't be argued up, and it can't be argued down. Let it alone, and it will go down of itself.—*Address at Cleveland, O., Feb. 15, 1861, vol. VI, p. 131.*

LAWS AMONG ALIENS AND FRIENDS

Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can among friends? —*First Inaugural Address, Mar. 4, 1861, vol. VI, p. 181.*

UNION FOREVER AT ANY COST

If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it

by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.—*Letter to Horace Greeley, Aug. 22, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 16.*

DEVOTED TO PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD

With my consent, or without my great displeasure, this country shall never witness the shedding of one drop of blood in fraternal strife.—*Reply to Gov. Curtin, Feb. 22, 1861, vol. VI, p. 161.*

SUGAR-COATED REBELLION

With rebellion thus sugar-coated, they have been drugging the public mind of their section for more than thirty years.—*Message to Congress, July 4, 1861, vol. VI, p. 313.*

NO CHICKENS FROM SMASHED EGGS

Concede that the new government of Louisiana is only what it should be, as the egg to the fowl, we shall sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg than by smashing it.—*Last Public Address, Apr. 11, 1865, vol. XI, p. 91.*

THORN IN ANIMAL'S VITALS

This rebellion can only eke out a short and feeble existence, as an animal sometimes may with a thorn in its vitals.—*Letter to Gen. Halleck, Sept. 21, 1863, vol. IX, p. 132.*

FOUL BIRD AND DIRTY REPTILE

Every foul bird comes abroad and every dirty reptile rises up.—*Letter to Charles D. Drake and Others, Oct. 5, 1863, vol. IX, p. 157.*

QUIET PAST AND STORMY PRESENT

✓ The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.—*Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 131.*

NO MENDING FOR BROKEN EGGS

Broken eggs cannot be mended; but Louisiana has nothing to do now but to take her place in the Union as it was, barring the already broken eggs.—*Letter to August Belmont, July 31, 1862, vol. VII, p. 299.*

STOPPING ONE LEAK TO OPEN ANOTHER

Do we gain anything by opening one leak to stop another? Do we gain anything by quieting one clamor merely to open another, and probably a larger one?—*Telegram to Col. A. K. McClure, June 30, 1863, vol. IX, p. 14.*

POLITICIANS AND HONEST MEN

This work is exclusively the work of politicians; a set of men who have interests aside from the inter-

ests of the people, and who, to say the most of them, are taken as a mass, at least one long step removed from honest men. I say this with the greater freedom because, being a politician myself, none can regard it as personal.—*Bank Speech, Jan., 1837, vol. I, p. 27.*

PAYING THE FIDDLER GENEROUSLY

It is an old maxim and a very sound one that he that dances should always pay the fiddler. Now, sir, if any gentlemen, whose money is a burden to them, choose to lead off a dance, I am decidedly opposed to the people's money being used to pay the fiddler.—*Speech before Illinois Legislature, Jan., 1837, vol. I, p. 23.*

VULNERABLE HEELS MAKE FAST TIME

“The Democrats are vulnerable in the heel but they are sound in the head and the heart.” The first branch of the figure—that is, that the Democrats are vulnerable in the heel—I admit is not merely figuratively, but literally true. . . . It seems that this malady of their heels operates on these sound-minded and honest-hearted creatures very much like the cork leg in the comic song did on its owner: which, when he had once got started on it, the more he tried to stop it, the more it would run away.—*Speech on Sub-Treasury, Dec. 20, 1839, vol. I, p. 136.*

NOT LAST, BUT NEVER TO DESERT

Many free countries have lost their liberty, and ours may lose hers; but if she shall, be it my proudest plume, not that I was the last to desert, but that I never deserted her.—*Speech on Sub-treasury, Dec. 20, 1839, vol. I, p. 137.*

PILOTING THE SHIP OF STATE

As a pilot I have used my best exertions to keep afloat our Ship of State, and shall be glad to resign my trust at the appointed time to another pilot more skillful and successful than I may prove.—*Reply to Presbyterian General Assembly, May 30, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 288.*

SAVE THE COUNTRY FIRST

Let the friends of the government first save the government and then administer it to their own liking.—*Letter to Henry Winter Davis, Mar. 18, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 229.*

A NEW NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.—*Gettysburg Address, Nov. 19, 1863, vol. IX, p. 209.*

PUTTING THE FOOT DOWN FIRMLY

The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am, but it may be necessary to put the foot down firmly.—*Address to New Jersey Assembly, Feb. 21, 1861, vol. VI, p. 154.*

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATISM

I am very glad the elections this autumn have gone favorably, and that I have not, by native depravity or under evil influences, done anything bad enough to prevent the good result. I hope to “stand firm” enough to not go backward, and yet not go forward fast enough to wreck the country’s cause.—*Letter to Zachariah Chandler, Nov. 20, 1863, vol. IX, p. 213.*

DEVOTION TO THE UNION

I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, if it be the pleasure of Almighty God, to die by.—*Address in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Feb. 22, 1861, vol. VI, p. 156.*

SELF-GOVERNMENT AND DESPOTISM

When the white man governs himself, that is self-government; but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government—that is despotism.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 227.*

"BUTS" AND "IFS" AND "ANDS"

The man who stands by and says nothing when the peril of his government is discussed, cannot be misunderstood. If not hindered, he is sure to help the enemy; much more if he talks ambiguously—talks for his country with "buts," and "ifs," and "ands."——
Letter to Erastus Corning, June 12, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 305.

VOTERS WHO VOTE THE REAL POWER

It is not the qualified voters, but the qualified voters who choose to vote, that constitute the political power of the State.—*Opinion on Admission of West Virginia, Dec. 31, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 157.*

PRESERVATION OF LIBERTY A DUTY

If there is anything which it is the duty of the whole people to never intrust to any hands but their own, that thing is the preservation and perpetuity of their own liberties and institutions.—
Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 235.

BALLOTS, NOT BULLETS, GIVE VICTORY

To give the victory to the right, not bloody bullets, but peaceful ballots only are necessary. Thanks to our good old Constitution, and organization under it, these alone are necessary. It only needs that

every right thinking man shall go to the polls, and without fear or prejudice vote as he thinks.—*Notes for Speeches, Oct. 1, 1858, vol. IV, p. 235.*

NO APPEAL FROM BALLOT TO BULLET

Among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the cost.—*Letter to James C. Conkling, Aug. 26, 1863, vol. IX, p. 101.*

TRUE LAW OF DIVINE RIGHT

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 228.*

PREPARATION FOR TYRANNY

Familiarize yourself with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them. Accustomed to trample on the rights of others, you have lost the genius of your own independence and become the fit subject of the first cunning tyrant who rises among you.—*Fragment of Speech at Edwardsville, Ill., Sept. 13, 1858, vol. XI, p. 110.*

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS A NATURAL LAW

I believe each individual is naturally entitled to do as he pleases with himself and the fruit of his

labor, so far as it in no wise interferes with any other man's rights.—*Speech at Chicago, Ill., July 10, 1858, vol. III, p. 35.*

EQUALITY IN SOCIETY

Equality in society alike beats inequality, whether the latter be of the British aristocratic sort or of the domestic slavery sort.—*On Slavery, July 1, 1854, vol. II, p. 184.*

ALL MEN CREATED EQUAL

Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation we began by declaring that "all men are created equal." We now practically read it "all men are created equal, except negroes." When the Know-nothings get control, it will read "all men are created equal except negroes and foreigners and Catholics." When it comes to this, I shall prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretence of loving liberty,—to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.—*Letter to Joshua F. Speed, Aug. 24, 1855, vol. II, p. 287.*

THE LAW OF LIBERTY

I am for the people of the whole nation doing just as they please in all matters which concern the whole nation; for those of each part doing just as

they choose in all matters which concern no other part; and for each individual doing just as he chooses in all matters which concern nobody else.—*Notes for Speeches, Oct. 1, 1858, vol. IV, p. 231.*

OBJECT OF GOVERNMENT

The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere.—*On Government, July 1, 1854, vol. II, p. 186.*

GOVERNMENT BY MAJORITY

I reiterate that the majority should rule. If I adopt a wrong policy, the opportunity for condemnation will occur in four years' time. Then I can be turned out, and a better man with better views put in my place.—*Address at Steubenville, O., Feb. 14, 1861, vol. VI, p. 123.*

NATURE OF POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY

What is "sovereignty" in the political sense of the term? Would it be far wrong to define it "a political community without a political superior?"—*Message to Congress, July 4, 1861, vol. VI, p. 315.*

TRUE POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

I think a definition of "popular sovereignty," in the abstract, would be about this: That each man shall do precisely as he pleases with himself, and with all those things that exclusively concern him . . . that a general government shall do all those things which pertain to it, and all the local governments shall do precisely as they please in respect to those matters which exclusively concern them.—*Speech at Columbus, O., Sept. 16, 1859, vol. V, p. 149.*

FRENCH COOK AND POTATO SOUPS

Coming to the substance, the first point, "popular sovereignty." It is to be labeled upon the cars in which he travels; put upon the hacks he rides in; to be flaunted upon the arches he passes under, and the banners which wave over him. It is to be dished up in as many varieties as a French cook can produce soups from potatoes.—*Speech at Springfield, Ill., July 17, 1858, vol. III, p. 160.*

EQUALITY AND PROSPERITY

When we were the political slaves of King George, and wanted to be free, we called the maxim that "all men are created equal" a self-evident truth, but now when we have grown fat, and have lost all dread of being slaves ourselves, we have become so greedy to be masters that we call the same maxim "a self-evi-

dent lie." The Fourth of July has not quite dwindled away; it is still a great day—for burning fire-crackers!!!—*Letter to George Robertson, Aug 15, 1855, vol. II, p. 279.*

DOUGLAS' "POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY"

He discovered that the right to breed and flog negroes in Nebraska was popular sovereignty.—*Speech at Paris, Ill., Sept. 8, 1858, vol. XI, p. 106.*

THE ISOLATION OF GENIUS

Towering genius disdains a beaten path.—*Lyceum Address, Jan. 27, 1837, vol. I, p. 46.*

SMOKE THE BEST WITNESS

We better know there is fire whence we see much smoke rising than we could know it by one or two witnesses swearing to it. The witnesses may commit perjury, but the smoke cannot.—*Letter to J. R. Underwood and H. Grider, Oct. 26, 1864, vol. X, p. 254.*

BORED BY BAD HANDWRITING

I have already been bored more than enough about it; not the least of which annoyance is his cursed, unreadable, and ungodly handwriting.—*Letter to William H. Herndon, Jan. 19, 1848, vol. I, p. 351.*

BAD FOOD BUT GOOD MEDICINE

. . . No more I can be persuaded that a particular drug is not good medicine for a sick man because it can be shown to not be good food for a well one.—*Letter to Erastus Corning and Others, June 12, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 309.*

ACQUIRED APPETITE FOR EMETICS

No more am I able to believe that a man could contract so strong an appetite for emetics during temporary illness as to persist in feeding upon them during the remainder of his healthful life.—*Letter to Erastus Corning and Others, June 12, 1863, vol. VIII, p. 310.*

YANKEE PEDLER'S PANTALOONS

Like the pair of pantaloons the Yankee peddler offered for sale, "large enough for any man, small enough for any boy."—*Speech at Worcester, Mass., Sept. 12, 1848, vol. II, p. 92.*

CUT ITS OWN FODDER

Under Mr. Adams and the presidents before him, it [the Post-office] not only, to use a homely phrase, cut its own fodder, but actually threw a surplus into the treasury.—*Speech on the Sub-treasury, Dec. 20, 1839, vol. I, p. 131.*

ADDING THE WEIGHT OF HOGS

This is as plain as adding up the weight of three small hogs.—*Letter to Harrison Maltby, Sept. 8, 1856, vol. II, p. 297.*

GRANDSON OF MILLIKEN'S BEND

The writer . . . is a grandson of "Milliken's Bend," near Vicksburg—that is, a grandson of the man who gave name to Milliken's Bend.—*Letter to Sec. Chase, Oct. 26, 1863, vol. IX, p. 183.*

FATHER OF WATERS UNVEXED

The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea.—*Letter to James C. Conkling, Aug. 26, 1863, vol. IX, p. 100.*

TERRITORIES OF THE MOON

Now this provision . . . had no more direct reference to Nebraska than it had to the territories of the moon.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 213.*

LIKE A KICKING GUN

This opinion of Mr. Jefferson, in one branch at least, is, in the hands of Mr. Polk, like McFingal's gun—"bears wide and kicks the owner over."—*Speech on Internal Improvements, June 20, 1848, vol. II, p. 39.*

DRAGGING CHESTNUTS FROM THE FIRE

By much dragging of chestnuts from the fire for others to eat, his claws are burnt off to the gristle, and he is thrown aside as unfit for further use.—*Speech at Chicago Banquet, Dec. 10, 1856, vol. II, p. 309.*

HOMEOPATHIC PIGEON SOUP

Has it not got down as thin as the homeopathic soup that was made by boiling the shadow of a pigeon that had starved to death?—*Rejoinder at Quincy Debate, Oct. 13, 1858, vol. IV, p. 380.*

WOOD SOAKED FOR OX-BOWS

Like wood for ox-bows, they are merely being soaked in it preparatory to the bending.—*Speeches in Kansas, Dec. 1-5, 1859, vol. V, p. 271.*

WELL-KNOWN GEORGIA COSTUME

If that's the plan, they should begin at the foundation, and adopt the well-known "Georgia costume" of a shirt collar and a pair of spurs.—*Speech at Hartford, Conn., Mar. 5, 1860, vol. V, p. 337.*

PRODUCING TWO BLADES OF GRASS

Every blade of grass is a study; and to produce two where there was but one is both a profit and a pleasure.—*Agricultural Address, Sept. 30, 1859, vol. V, p. 253.*

SETTING THE HUMAN EEL-TRAP

The fisherman's wife whose drowned husband was brought home with his body full of eels, said when she was asked what was to be done with him, "Take the eels out and set him again."—*Reply at Galesburg Debate, Oct. 7, 1858, vol. IV, p. 279.*

IRISHMAN AND NEW BOOTS

How could we make any entirely new improvement by means of tonnage duties? The idea that we could, involves the same absurdity as the Irish bull about the new boots. "I shall never git 'em on," says Patrick, "till I wear 'em a day or two, and stretch 'em a little."—*Lecture on Internal Improvements, June 20, 1848, vol. II, p. 42.*

PUGNACIOUS EXCHANGE OF OVERCOATS

I remember being once much amused at seeing two particularly intoxicated men engaged in a fight with their great coats on, which fight, after a long and rather harmless contest, ended in each having fought himself out of his own coat and into that of the other.—*Letter to H. L. Pierce and Others, Apr. 6, 1859, vol. V, p. 125.*

NEW MEN MADE FROM OLD

A fellow once advertised that he had made a discovery by which he could make a new man out of an

old one, and have enough of the stuff left to make a little yellow dog.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 73.*

STARVING BETWEEN STACKS OF HAY

We have all heard of the animal standing in doubt between two stacks of hay and starving to death. The like of that would never happen to General Cass. Place the stacks a thousand miles apart, he would stand stock-still midway between them, and eat them both at once, and the green grass along the line would be apt to suffer some, too.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 83.*

DIVIDED GANGS OF HOGS

I have heard some things from New York, and if they are true, one might well say of your party there, as a drunken fellow once said when he heard the reading of an indictment for hog-stealing. The clerk read on till he got to and through the words "did steal, take, and carry away ten boars, ten sows, ten shoats, and ten pigs," at which he exclaimed, "Well, by golly, that is the most equally divided gang of hogs I ever did hear of!" If there is any other gang of hogs more equally divided than the Democrats of New York are about this time, I have not heard of it.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 88.*

FIRST INVENTION A JOINT OPERATION

The very first invention was a joint operation, Eve having shared with Adam the getting up of the apron. And, indeed, judging from the fact that sewing has come down to our times as "woman's work" it is very probable she took the leading part,—he, perhaps, doing no more than to stand by and thread the needle. That proceeding may be reckoned as the mother of all "sewing societies" and the first and most perfect "World's Fair," all inventions and all inventors then in the world being on the spot.—*Lecture on Discoveries, Inventions and Improvements, Feb. 22, 1859, vol. V, p. 106.*

LAST SHRIEK ON RETREAT

His idea was that it would be considered our last shriek on the retreat.—*Account of the Emancipation Proclamation, Feb. 6, 1864, vol. X, p. 2.*

LAST OF OLD SERPENT'S TAIL

The last tip of the last joint of the old serpent's tail was just drawing out of view.—*Reply at Alton Debate, Oct. 15, 1858, vol. V, p. 46.*

WHO SHOULD BE SLAVES

I have always thought that all men should be free; but if any should be slaves, it should be first those

who desire it for themselves, and secondly, those who desire it for others.—*Address to Indiana Regiment, Mar. 17, 1865, vol. XI, p. 56.*

EGYPT OF THE WEST

They . . . must have access to this Egypt of the West without paying toll.—*Annual Message, Dec. 1, 1862, vol. VIII, p. 115.*

FREEDOM TO EVERY CREATURE

If we cannot give freedom to every creature, let us do nothing that will impose slavery upon any other creature.—*Speech at Chicago, Ill., July 10, 1858, vol. III, p. 51.*

TAKE HIS OWN MEDICINE

When I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.—*Address to Indiana Regiment, Mar. 17, 1865, vol. XI, p. 56.*

A DURABLE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

I think we have fairly entered upon a durable struggle as to whether this nation is to ultimately become all slave or all free, and though I fall early in the contest, it is nothing if I shall have contributed, in the least degree, to the final restful result.—*Letter to H. D. Sharpe, Dec. 18, 1858, vol. V, p. 96.*

LET HIM ENJOY WHAT GOD GAVE

All I ask for the negro is that if you do not like him, let him alone. If God gave him but little, that little let him enjoy.—*Speech at Springfield, Ill., July 17, 1858, vol. III, p. 186.*

WRECKED NEGRO ON THE PLANK

If it was like two wrecked seamen on a narrow plank, where each must push the other off or drown himself, I would push the negro off,—or a white man either; but it is not: the plank is large enough for both.—*Speech at New Haven, Conn., Mar. 6, 1860, vol. V, p. 352.*

TO KEEP THE JEWEL OF LIBERTY

They [negroes in Louisiana] would probably help, in some trying time to come, to keep the jewel of liberty within the family of freedom.—*Letter to Governor Hahn, Mar. 13, 1864, vol. X, p. 39.*

NEITHER SLAVE NOR WIFE

I protest against the counterfeit logic which concludes that, because I do not want a black woman for a slave I must necessarily want her for a wife. I need not have her for either. I can just leave her alone.—*Speech at Springfield, Ill., June 27, 1857, vol. II, p. 329.*

SMALL CURES FOR GREAT SORES

Our best and greatest men have greatly underestimated the size of this question. They have constantly brought forward small cures for great sores—plasters too small to cover the wound.—*Speech at New Haven, Conn., Mar. 6, 1860, vol. V, p. 343.*

CHESTNUT HORSE ARGUMENT

Anything that argues me into his idea of perfect social and political equality with the negro is but a specious and fantastic arrangement of words, by which a man can prove a horse-chestnut to be a chestnut horse.—*Reply at Ottawa Debate, Aug. 21, 1858, vol. III, p. 229.*

SLAVERY FOUNDED IN SELFISHNESS

Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature—opposition to it in his love of justice.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 238.*

SNAKE A JEWEL, WEN AN ORNAMENT

In front of us sat an old gentleman with an enormous wen upon his neck . . . The wen represents slavery upon the neck of this country. . . . Those who think it right would consider the snake a jewel and the wen an ornament.—*Speech at Hartford, Conn., Mar. 5, 1860, vol. V, p. 333.*

SOUTHERN ABOLITION AND NORTHERN SLAVERY

We know that some Southern men do free their slaves, go North and become tip-top Abolitionists, while some Northern ones go South and become most cruel slave-masters.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 206.*

CUTTING EACH OTHER'S THROATS

How much better . . . than to sink both the things to be sold and the price of it in cutting one another's throats?—*Appeal in Favor of Compensated Emancipation, July 12, 1862, vol. VII, p. 272.*

EVERY DROP OF BLOOD

If it [the war] continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword.—*Second Inaugural Address, Mar. 4, 1865, vol. XI, p. 46.*

DIFFERENT IDEAS OF LIBERTY

The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act, as the destroyer of liberty, especially if the sheep was a black one. Plainly, the sheep and the

wolf are not agreed upon a definition of the word liberty; and precisely the same difference prevails to-day among us human creatures, even in the North, and all professing to love liberty.—*Address at Sanitary Fair in Baltimore, Apr. 18, 1864, vol. X, p. 77.*

MARKS TO ENDURE FOREVER

The race gave me a hearing on the great and durable question of the age, which I could have had in no other way; and though I now sink out of view, and shall be forgotten, I believe I have made some marks which will tell for the cause of civil liberty long after I am gone.—*Letter to A. G. Henry, Nov. 19, 1858, vol. V, p. 95.*

SNAKE IN THE CHILDREN'S BED

If I saw a venomous snake crawling in the road, any man would say I might seize the nearest stick and kill it; but if I found that snake in bed with my children, that would be another question. I might hurt the children more than the snake, and it might bite them. Much more, if I found it in bed with my neighbor's children, and I had bound myself by a solemn compact not to meddle with his children under any circumstances, it would become me to let that particular mode of getting rid of the gentleman alone. But if there was a bed newly made up, to which the children were to be taken, and it was pro-

posed to take a batch of young snakes and put them there with them, I take it no man would say there was any question how I ought to decide.—*Speech at New Haven, Conn., Mar. 6, 1860, vol. V, p. 347.*

FIRE FROM CAKE OF TALLOW

It's a lie, and not a well told one at that. It grins out like a copper dollar . . . as for getting a good, bright passable lie out of him, you might as well try to strike fire from a cake of tallow.—*Letter from the Lost Townships, Aug. 27, 1842, vol. I, p. 226.*

ENTANGLED HEAD AND TAIL

In one faculty, at least, there can be no dispute of the gentleman's superiority over me, and most other men; and that is, the faculty of entangling a subject, so that neither himself, nor any other man can find head or tail to it.—*Speech before Illinois Legislature, Jan. [?], 1837, vol. I, p. 20.*

LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Let the judge go on, and after he is done with his half hour, I want you all, if I can't go home myself, to let me stay and rot here; and if anything happens to the judge, if I cannot carry him to the hotel and put him to bed, let me stay here and rot.—*Reply at Jonesboro Debate, Sept. 15, 1858, vol. IV, p. 69.*

NO WAY TO STOP HIM

If a man will stand up and assert, and repeat and re-assert, that two and two do not make four, I know nothing in the power of argument that can stop him. I think I can answer the judge so long as he sticks to the premises; but when he flies from them, I cannot work any argument into the consistency of a mental gag and actually close his mouth with it.—*Speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, vol. II, p. 262.*

DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO CALL HIM

I don't want to quarrel with him,—to call him a liar,—but when I come square up to him I don't know what else to call him, if I must tell the truth out.—*Reply at Jonesboro Debate, Sept. 15, 1858, vol. IV, p. 70.*

REASON AND AUTHORITY

There are two ways of establishing a proposition. One is by trying to demonstrate it upon reason, and the other is, to show that great men in former times have thought so and so, and thus to pass it by the weight of pure authority.—*Speech at Columbus, O., Sept. 16, 1859, vol. V, p. 172.*

BLACK HAWK MILITARY HERO

Did you know I am a military hero? Yes, sir; in the days of the Black Hawk war I fought, bled and

came away. . . . I was not at Stillman's defeat, but I was about as near it as Cass was to Hull's surrender; and like him, I saw the place very soon afterwards.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 75.*

MARKS AND BRANDS DESCRIBED

I am, in height, six feet four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair and gray eyes. No other marks or brands recollected.—*Letter to J. W. Fell, Dec. 20, 1859, vol. V. p. 288.*

LOVED FLATTERY BUT GOT LITTLE

I was not very much accustomed to flattery, and it came the sweeter to me. I was rather like the Hoosier with the gingerbread, when he said he reckoned he loved it better than any other man, and got less of it.—*Reply at Ottawa Debate, Aug. 21, 1858, vol. III, p. 238.*

ATTENTION TO THE SOAP QUESTION

Some specimens of your soap have been used at our house and Mrs. L. declares it is a superior article. She at the same time protests that *I* have never given sufficient attention to the "soap question" to be a competent judge.—*Letter to Professor Gardner, Sept. 28, 1860, vol. VI, p. 60.*

BLOODY STRUGGLES WITH MOSQUITOES

It is quite certain I did not break my sword, for I had none to break; but I bent a musket pretty badly on one occasion. If Cass broke his sword, the idea is he broke it in desperation; I bent the musket by accident. If General Cass went in advance of me in picking huckleberries, I guess I surpassed him in charges upon the wild onions. If he saw any live fighting Indians, it was more than I did; but I had a good many bloody struggles with the mosquitoes, and although I never fainted from the loss of blood, I can truly say I was often very hungry.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 75.*

DISTINCTION IN CONGRESS

As you are all so anxious for me to distinguish myself, I have concluded to do so before long.—*Letter to William H. Herndon, Dec. 13, 1847, vol. I, p. 317.*

SELF DISTRUST AND REGAINED CONFIDENCE

I must gain my confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves when they are made. In that ability you know I once prided myself. . . . I have not yet regained it; and until I do, I cannot trust myself in any matter of much importance.—*Letter to J. F. Speed, July 4, 1842, vol. I, p. 218.*

TEACHING THE "THREE R'S"

No qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond "readin', writin' and cipherin'" to the rule of three. If a straggler supposed to understand Latin happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard.—*Letter to J. W. Fell, Dec. 20, 1589, vol. V, p. 287.*

TASK GREATER THAN WASHINGTON'S

I cannot but know what you all know, that without a name, perhaps without a reason why I should have a name, there has fallen upon me a task such as did not rest even upon the Father of his Country.—*Address to Ohio Legislature at Columbus, O., Feb. 13, 1861, vol. VI, p. 121.*

HUGGED BY A RUSSIAN BEAR

Just to think of it! right at the outset of his canvass, I, a poor, kind, amiable, intelligent gentleman—I am to be slain in this way. Why, my friend the judge, is not only, as it turns out, not a dead lion, nor even a living one—he is the rugged Russian bear.—*Speech at Chicago, Ill., July 10, 1858, vol. III, p. 20.*

NONSENSE HURTS NOBODY

In my present position it is hardly proper for me to make speeches. Every word is so closely noted

that it will not do to make foolish ones, and I cannot be expected to be prepared to make sensible ones. If I were as I have been for most of my life, I might, perhaps, talk nonsense to you for half an hour, and it wouldn't hurt anybody.—*Remarks at Frederick, Md., Oct. 4, 1862, vol. XI, p. 125.*

HOPELESS EFFORT TO CONVINCCE

I suppose I cannot reasonably hope to convince you that we have any principles. The most I can expect is to assure you that we think we have, and are quite contented with them.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 70.*

DEVOTION TO THE UNION

I cannot fly from my thoughts—my solicitude for this great country follows me wherever I go. I do not think it is personal vanity or ambition, though I am not free from these infirmities, but I cannot but feel that the weal or woe of this great nation will be decided in November.—*Interview with John T. Mills, Aug. 15, 1864, vol. X, p. 189.*

SQUEEZED OUT IN THE MIDDLE

Your discomfited assailants are most bitter against me; and they will, for revenge upon me, lay to the Bates egg in the South, and to the Seward egg in the North, and go far toward squeezing me out in

the middle with nothing. Can you not help me a little in this matter in your end of the vineyard?—
Letter to N. B. Judd, Feb. 9, 1860, vol. V, p. 291.

AN ALEXANDER IN OBSCURITY

I would like to know who is the great Alexander that talks so oracularly about “if the President keeps his word” and Banks not having “capacity to run an omnibus on Broadway?” How has this Alexander’s immense light been obscured hitherto?—
Letter to F. P. Blair, Sr., July 30, 1863, vol. IX, p. 49.

TIED TO MILITARY COAT-TAILS

All his biographies (and they are legion) have him in hand, tying him to a military tail, like so many mischievous boys tying a dog to a bladder of beans. True, the material they have is very limited, but they drive at it might and main.—*Speech in Congress, July 27, 1848, vol. II, p. 74.*

HARD TO DRIVE MEN

It is not much in the nature of man to be driven to anything; still less to be driven about that which is exclusively his own business; and least of all where such driving is to be submitted to at the expense of pecuniary interest or burning appetite.—*Temperance Address, Feb. 22, 1842, vol. I, p. 196.*

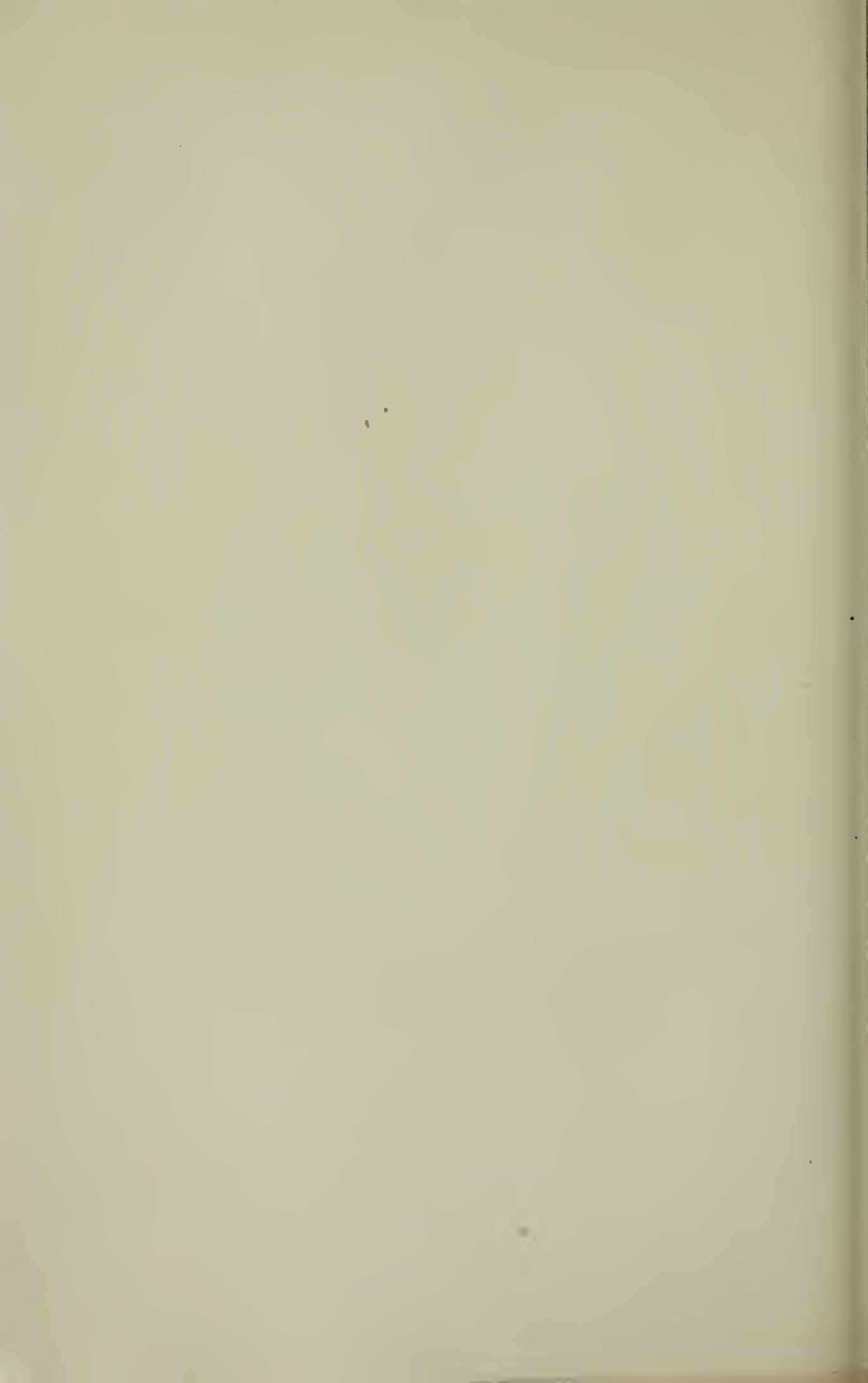
DREAD OF THE HALTER

I might procrastinate the evil day for a time, which I really dreaded as much, perhaps more, than an Irishman does the halter.—*Letter to Mrs. O. H. Browning, Apr. 1, 1838, vol. I, p. 90.*

TOO VAST FOR MALICE

I shall ^{do} no nothing in malice. What I deal with is too vast for malicious dealing.—*Letter to Cuthbert Bullitt, July 28, 1862, vol. VII, p. 298.*





Chronological Index



Chronological Index

1832

March —	*Reputed First Political Speech....XI,	97
March 9	Address to the People of Sangamon County, Ill.....I,	1
April 28	Receipt for Arms.....I,	9
Aug. 10	*To E. C. Blankenship.....I,	10

1833-1834

(No date),	Letter and Receipt to George Spears I,	11
------------	--	----

1834

Jan. 14	*Certificate of Survey.....I,	12
June —	Report of Road Survey.....I,	12
Nov. 4	*Report of Road Survey.....I,	13

1836

June 13	Announcement of Political Views...I,	14
June 21	To Col. Robert Allen.....I,	15
Dec. 13	To Miss Mary Owens.....I,	17

1837

Jan. —	*Speech before the Illinois Legislature I,	19
Jan. 27	Address before the Young Men's LyceumI,	35

March 3	Protest on the Subject of Slavery...I,	51
May 7	To Miss Mary Owens.....I,	52
Aug. 5	*To John Bennett.....I,	54
Aug. 16	To Miss Mary Owens.....I,	55
Aug. 19	*Hand Bill of the Sangamon Journal.I,	57
Sept. 9	*Lincoln and Talbott Reply to General Adams.....I,	65
Oct. 28	*Reply to General Adams.....I,	76

1838

April 1	To Mrs. O. H. Browning.....I,	87
---------	-------------------------------	----

1839

Jan. 17	Remarks in the Illinois Legislature..I,	92
Feb. 14	*To John T. Stuart.....XI,	98
May 11	To A. P. Field.....I,	94
June 11	*To "Row" Herndon.....I,	95
June 24	*To Editor of the "Chicago American" ..I,	96
Nov. 14	To John T. Stuart.....I,	98
Dec. (20?)	Speech in Illinois House of Representatives ..I,	100
Dec. 23	To John T. Stuart.....I,	139

1840

Jan. 1	To John T. Stuart.....I,	140
Jan. (1?)	Circular from Whig Committee....I,	142
Jan. 20	To John T. Stuart.....I,	146
Jan. 21	To John T. Stuart.....I,	147
March 1	To John T. Stuart.....I,	148

March 26	To John T. Stuart.....I,	150
Oct. 31	To W. G. Anderson.....I,	151
Nov. 28	Resolution in the Illinois Legislature I,	152
Dec. 4	Remarks in the Illinois Legislature..I,	153
Dec. 4	Remarks in the Illinois Legislature..I,	154
Dec. 17	To John T. Stuart.....I,	156

1841

Jan. 23	Remarks in the Illinois Legislature..I,	156
Jan. 23	To John T. Stuart.....I,	157
Feb. (8?)	Circular from Whig Committee....I,	160
Feb. 26	Extract from Protest in the Illinois LegislatureI,	166
June 19	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	168
June 25	Statement about Harry Wilton.....I,	175
Sept. 27	To Miss Mary Speed.....I,	177
Oct. 20	Call for Whig State Convention....I,	181

1842

Jan. (3?)	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	182
Feb. 3	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	185
Feb. 13	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	187
Feb. 16	*To G. B. Sheledy.....I,	189
Feb. 22	*Extracts from Letter to George E. PickettI,	191
Feb. 22	Address before the Springfield Wash- ingtonian Temperance Society....I,	193
Feb. 25	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	210
Feb. 25	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	211
March 27	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	214
July 4	To Joshua F. Speed.....I,	217

- Aug. 15 *To Mr. — Walker.....I, 219
 Aug. 27 *Letter from the "Lost Townships"
 (Rebecca Letter).....I, 221
 Aug. 29 Invitation to Henry Clay.....I, 231
 Sept. 17 Correspondence about the Lincoln-
 Shields Duel.....I, 232
 Sept. 19 Memorandum of Instructions to E.
 H. Merryman.....I, 236
 Oct. (4?) To Joshua F. Speed.....I, 238
 Nov. 2 *To James S. Irwin.....XI, 98

1843

- March 1 Resolutions at a Whig Meeting at
 Springfield, Ill.....I, 240
 March 4 Circular from Whig Committee....I, 243
 March 7 *To John Bennett.....I, 259
 March 24 To Joshua F. Speed.....I, 261
 March 26 To Martin M. Morris.....I, 262
 April 14 To Martin M. Morris.....I, 265
 May 11 *To Gen. John J. Hardin.....I, 266
 May 18 To Joshua F. Speed.....I, 267

1844

- Jan. 16 *Memorandum concerning Transfer
 of Property.....I, 269
 May 21 *To Gen. John J. Hardin.....I, 270

1845

- Jan. 19 *To Gen. John J. Hardin.....I, 271
 March 1 *To Mr. — Williams.....I, 274
 Oct. 3 *To Williamson Durley.....I, 275

- Nov. 17 To B. F. James.....I, 278
 Nov. 24 To B. F. James.....I, 278

1846

- Jan. 7 *To Dr. Robert Boal.....I, 280
 Jan. 14 To B. F. James.....I, 282
 Jan. 15 *To John Bennett.....I, 284
 Jan. 16 *To John Bennett.....I, 285
 Jan. 16 To B. F. James.....I, 285
 Jan. 21 *To N. J. Rockwell.....I, 286
 Jan. 27 To B. F. James.....I, 286
 April 18 To — Johnston.....I, 288
 April 26 *To James Berdan.....I, 293
 May 7 *To James Berdan.....I, 294
 Sept. 6 To — Johnston.....I, 294
 Oct. 22 To Joshua F. Speed.....I, 297

1847

- Feb. 25 To — Johnston.....I, 298
 Dec. (1?) Fragments of Tariff Discussion....I, 300
 Dec. 5 To William H. Herndon.....I, 315
 Dec. 13 To William H. Herndon.....I, 316
 Dec. 22 Resolutions in U. S. House of Repre-
 sentativesI, 318

1848

- Jan. 5 Remarks in the U. S. House of Repre-
 sentativesI, 321
 Jan. 8 To William H. Herndon.....I, 325
 Jan. 12 Speech in U. S. House of Repre-
 sentativesI, 327

Jan 19	Report in U. S. House of Representatives I,	348
Jan 19	To William H. Herndon I,	350
Feb. 1	To William H. Herndon I,	351
Feb. 2	To William H. Herndon I,	354
Feb. 13	*To Josephus Hewett I,	355
Feb. 15	To William H. Herndon II,	1
Feb. 20	To U. F. Linder II,	3
March 9	Report in U. S. House of Representatives II,	4
March 9	Report in U. S. House of Representatives II,	10
March 24	To David Lincoln II,	11
March 29	Remarks in U. S. House of Representatives II,	12
April 2	To David Lincoln II,	14
April 30	To E. B. Washburne II,	16
April 30	To Archibald Williams II,	17
May 11	Remarks in U. S. House of Representatives II,	18
May 21	To Rev. J. M. Peck II,	23
June 12	To Archibald Williams II,	26
June 20	Speech in U. S. House of Representatives II,	28
June 22	To William H. Herndon II,	49
June 27	To Horace Greeley II,	53
June 28	Remarks in U. S. House of Representatives II,	54
July (1?)	Fragment on what General Taylor ought to say II,	55
July 10	To William H. Herndon II,	56

1848] **Chronological Index** 73

July 10	*To S. A. Hurlbut.....II,	58
July 27	Speech in U. S. House of Representa- tivesII,	59
Sept. 12	*Report of Speech at Worcester, Mass.II,	89
Dec. 24	To Thomas Lincoln.....II,	96

1849

Jan. 16	Bill to Abolish Slavery in District of Columbia.....II,	96
Feb. 2	To William Schouler.....II,	100
Feb. 13	Remarks in U. S. House of Repre- sentativesII,	101
Feb. 20	To Joshua F. Speed.....II,	104
March 9	To Secretary of Treasury.....II,	105
March 10	To Secretary of State.....II,	106
April 7	To Secretary of Interior.....II,	107
April 7	To Secretary of Interior.....II,	108
April 7	To Post-Master General.....II,	109
April 7	To W. B. Warren and Others....II,	110
April 7	To Secretary of Interior.....II,	112
April 25	To ——— Thompson.....II,	113
April 25	To J. M. Lucas.....II,	114
May (1?)	Indorsement concerning Orville Pad- dockII,	115
May 1	*To C. B. Smith.....XI,	99
May 10	To Secretary of Interior.....II,	115
May 18	To Duff Green.....II,	118
May 19	*To Joseph Gillespie.....II,	119
May (22?)	*Application for a Patent.....II,	120
May 25	To E. EmbreeII,	121

June 3	*To Secretary of Interior.....II,	122
June 5	To William H. Herndon.....II,	122
June 5	Letter asking for Recommendation..II,	123
June 8	To Nathaniel Pope.....II,	124
July 13	*To Joseph Gillespie.....II,	124
Sept. (12?)	Resolutions of Sympathy with the Cause of Hungarian Freedom...II,	127
Sept. 14	*To Dr. William Fithian.....II,	128
Sept. 27	To John Addison.....II,	129
Sept. 27	*To J. M. Clayton.....II,	130
Nov. 21	To Editor of "Chicago Journal"..II,	131
Dec. 15	To ——— ..II,	133

1850

Jan. 29	*To O. H. Browning.....II,	134
Feb. 23	To John D. Johnston.....II,	135
June 3	Resolutions on the Death of Nathan- iel Pope.....II,	135
July (1?)	Fragment. Notes for a Lecture...II,	138
July (1?)	Fragment. Notes for a Law Lec- ture ..II,	140

1851

Jan. (2?)	To John D. Johnston.....II,	144
Jan. 11	*To Charles Hoyt.....II,	146
Jan. 12	To John D. Johnston.....II,	147
March 28	*To Messrs. Browning and Bushnell II,	149
Aug. 31	To John D. Johnston.....II,	149
Nov. 4	To John D. Johnston.....II,	150
Nov. 9	To John D. Johnston.....II,	152

- Dec. 15 To T. J. Henderson.....II, 268
 Dec. 19 To E. B. Washburne.....II, 269

1855

- Jan. 6 To E. B. Washburne.....II, 271
 Feb. 9 To E. B. Washburne.....II, 274
 March 10 *To Sanford, Porter and Striker....II, 278
 March 23 *To O. H. Browning.....XI, 100
 June 7 *To Henry C. Whitney.....XI, 101
 Aug. 15 To George Robertson.....II, 278
 Aug. 24 To Joshua F. Speed.....II, 281
 Dec. 13 To ———, 288
 Dec. (15?) Bill against Central R. R. Co. of
 Illinois, 288

1856

- Feb. 13 *To R. P. Morgan.....II, 289
 June 27 To John Van Dyke.....II, 289
 July 9 To ——— Whitney.....II, 290
 July 12 *To William Grimes.....II, 290
 Aug. (1?) Fragment of Speech at Galena, Ill..II, 292
 Aug. 4 *To John Bennett.....II, 295
 Aug. 19 *To Jesse K. Dubois.....II, 296
 Sept. 8 To Harrison Maltby.....II, 297
 Sept. 14 *To Dr. Robert Boal.....II, 298
 Sept. 14 *To Henry O'Connor.....II, 299
 Oct. 1 Fragment. On Sectionalism.....II, 299
 Dec. 10 Fragment of Speech at Republican
 Banquet, Chicago.....II, 308
 Dec. 15 *To O. H. Browning.....II, 312
 Dec. 25 *To Dr. Robert Boal.....II, 313

1857

Feb. 20	*To John E. Rosette.....II,	313
June 26	Speech at Springfield, Ill.....II,	315
Aug. —	*To William Grimes.....II,	339
Sept. 24	*Argument in the Rock Island Bridge Case	II, 340
Dec. 18	*To Henry C. Whitney.....XI,	102
Dec. 21	*To Jesse K. Dubois.....II,	354

1858

Jan. 19	*To Joseph Gillespie.....II,	354
Feb. 7	*To Joseph Gillespie.....II,	355
Feb. 19	*To Edward G. Miner.....II,	355
Feb. 25	*To Mark Carley.....XI,	104
April 26	To E. B. Washburne.....II,	356
May 10	To J. M. Lucas.....II,	358
May 10	*To E. B. Washburne.....II,	359
May 15	To E. B. Washburne.....II,	360
May 27	To E. B. Washburne.....II,	361
June 1	To Charles L. Wilson.....II,	362
June 1	*To S. A. Hurlbut.....II,	364
June 11	*To Ward H. Lamon.....II,	365
June 15	Notes of Argument in Law Case...II,	366
June (15?)	Brief Autobiography.....II,	368
June 16	Speech in Springfield, Ill.....III,	1
June 19	*To Sydney Spring.....III,	15
June 24	*To Henry C. Whitney.....XI,	104
June 25	To J. W. Somers.....III,	16
June 25	To A. Campbell.....III,	17
July 7	To J. J. Crittenden.....III,	17
July 10	Speech at Chicago, Ill.....III,	19

July 16	*To Joseph Gillespie.....III,	52
July 16	*Speech at Bloomington, Ill., by Senator Douglas.....III,	54
July 17	*Speech at Springfield, Ill., by Senator Douglas	III, 108
July 17	Speech at Springfield, Ill.....III,	155
July 20	*To John Mathers.....III,	188
July 24	Challenge to the Joint Debates...III,	189
July 25	*To Joseph Gillespie.....III,	192
July 29-31	Preliminary Correspondence to the Joint Debates.....III,	193
July 31	To H. Asbury.....III,	197
Aug. 2	*To B. C. Cook.....III,	198
Aug. 5	*To J. M. Palmer.....III,	199
Aug. 11	*To Alexander Sympson.....III,	199
Aug. 21	First Joint Debate, at Ottawa, Ill. Speech by Senator Douglas....III,	200
Aug. 21	Lincoln's Reply in the Ottawa Joint Debate	III, 223
Aug. 21	Senator Douglas' Rejoinder in the Ottawa Joint Debate.....III,	258
Aug. 22	To J. O. Cunningham.....III,	270
Aug. 27	Second Joint Debate, at Freeport, Ill. Speech by Lincoln.....III,	271
Aug. 22	Senator Douglas' Reply in Freeport Joint Debate.....III,	293
Aug. 22	Lincoln's Rejoinder in the Freeport Joint Debate.....III,	335
Sept. 3	*To Dr. William Fithian.....III,	347
Sept. —	*Speech at Clinton, Ill.....III,	349
Sept. 8	*Fragment of Speech at Paris, Ill. .XI,	105

- Sept. 13 *Fragment of Speech at Edwardsville,
Ill.XI, 106
- Sept. 15 Third Joint Debate, at Jonesboro,
Ill. Speech by Senator Douglas.IV, 1
- Sept. 15 Lincoln's Reply in the Jonesboro
Joint Debate.IV, 31
- Sept. 15 Senator Douglas' Rejoinder in the
Jonesboro Joint Debate.IV, 71
- Sept. (16?) Fragment. Notes for Speeches. . . .IV, 88
- Sept. 18 Fourth Joint Debate, at Charleston,
Ill. Speech by Lincoln.IV, 89
- Sept. 18 Senator Douglas' Reply in the
Charleston Joint Debate.IV, 142
- Sept. 18 Lincoln's Rejoinder in the Charles-
ton Joint Debate.IV, 184
- Sept. 25 Order for Furniture.IV, 199
- (Oct. 1?) Fragment. Notes for Speeches. . . .IV, 200
- (Oct. 1?) Fragment. Notes for Speeches. . . .IV, 201
- (Oct. 1?) Fragment. Notes for Speeches. . . .IV, 203
- (Oct. 1?) Fragment. Notes for Speeches. . . .IV, 212
- (Oct. 1?) Fragment. Notes for Speeches. . . .IV, 225
- Oct. 7 Fifth Joint Debate, at Galesburg, Ill.
Speech by Senator Douglas.IV, 237
- Oct. 7 Lincoln's Reply in the Galesburg
Joint Debate.IV, 262
- Oct. 7 Senator Douglas' Rejoinder in the
Galesburg Joint Debate.IV, 297
- Oct. 13 Sixth Joint Debate, at Quincy, Ill.
Speech by Lincoln.IV, 311
- Oct. 13 Senator Douglas' Reply in the
Quincy Joint Debate.IV, 335

Oct. 13	Lincoln's Rejoinder in the Quincy Joint Debate.....IV, 373
Oct. 15	Last Joint Debate, at Alton, Ill. Speech by Senator Douglas.....V, 1
Oct. 15	Lincoln's Reply at Alton Joint De- bateV, 29
Oct. 15	Senator Douglas' Rejoinder at Alton Joint Debate.....V, 72
Oct. (15?)	Fragment. Opinion on Election Laws of Illinois.....V, 86
Oct. 18	*To James N. Brown.....V, 87
Oct. 26	*To A. Simpson.....V, 89
Oct. 30	To E. Lusk.....V, 90
Nov. 4	To J. J. Crittenden.....V, 90
Nov. 15	To N. B. Judd.....V, 91
Nov. 16	To N. B. Judd.....V, 93
Nov. 19	To H. Asbury.....V, 94
Nov. 19	To A. G. Henry.....V, 94
Nov. 20	*To Dr. C. H. Ray.....XI, 111
Nov. 25	To J. A. Matteson.....V, 96
Nov. 30	*To Henry C. Whitney.....XI, 112
Dec. (1?)	*Notes of an Argument.....XI, 112
Dec. 2	*To James T. Thornton.....XI, 114
Dec. 8	*To H. D. Sharpe.....V, 96
Dec. 12	*To Alexander Symson.....V, 97
Dec. 25	*To Henry C. Whitney.....XI, 114

1859

Jan. 6	*Legal Opinion.....V, 97
Feb. (22?)	Lecture on "Discoveries, Inventions and Improvements"V, 99

- March 1 Speech at Chicago on the Night of the
Municipal Election.....V, 114
- March 28 To W. M. Morris.....V, 124
- April 6 To H. L. Pierce and Others.....V, 124
- April 16 To T. J. Pickett.....V, 127
- May 14 To M. W. Delahay.....V, 128
- May 17 To Dr. Theodore Canisius.....V, 129
- July 6 To Schuyler Colfax.....V, 131
- July 11 To James Miller, Treasurer of Illi-
noisV, 133
- July 27 To Samuel Galloway.....V, 134
- July 28 To Samuel Galloway.....V, 136
- Sept. 6 *To Hawkins Taylor.....V, 138
- Sept. 16 Speech at Columbus, O.....V, 140
- Sept. 17 Speech at Cincinnati, O.....V, 190
- Sept. 30 Annual Address before Wisconsin
Agricultural Society.....V, 236
- Oct. 11 To Dr. Edward Wallace.....V, 256
- Nov. 1 To W. E. Frazer.....V, 257
- Nov. 2 *To Dr. ————V, 258
- Nov. 13 To James A. Riggs.....V, 258
- Dec. — *Fragment of Speech at Leavenworth,
Kans.XI, 115
- Dec. 1-5 Speeches in Kansas.....V, 260
- Dec. 9 To N. B. Judd.....V, 281
- Dec. 14 To N. B. Judd.....V, 282
- Dec. 14 To George W. Dole, G. S. Hubbard
and W. H. Brown.....V, 283
- Dec. 19 To G. M. Parsons and Others.....V, 285
- Dec. 20 Autobiographical Sketch Written for
J. W. Fell.....V, 286

1860

Jan. 24	To J. W. Sheahan.....V,	289
Feb. 5	To N. B. Judd.....V,	290
Feb. 9	To N. B. Judd.....V,	290
Feb. 9	To J. M. Lucas.....V,	291
Feb. 13	*To Mr. ——— White.....V,	292
Feb. 27	Address at Cooper Institute, New York City.....V,	293
March 5	Abstract of Speech at Hartford, Conn.V,	329
March 6	Speech at New Haven, Conn.....V,	339
March 9	Abstract of Speech at Norwich, Conn.VI,	1
March 14	*To Alexander W. Harvey.....VI,	5
March 16	To ——— ———VI,	5
March 17	To J. W. Somers.....VI,	6
March 17	To E. Stafford.....VI,	7
March 24	To Samuel Galloway.....VI,	7
April 6	To C. F. McNeil.....VI,	8
April 14	To ——— ———VI,	10
April 21	*To Hawkins Taylor.....VI,	10
May 12	To Dr. Edward Wallace.....VI,	11
May 16-18	Platform of Republican National Convention at Chicago, Ill.....VI,	15
May 19	Reply to Committee notifying Lin- coln of his Nomination for Presi- dentVI,	12
May 21	To J. R. Giddings.....VI,	13
May 23	To George Ashmun and the Repub- lican National Convention.....VI,	14
May 26	To E. B. Washburne.....VI,	20

May 26	To Salmon P. Chase VI,	20
May 26	*To C. B. Smith VI,	21
May 28	*To Samuel Haycraft VI,	21
(June?)	Reply prepared by Lincoln as Answer to Numerous Letters VI,	22
June (1?)	Short Autobiography written for a Friend VI,	24
June 4	*To George Ashmun VI,	38
June 4	*To Samuel Haycraft VI,	39
June 14	Autobiographical Memorandum giv- en to Hicks VI,	40
June 19	*To Samuel Galloway VI,	40
June 28	To William Cullen Bryant VI,	42
July 4	To A. G. Henry VI,	42
July 18	To Hannibal Hamlin VI,	44
July 20	To Cassius M. Clay VI,	44
July 21	To A. Jonas VI,	45
Aug. 10	*To C. B. Smith VI,	47
Aug. 10	To Cassius M. Clay VI,	47
Aug. 14	To T. A. Cheney VI,	48
Aug. 14	Remarks at Springfield, Ill. VI,	49
Aug. 15	To John B. Fry VI,	50
Aug. 16	*To Samuel Haycraft VI,	51
Aug. 17	To Thurlow Weed VI,	51
Aug. 23	*To Samuel Haycraft VI,	52
Aug. 27	To C. H. Fisher VI,	53
Aug. 31	*To John — VI,	54
Sept. 4	To Hannibal Hamlin VI,	54
Sept. 9	To E. B. Washburne VI,	55
Sept. 20	*To N. Sargent VI,	56
Sept. 21	To John Chrisman VI,	56

Sept. 22	To A. G. Henry	VI,	57
Sept. 22	To G. Yoke Tams	VI,	58
Sept. 25	To T. M. Brockman	VI,	59
Sept. 27	*To J. E. Harvey	VI,	59
Sept. 28	*To Professor Gardner	VI,	60
Oct. 1	To J. H. Reed	VI,	60
Oct. 2	*To J. E. Harvey	VI,	61
Oct. 10	*To William H. Herndon	VI,	62
Oct. 15	*Extract from a Letter to L. Montgomery Bond	VI,	62
Oct. 19	To Miss Grace Bedell	VI,	63
Oct. 23	To William S. Spear	VI,	63
Oct. 24	*To J. C. Lee	VI,	64
Oct. 26	*To Maj. David Hunter	VI,	65
Oct. 29	*To Mrs. S. A. Hurlbut	VI,	65
Oct. 29	To George D. Prentice	VI,	66
Nov. 8	To Hannibal Hamlin	VI,	68
Nov. 9	To Gen. Winfield Scott	VI,	68
Nov. 10	To Truman Smith	VI,	68
Nov. 13	*To Samuel Haycraft	VI,	69
Nov. 16	To N. P. Paschall	VI,	70
Nov. 19	*To Henry Asbury	VI,	71
Nov. 20	Remarks at Meeting at Springfield, Ill.	VI,	72
Nov. 27	To Hannibal Hamlin	VI,	72
Nov. 27	*To F. R. Jackson	VI,	73
Nov. 28	To Henry J. Raymond	VI,	74
Nov. 30	To A. H. Stephens	VI,	75
Dec. 8	To Hannibal Hamlin	VI,	75
Dec. 8	To William H. Seward	VI,	76
Dec. 8	To William H. Seward (<i>Private</i>)	VI,	76

1860] **Chronological Index** 85

Dec. 11	Reply to a Letter from William Kellogg VI,	77
Dec. 12	Short Editorial in "Illinois Journal." VI,	78
Dec. 13	To E. B. Washburne. VI,	78
Dec. 15	To John A. Gilmer. VI,	79
Dec. 17	To Thurlow Weed. VI,	82
Dec. 18	To Edward Bates. VI,	83
Dec. 18	*To Henry J. Raymond. VI,	83
Dec. 21	To E. B. Washburne. VI,	84
Dec. 22	*Memorandum regarding Fugitive Slave Clause in Constitution. . . . XI,	115
Dec. 22	To Alexander H. Stephens. VI,	85
Dec. 22	*To Maj. David Hunter. VI,	86
Dec. 24	To Hannibal Hamlin. VI,	86
Dec. 24	*To I. N. Morris. VI,	87
Dec. 28	To Lyman Trumbull. VI,	87
Dec. 28	To Gen. Duff Green. VI,	88
Dec. 29	To William Cullen Bryant. VI,	89
Dec. 31	To Salmon P. Chase. VI,	90
Dec. 31	To Simon Cameron. VI,	90

1861

Jan. 3	To William H. Seward. VI,	90
Jan. 3	To Simon Cameron. VI,	91
Jan. 11	To Gen. Winfield Scott. VI,	92
Jan. 11	To J. T. Hale. VI,	93
Jan. 12	To William H. Seward. VI,	94
Jan. 13	To Simon Cameron and Inclosure. VI,	97
Jan. 14	To Gen. John E. Wool. VI,	98
Jan. 22	*Card to Gen. E. H. Ripley. XI,	116

Jan. 23	To Gen. Edwin C. Wilson.....VI,	98
Jan. 26	To R. A. Cameron, Marsh and Branham, Committee.....VI,	99
Jan. 28	To James Sulgrove, Erie Locke, William Wallace and John T. Wood, Committee.....VI,	100
Jan. 28	To J. W. Tillman.....VI,	100
Jan. 28	To Edward Bates.....VI,	101
Feb. 1	To Gov. E. D. Morgan.....VI,	101
Feb. 1	To William H. Seward.....VI,	102
Feb. 4	To Thurlow Weed.....VI,	104
Feb. 4	To Gov. E. D. Morgan.....VI,	105
Feb. 5	To Edward Bates.....VI,	106
Feb. 6	To Charles S. Olden.....VI,	106
Feb. 7	To the Governor and Legislature of MassachusettsVI,	107
Feb. 7	To William Dennison.....VI,	107
Feb. 7	To J. G. Lowe, T. A. Phillips and W. H. Gillespie, Committee...VI,	108
Feb. 8	To George B. Senter and Others, CommitteeVI,	108
Feb. 8	To A. D. Finney and Others, Com- mitteeVI,	109
Feb. 11	Farewell Address upon leaving Spring- field, Ill.....VI,	110
Feb. 11	Reply to Address of Welcome at Indianapolis, Ind.....VI,	111
Feb. 12	Address to Legislature of Indiana at IndianapolisVI,	112
Feb. 12	Address to Mayor and Citizens of Cincinnati, O.....VI,	115

- Feb. 12 Address to Germans at Cincinnati,
OhioVI, 119
- Feb. 13 Address to Legislature of Ohio at
ColumbusVI, 121
- Feb. 14 Address at Steubenville, O.VI, 122
- Feb. 15 Address at Pittsburg, Pa.VI, 124
- Feb. 15 Address at Cleveland, O.VI, 129
- Feb. 16 Address at Buffalo, N. Y.VI, 132
- Feb. 18 Address at Rochester, N. Y.VI, 135
- Feb. 18 Address at Syracuse, N. Y.VI, 135
- Feb. 18 Address at Utica, N. Y.VI, 136
- Feb. 18 Reply to Mayor of Albany, N. Y. .VI, 136
- Feb. 18 Reply to Gov. E. D. Morgan at Al-
bany, N. Y.VI, 138
- Feb. 18 Address to Legislature of New
YorkVI, 139
- Feb. 19 Address at Troy, N. Y.VI, 142
- Feb. 19 Address at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. .VI, 142
- Feb. 19 Address at Hudson, N. Y.VI, 144
- Feb. 19 Address at Peekskill, N. Y.VI, 145
- Feb. 19 Address at New York City.VI, 145
- Feb. 20 Reply to Mayor of New York City. VI, 149
- Feb. 21 Address to Senate of New Jersey. .VI, 150
- Feb. 21 Address to Assembly of New Jer-
seyVI, 152
- Feb. 21 Reply to Mayor of Philadelphia,
Pa.VI, 154
- Feb. 22 Address in Independence Hall, Phila-
delphia, Pa.VI, 156
- Feb. 22 Address on Raising Flag over Inde-
pendence Hall.VI, 159

Feb. 22	Reply to Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania VI, 160
Feb. 22	Address to Legislature of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg VI, 162
Feb. 27	Reply to Mayor of Washington, D. C. VI, 165
Feb. 28	Reply to Serenade at Washington, D. C. VI, 166
March 1	To William H. Seward VI, 168
March 4	First Inaugural Address VI, 169
March 4	To William H. Seward VI, 185
March 5	*Reply to Pennsylvania Delegation . XI, 116
March 5	*Reply to Massachusetts Delegation XI, 118
March 7	To Secretary William H. Seward . VI, 186
March 7	Reply to Diplomatic Corps VI, 186
March 8	To Schuyler Colfax VI, 187
March 9	Order to Gen. Winfield Scott VI, 188
March 9	To Gen. Winfield Scott VI, 188
March 11	To Secretary William H. Seward . VI, 189
March 12	*To Post-Master General VI, 190
March 12	*To Jacob Collamer XI, 119
March 13	To Post-Master General VI, 190
March 13	To ——— VI, 191
March 13	To Secretary William H. Seward . VI, 191
March 14	To Secretary William H. Seward . VI, 191
March 15	Note asking Cabinet Opinions on Fort Sumter VI, 192
March 16	Message to U. S. Senate VI, 221
March 16	Reply to Minister of Nicaragua . . VI, 222
March 18	To Secretary William H. Seward . VI, 223

- March 18 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . . VI, 224
- March 18 To Secretary Gideon Welles VI, 225
- March 18 To Attorney-General Edward Bates
VI, 225
- March 19 *To Master George Evans Patten . . XI, 119
- March 26 Message to U. S. Senate VI, 225
- March 29 Order to Secretary of War VI, 226
- March 29 Opinions by Members of the Cabinet
on Fort Sumter VI, 227
- March 30 *To John T. Stuart VI, 231
- April 1 Order to Lieut. D. D. Porter VI, 232
- April 1 Instructions to Lieut. D. D. Porter . VI, 232
- April 1 Order to Com. Andrew H. Foote . . VI, 233
- April 1 Order to Officers of Army and
Navy VI, 233
- April 1 Memorandum from Secretary William
H. Seward VI, 234
- April 1 Reply to Secretary William H. Sew-
ard's Memorandum VI, 236
- April 1 To Gen. Winfield Scott VI, 238
- April 2 Order to Captain Samuel Mercer . . VI, 238
- April 2 *Order on Secretary of State VI, 239
- April 3 Order to Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes . VI, 239
- April 4 Instructions to Maj. Robert Ander-
son VI, 239
- April 6 Instructions to R. S. Chew VI, 241
- April 10 *To Secretary of War VI, 242
- April 11 *Authorization of a Washington
Newspaper VI, 242
- April 13 Reply to a Committee from Virginia
Convention VI, 243

- April 15 Proclamation calling for 75,000
Militia and convening Congress. VI, 246
- April 19 Proclamation of Blockade. VI, 248
- April 20 Reply to Governor Hicks and Mayor
Brown VI, 251
- April 20 To Governor Hicks. VI, 252
- April 22 To Governor of Maryland from
Secretary of State. VI, 252
- April 24 To Reverdy Johnson. VI, 254
- April 25 Order to Gen. Winfield Scott. . . . VI, 255
- April 27 Proclamation of Blockade. VI, 256
- April 27 Order to Gen. Winfield Scott. . . . VI, 258
- April 29 *To Secretary of Interior. VI, 258
- May (1?) Unsigned draft of Letter to Gov-
ernor of Tennessee. VI, 258
- May 1 To Maj. Robert Anderson. VI, 260
- May 1 To George W. Caldwell. VI, 260
- May 1 To Gustavus V. Fox. VI, 261
- May 3 Proclamation calling for 42,034
Volunteers VI, 263
- May 6 To Vice-President Hannibal Ham-
lin VI, 265
- May 6 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . VI, 266
- May 6 To ——— Johnson from John Hay. VI, 266
- May 6 To Secretary William H. Seward. . VI, 267
- May 7 Order to Col. Robert Anderson. . . VI, 267
- May 8 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . VI, 268
- May 9 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . VI, 269
- May 10 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . VI, 269
- May 10 Unsigned Letter to Gov. William
Sprague VI, 270

- May 10 Proclamation suspending Writ of Habeas Corpus in Florida.VI, 271
- May 11 Order to Secretary Gideon Welles. VI, 272
- May 13 To Secretary Simon Cameron. . . .VI, 273
- May 16 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . .VI, 273
- May 18 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . .VI, 274
- May 18 To Col. F. P. Blair.VI 275
- May 21 President's Corrections of a Diplomatic Dispatch Written by the Secretary of State.VI, 277
- May 21 *To J. A. McClernand.VI, 286
- May 22 *To Gov. E. D. Morgan.VI, 286
- May 25 To Colonel Ellsworth's Parents. . .VI, 287
- May 27 To Gen. W. S. Harney from Adjutant-GeneralVI, 288
- May 27 *Dispatch to Col. W. A. Bartlett. .VI, 289
- June 5 To Gen. Winfield Scott.VI, 290
- June 13 *To Secretary Simon Cameron. . . .VI, 291
- June 13 *To Secretary Simon Cameron. . . .VI, 291
- June 17 *To Secretary Simon Cameron. . . .VI, 291
- June 17 *To Secretary Simon Cameron. . . .VI, 292
- June 17 *From Gov. O. P. Morton.VI, 292
- June 19 To Gen. J. K. F. Mansfield.VI, 293
- June 20 To Secretary Simon Cameron. . . .VI, 294
- June 29 *To Kentucky Delegation.VI, 294
- July 2 Order authorizing General Scott to suspend Writ of Habeas Corpus. VI, 295
- July 3 To Secretary William H. Seward. .VI, 296
- July 4 Message to Congress in Special SessionVI, 297
- July 6 *To Secretary Caleb B. Smith. . . .VI, 325

- July 10 Memorandum to Gen. S. B. BucknerVI, 325
- July 11 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVI, 326
- July 15 Memorandum about Defeat at Vienza, Va.VI, 327
- July 16 Message to Congress.VI, 329
- July 18 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase.VI, 329
- July 19 To Adjutant-General.XI, 120
- July 19 *To Secretary William H. Seward.VI, 330
- July 19 Message to Congress.VI, 330
- July 23 Memoranda of Military Policy suggested by Bull Run Defeat.VI, 331
- July 24 *Order to Governor of New Jersey. VI, 333
- July 25 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVI, 334
- July 25 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVI, 334
- July 27 Message to U. S. Senate.VI, 334
- July 27 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVI, 335
- July 30 Message to U. S. Senate.VI, 335
- July 30 Message to U. S. Senate.VI, 335
- Aug. 1 To the Tycoon of Japan.VI, 336
- Aug. 1 To Secretary Simon Cameron.VI, 337
- Aug. 2 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVI, 337
- Aug. 3 To Governor of Missouri.VI, 338
- Aug. 5 Message to U. S. Senate.VI, 338
- Aug. 5 To Gen. John C. Frémont.VI, 339
- Aug. 7 To Secretary Simon Cameron.VI, 339

- Aug. 8 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..VI, 340
- Aug. 12 Proclamation of a National Fast
DayVI, 341
- Aug. 15 To Gov. O. P. Morton.....VI, 343
- Aug. 15 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VI, 344
- Aug. 15 To John A. Gurley.....VI, 344
- Aug. 15 *To James Pollock.....VI, 344
- Aug. 16 Proclamation forbidding Intercourse
with Rebel States.....VI, 345
- Aug. 17 To Secretary Simon Cameron.....VI, 348
- Aug. 24 To Gov. B. Magoffin.....VI, 349
- Sept. 2 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VI, 350
- Sept. 9. To Gen. David Hunter.....VI, 352
- Sept. 11 Telegram to Governors Washburne,
Fairbanks, Berry, Andrew, Buck-
ingham and Sprague.....VI, 352
- Sept. 11 Order to Gen. John C. Frémont...VI, 353
- Sept. 12 To Mrs. FrémontVI, 354
- Sept. 12 To Joseph Holt.....VI, 354
- Sept. (15?) Indorsement on Letter of John W.
DavisVI, 355
- Sept. 16 To Gen. Winfield Scott.....VI, 356
- Sept. 17 *Indorsement on Paper.....VI, 356
- Sept. 18 To Secretary Simon Cameron.....VI, 356
- Sept. 22 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VI, 357
- Sept. 22 To O. H. Browning.....VI, 357
- Sept. 24 Memorandum about Guns.....VI, 361
- Sept. 29 To Gov. O. P. Morton.....VII, 1
- Sept. 30 *To Gen. Winfield Scott.....VII, 3
- Oct. (1?) Memorandum for a Plan of Cam-
paignVII, 3

Oct. 4	*To Secretary William H. Seward. VII,	6
Oct. 10	*Memorandum to Secretary Simon Cameron VII,	6
Oct. 11	To Viceroy of Egypt. VII,	7
Oct. 14	Order suspending Writ of Habeas Corpus VII,	8
Oct. 14	*To Secretary Caleb B. Smith. . . . VII,	8
Oct. 17	*To Major Ramsey. XI,	120
Oct. 21	To Archbishop John Hughes. . . . VII,	8
Oct. 24	To Gen. S. R. Curtis, with Inclo- sures VII,	9
Oct. 24	To Commander of Department of the West. VII,	11
Nov. 1	Order retiring Gen. Winfield Scott VII,	13
Nov. 6	Order approving Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble's Plan. VII,	15
Nov. 10	To Gen. J. A. McClernand. VII,	18
Nov. 18	To George Bancroft. VII,	20
Nov. 18	*To Gen. Hiram Walbridge. VII,	21
Nov. 21	*To Governor Walker. XI,	120
Nov. (26?)	Draft of a Proposed Bill for Com- pensated Abolishment in Dela- ware VII,	21
Nov. 27	Memorandum of Advice to Mrs. Douglas VII,	23
Dec. (1?)	Inquiries about Potomac Cam- paign VII,	24
Dec. 2	Order authorizing Gen. H. W. Hal- leck to suspend Writ of Habeas Corpus VII,	26

1861] **Chronological Index** 95

Dec. 3	Annual Message to Congress....VII,	28
Dec. 4	Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVII,	61
Dec. 4	Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVII,	61
Dec. 6	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	61
Dec. 9	Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVII,	62
Dec. (10?)	Draft of Despatch proposing Arbitration in Trent Affair.....VII,	63
Dec. 14	Message to U. S. Senate.....VII,	65
Dec. 17	Message to Congress.....VII,	66
Dec. 20	Message to Congress.....VII,	66
Dec. 23	Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVII,	67
Dec. 30	Message to CongressVII,	67
Dec. 31	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	68
Dec. 31	*To Maj.-Gen. David Hunter....VII,	68

1862

Jan. 1	To Gen. D. C. Buell.....VII,	70
Jan. 1	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	70
Jan. 1	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	71
Jan. 2	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase...VII,	71
Jan. 2	Message to Congress.....VII,	72
Jan. 4	To Gen. D. C. Buell.....VII,	72
Jan. 6	To Gen. D. C. Buell.....VII,	73
Jan. 7	To Gen. D. C. Buell.....VII,	74
Jan. 9	Indorsement about Allotment Commissioners for Iowa.....VII,	74
Jan. 10	Message to Congress.....VII,	75

Jan. 10	Indorsement on Letter from Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	75
Jan. 11	Correspondence relating to Resignation of Secretary Simon Cameron VII,	79
Jan. 13	To Gen. D. C. Buell.....VII,	83
Jan. 15	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	85
Jan. 15	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	85
Jan. 16	*Card to Secretary of Treasury....XI,	122
Jan. 17	Message to Congress.....VII,	86
Jan. 20	*Order to Gen. George B. McClellanVII,	87
Jan. 22	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..VII,	87
Jan. 24	Message to Congress.....VII,	88
Jan. 24	Indorsement on Letter from Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.....VII,	88
Jan. 24	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..VII,	89
Jan. 27	President's General War Order No 1 VII,	89
Jan. 31	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.VII,	90
Jan. 31	Special War Order No. 1.....VII,	91
Jan. 31	Message to Congress.....VII,	91
Feb. 3	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	93
Feb. 3	Memorandum accompanying Above VII,	94
Feb. 3	To William H. Herndon.....VII,	94
Feb. 4	To L. W. Powell.....VII,	95
Feb. 4	Respite for Nathaniel Gordon...VII,	95
Feb. 4	Message to Congress.....VII,	97
Feb. 7	Message to U. S. Senate.....VII,	98
Feb. 9	Directions to Gen. D. C. Buell....VII,	98

Feb. 10	To Generals D. Hunter and J. H. Lane	VII, 99
Feb. 12	Message to Congress	VII, 100
Feb. 14	Amnesty to Political or State Prisoners	VII, 100
Feb. 15	Message to Congress	VII, 104
Feb. 15	Note concerning Contrabands	VII, 105
Feb. 16	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VII, 105
Feb. 19	Proclamation concerning Washington's Birthday	VII, 107
Feb. 25	Message to Congress	VII, 107
Feb. 26	Message to Congress	VII, 108
Feb. 27	Executive Order No. 2 — relating to State Prisoners	VII, 108
Feb. 28	Order relating to Commercial Inter-course	VII, 109
March 3	Message to Congress	VII, 110
March 3	Message to U. S. House of Representatives	VII, 110
March 3	Message to Congress	VII, 111
March 6	Message to Congress recommending Compensated Emancipation	VII, 112
March 7	To Secretary William H. Seward	VII, 115
March 8	General War Order No. 2	VII, 116
March 8	General War Order No. 3	VII, 117
March 8	Instructions to Gen. D. C. Buell	VII, 118
March 9	To Henry J. Raymond	VII, 119
March 10	Memorandum of Interview with Border State Representatives	VII, 120
March 10	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase	VII, 128
March 10	To Gen. D. C. Buell	VII, 128

March 10	Instructions to Assistant Secretary Gustavus V. Fox.....VII, 129
March 11	Special War Order No. 3.....VII, 129
March 12	Message to U. S. Senate.....VII, 130
March 13	*Indorsement on Application for Posi- tionVII, 131
March 14	To J. A. McDougall.....VII, 132
March 14	Message to Congress.....VII, 134
March 15	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..VII, 134
March 15	To Secretary William H. Seward.VII, 135
March 19	To Dr. Samuel Boyd Tobey.....VII, 135
March 20	Message to Congress.....VII, 136
March 21	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 137
March 21	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 138
March 26	Message to Congress.....VII, 138
April 3	Instruction to Secretary Edwin M. StantonVII, 138
April 3	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 139
April 4	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 139
April 5	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesVII, 140
April 6	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 140
April 9	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 141
April 9	*To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 144
April 10	Proclamation recommending Thanks- giving for Victories.....VII, 144
April 10	To R. Yates and William Butler.VII, 145
April 14	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesVII, 146
April 16	Message to Congress.....VII, 146
April 18	Message to Congress.....VII, 147

- April 21 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 147
- April 22 Unsigned Draft of Letter to James
G. Berrett.....VII, 148
- April 23 To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 149
- April 24 Message to U. S. Senate.....VII, 149
- April 24 *To Post-Master General.....VII, 149
- April 26 Message to U. S. House of Repre-
sentativesVII, 150
- April 27 To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VII, 150
- April 29 *To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 151
- May 1 Message to U. S. Senate.....VII, 151
- May 1 Message to U. S. Senate.....VII, 152
- May 1 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 152
- May 1 To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 153
- May 4 To Gen. J. E. Wool.....VII, 153
- May (6?) Response to Evangelical Lutherans
VII, 153
- May 7 To Flag-Officer L. M. Goldsborough
VII, 155
- May 9 To Gen. George B. McClellan VII, 156
- May 10 To Flag Officer L. M. Goldsborough
VII, 158
- May 12 Proclamation raising Blockade of
Certain Ports.....VII, 158
- May 14 Message to Congress.....VII, 160
- May 14 Message to Congress.....VII, 161
- May 15 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 163
- May (15?) Reply to Resolutions of East Balti-
more Methodist Conference...VII, 163
- May 15 *Speech to 12th Indiana Regiment.VII, 164
- May 16 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII, 165

May 16	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	166
May 17	Proposed Additions to Instructions to General McDowell.....VII,	166
May 17	Indorsement relating to Gen. David Hunter's Order of Military Eman- cipation	VII, 167
May 18	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	168
May 18	*To Charles L. Flint.....VII,	170
May 19	Proclamation revoking Order of Military Emancipation.....VII,	170
May 20	*To Lady Villiers.....VII,	173
May 21	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	174
May 22	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	174
May 22	Indorsement on Letter of G. Mon- tague Hicks.....VII,	175
May 22	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentatives	VII, 175
May 23	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentatives	VII, 176
May 24	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VII,	176
May 24	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VII,	176
May 24	To Gen. Rufus Saxton.....VII,	178
May 24	To Col. D. S. Miles.....VII,	178
May 24	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	178
May 24	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	179
May 24	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	179
May 24	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	180
May 24	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	181
May (24?)	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	181
May 24	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....VII,	182
May 24	Message to U. S. Senate.....VII,	182

May 25	To Gen. J. W. Geary.....VII,	183
May 25	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VII,	183
May 25	Order taking Possession of Rail- roads	VII, 184
May 25	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase..VII,	184
May 25	To Gen. Rufus Saxton.....VII,	185
May 25	To Gen. Rufus Saxton.....VII,	185
May 25	To Gen. Rufus Saxton.....VII,	186
May 25	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VII,	186
May 26	Message to Congress.....VII,	189
May 26	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VII,	194
May 26	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	194
May 26	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	195
May 26	To Gen. J. B. Ricketts.....VII,	195
May 27	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	195
May 27	To Governor Andrew.....VII,	195
May 28	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	196
May 28	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	197
May 28	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	197
May 28	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	198
May 28	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	198
May 28	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	199
May 28	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	200
May 29	To Gen. R. B. Marcy.....VII,	200
May 29	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	201
May 29	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....VII,	201
May 29	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	202
May 29	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	202
May 29	To Gen. R. B. Marcy.....VII,	202
May 30	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	203
May 30	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....VII,	203

May 30	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	204
May 30	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	204
May 30	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	205
May 30	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	205
May 30	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	206
May 31	To Gen. G. A. McCall.....VII,	206
May 31	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	207
May 31	To Gen. G. A. McCall.....VII,	208
June 1	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	208
June 1	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	209
June 1	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	209
June 1	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....VII,	210
June 3	To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII,	210
June 3	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	211
June 4	To Judge-Advocate Lee.....VII,	211
June 4	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentatives	VII, 211
June 4	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	212
June 4	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VII,	212
June 6	To Gen. I. McDowell.....VII,	212
June 7	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VII,	213
June 8	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII,	214
June 9	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....VII,	214
June 9	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	214
June 9	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VII,	215
June 9	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VII,	215
June 10	Message to Congress.....VII,	215
June 12	To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII,	216
June 12	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentatives	VII, 217
June 12	To Gen. Franz Sigel.....VII,	217

- June 12 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII, 218
- June 13 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVII, 219
- June 13 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII, 219
- June 15 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 220
- June 15 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII, 222
- June 16 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII, 224
- June 16 To Gen. Carl Schurz.....VII, 226
- June 17 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesVII, 226
- June 17 From Secretary Stanton to Gen. F. SigelVII, 227
- June 17 To Gen. John C. Frémont.....VII, 227
- June 18 To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 228
- June 18 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 228
- June 19 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 228
- June 20 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 229
- June 21 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 229
- June 22 To Gen. N. P. Banks.....VII, 230
- June 23 Message to U. S. Senate.....VII, 230
- June 24 From General Scott to Lincoln..VII, 233
- June 26 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 234
- June 26 Order Constituting Army of VirginiaVII, 235
- June 26 To John W. Crisfield.....VII, 237
- June 28 To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VII, 238
- June 28 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VII, 239
- June 28 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VII, 239
- June 28 To Gen. George B. McClellan...VII, 239
- June 28 To Secretary William H. Seward.VII, 240
- June 28 To Gen. John A. Dix.....VII, 242

June 28	To Flag-Officer L. M. Goldsborough	VII, 242
June 28	*To Gov. O. P. Morton	VII, 242
June 29	To Secretary William H. Seward	VII, 243
June 30	To Secretary William H. Seward	VII, 245
June 30	Call for Troops	VII, 245
June 30	To Gen. John A. Dix	VII, 246
June 30	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VII, 247
June 30	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VII, 248
July 1	Call for 300,000 Volunteers	VII, 248
July 1	Proclamation concerning Taxes in Rebellious States	VII, 251
July 1	Message to Congress	VII, 253
July 1	To Gen. George B. McClellan	VII, 253
July 2	To Gov. E. D. Morgan	VII, 254
July 2	To Gen. George B. McClellan	VII, 254
July 2	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VII, 255
July 2	Message to U. S. Senate	VII, 256
July 3	Circular Letter to Governors	VII, 256
July 3	To Gen. George B. McClellan	VII, 257
July 3	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler	VII, 258
July 4	To Gen. George B. McClellan	VII, 259
July 4	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VII, 260
July 4	To Gen. John A. Dix	VII, 260
July 5	To Gen. George B. McClellan	VII, 261
July 6	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VII, 261
July 9	Memorandum from Gen. George B. McClellan's Headquarters	VII, 262
July 11	Order making Gen. H. W. Halleck General-in-Chief	VII, 266
July 11	Message to Congress	VII, 267

- July 11 To Gov. Andrew JohnsonVII, 268
- July 11 To Gen. H. W. HalleckVII, 269
- July 12 Appeal to Favor Compensated
EmancipationVII, 270
- July 12 Message to U. S. House of Repre-
sentativesVII, 274
- July 13 To Gen. George B. McClellan . . .VII, 274
- July 13 To Gen. H. W. HalleckVII, 275
- July 13 To Gen. J. T. BoyleVII, 275
- July 13 To Gen. J. T. BoyleVII, 275
- July 14 Message to CongressVII, 276
- July 14 To Gen. H. W. HalleckVII, 277
- July 14 To Gen. George B. McClellan . . .VII, 277
- July 14 To J. W. White and Others . . .VII, 278*
- July 14 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . .VII, 278
- July 15 To Solomon FootVII, 279
- July 15 To Galusha A. GrowVII, 279 ✓
- July 17 Message to CongressVII, 279
- July 17 Message to CongressVII, 280
- July 18 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . .VII, 286
- July 21 To Gen. George B. McClellan . . .VII, 286
- July 22 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton .VII, 287
- July 22 Order Authorizing Employment of
Contrabands.VII, 287
- July 22 Emancipation Proclamation as First
Submitted to the CabinetVII, 289
- July 24 To James DixonVII, 290
- July 25 ProclamationVII, 291
- July 26 To Reverdy JohnsonVII, 292
- July 28 To Cuthbert BullittVII, 294
- July 28 *To Governors of Union States . .VII, 298

July 28	To Governors of Union States . . . VII,	298
July 30	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . VII,	298
July 31	To August Belmont VII,	299
July 31	To Joseph A. Wright VII,	300
Aug. 4	To Count A. de Gasparin VII,	301
Aug. 6	Address at a Union Meeting in Washington VII,	304
Aug. 7	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VII,	306
Aug. 8	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VII,	306
Aug. 9	To John M. Clay VII,	307
Aug. 11	To Gen. A. E. Burnside VII,	307
Aug. 12	To Gen. S. R. Curtis VII,	308
Aug. 12	To Gen. George B. McClellan . . VII,	308
Aug. 12	To Cassius M. Clay VII,	309
Aug. 12	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . VII,	309
Aug. 12	*To Gov. A. G. Curtin VII,	310
Aug. 14	Address to Deputation of Colored Men VIII,	1
Aug. 14	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VIII,	9
Aug. 14	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VIII,	10
Aug. 14	*To Officer at Camp Chase VIII,	10
Aug. 15	*To Officer at Camp Douglass . . VIII,	10
Aug. 16	*To Hon. Hiram Barney VIII,	10
Aug. 16	To George P. Fisher VIII,	11
Aug. 18	*To S. B. Moody VIII,	12
Aug. 18	Note of Introduction VIII,	13
Aug. 19	Memorandum about Appointment of Collector VIII,	13
Aug. 21	*To Mrs. Margaret Preston VIII,	13
Aug. 21	*To Gillet F. Watson VIII,	14
Aug. 22	To Horace Greeley VIII,	15

Aug. 27	Memorandum about Appointment of Collector	VIII,	17
Aug. 27	To Washington Talcott	VIII,	17
Aug. 27	To Governor Ramsey	VIII,	18
Aug. 27	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	18
Aug. 27	*To Gen. A. E. Burnside	VIII,	18
Aug. 28	*To Gen. A. E. Burnside	VIII,	18
Aug. 28	*To Col. Hermann Haupt	VIII,	18
Aug. 29	*To Gen. A. E. Burnside	VIII,	19
Aug. 29	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	19
Aug. 29	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	19
Aug. 31	To Gen. J. T. Boyle	VIII,	20
Sept. 3	Order to Gen. H. W. Halleck . .	VIII,	20
Sept. 4	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton .	VIII,	21
Sept. 7	To Gen. H. G. Wright	VIII,	21
Sept. 7	To Gen. J. T. Boyle	VIII,	21
Sept. 7	To Gen. J. E. Wool	VIII,	21
Sept. 8	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	22
Sept. 8	To Gen. D. C. Buell	VIII,	22
Sept. 9	To Thomas Webster	VIII,	22
Sept. 10	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	23
Sept. 11	To Gov. A. G. Curtin	VIII,	23
Sept. 11	To Gov. A. G. Curtin	VIII,	24
Sept. 11	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	24
Sept. 12	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	25
Sept. 12	To Gov. A. G. Curtin	VIII,	25
Sept. 12	To Gen. H. G. Wright	VIII,	26
Sept. 12	To Gen. J. T. Boyle	VIII,	26
Sept. 12	To Alexander Henry	VIII,	27
Sept. 12	To Gen. George B. McClellan . .	VIII,	28
Sept. 13	Reply to Church Committees . . .	VIII,	28

Sept. 14	To Gen. H. G. Wright	VIII,	34
Sept. 15	To Gen. George B. McClellan	VIII,	34
Sept. 15	To Jesse K. Dubois	VIII,	34
Sept. 16	To Gov. A. G. Curtin	VIII,	35
Sept. 16	To Gov. A. G. Curtin	VIII,	35
Sept. 17	*To Gov. O. P. Morton	VIII,	35
Sept. 20	*To General Ketchum	VIII,	36
Sept. 22	Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation	VIII,	36
Sept. 24	Proclamation suspending the Writ of Habeas Corpus	VIII,	41
Sept. 24	Letter Introducing Edward Everett	VIII,	43
Sept. 24	Reply to a Serenade	VIII,	43
Sept. 25	To John Ross	VIII,	45
Sept. 26	Matter relative to the Dismissal of Maj. John J. Key	VIII,	46
Sept. 28	To Hannibal Hamlin	VIII,	49
Sept. (28?)	Reply to an Address by Mrs. Gurney	VIII,	50
Sept. 29	To Gov. Edward Stanley	VIII,	51
Sept. (30?)	Meditation on the Divine Will	VIII,	52
Oct. 3	*To Gen. H. W. Halleck	VIII,	53
Oct. 4	*Remarks at Frederick, Md.	XI,	124
Oct. 6	To Gen. George B. McClellan from Gen. H. W. Halleck	VIII,	53
Oct. 7	*To Gen. George B. McClellan	VIII,	54
Oct. 8	To T. H. Clay	VIII,	55
Oct. 8	To Gen. U. S. Grant	VIII,	55
Oct. 10	To Gen. S. R. Curtis	VIII,	56
Oct. 11	To Gen. J. T. Boyle	VIII,	56

Oct. 12	To Gen. J. T. Boyle.....VIII,	56
Oct. 12	*To Gen. S. R. Curtis.....VIII,	57
Oct. 13	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VIII,	57
Oct. 14	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler and OthersVIII,	61
Oct. 16	*To Gov. F. H. Peirpoint.....VIII,	62
Oct. 18	To Surgeon-General.....VIII,	63
Oct. 19	To Gen. D. C. Buell from Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VIII,	63
Oct. 20	Executive Order establishing a Pro- visional Court in Louisiana...VIII,	64
Oct. 21	To Gen. George B. McClellan from Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VIII,	66
Oct. 23	*To Gov. F. H. PeirpointVIII,	67
Oct. 24	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VIII,	67
Oct. 25	Memorandum to write to Theodore CanisiusVIII,	68
Oct. 26	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VIII,	68
Oct. 27	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VIII,	69
Oct. 27	To Gen. George B. McClellan..VIII,	69
Oct. 29	*To Gen. George B. McClellan..VIII,	70
Oct. 30	*To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....VIII,	70
Oct. 31	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VIII,	71
Nov. 1	Memorandum. To Whom it may ConcernVIII,	71
Nov. 5	To Col. W. R. Morrison.....VIII,	72
Nov. 5	Order relieving Gen. George B. Mc- Clellan, and Other Changes..VIII,	72
Nov. 7	Military Order.....VIII,	73
Nov. 7	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase..VIII,	73
Nov. 10	To Gen. John Pope.....VIII,	73

Nov. 12	Order concerning Blockade.....	VIII,	74
Nov. 13	Order concerning Confiscation Act	VIII,	74
Nov. 14	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....	VIII,	76
Nov. 14	*To F. P. Blair, Jr.....	VIII,	76
Nov. 15	General Order respecting Observance of the Sabbath in the Army and Navy	VIII,	76
Nov. 17	To Gen. F. P. Blair.....	VIII,	77
Nov. 18	To Gen. John A. Dix.....	VIII,	78
Nov. 20	Draft of Letter to George Robert- son	VIII,	78
Nov. 21	To Gov. G. F. Shepley.....	VIII,	79
Nov. 21	To Gov. G. F. Shepley.....	VIII,	80
Nov. 22	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....	VIII,	81
Nov. 22	To W. L. Vance.....	VIII,	83
Nov. 24	To Maj. John J. Key.....	VIII,	48
Nov. 24	To Gen. Carl Schurz.....	VIII,	84
Nov. 25	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....	VIII,	87
Nov. 25	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase..	VIII,	87
Nov. 26	To George Robertson.....	VIII,	87
Nov. 27	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....	VIII,	88
Nov. 29	To Attorney-General Edward Bates	VIII,	90
Nov. 30	*To Gen. S. R. Curtis.....	VIII,	92
Dec. 1	*To Judge Advocate General....	VIII,	92
Dec. 1	Annual Message to Congress....	VIII,	93
Dec. 3	Message to Congress.....	VIII,	132
Dec. 5	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase..	VIII,	133
Dec. 6	*To General Sibley	VIII,	133
Dec. 7	To C. P. Kirkland.....	VIII,	136

- Dec. 8 Message to Congress VIII, 136
- Dec. 8 *To Gov. Andrew Johnson VIII, 137
- Dec. 9 Message to U. S. Senate VIII, 137
- Dec. 10 To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII, 138
- Dec. 10 Message to Congress VIII, 138
- Dec. 10 *To Jesse K. Dubois VIII, 139 ✓
- Dec. 11 Message to U. S. Senate VIII, 139
- Dec. 12 Message to Congress VIII, 142
- Dec. 12 To Fernando Wood VIII, 142 ✓
- Dec. 14 *To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII, 144
- Dec. 16 *To General Sibley VIII, 144
- Dec. 16 *To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII, 145
- Dec. 16 *To Gen. A. E. Burnside VIII, 145
- Dec. 17 *To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII, 146
- Dec. 17 *To Gen. A. E. Burnside VIII, 146 ✓
- Dec. 18 Message to Congress VIII, 146
- Dec. 18 *To Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble . . VIII, 147
- Dec. 19 *To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII, 147
- Dec. 19 To Gen. A. E. Burnside VIII, 147
- Dec. 20 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VIII, 148
- Dec. 20 To Secretaries William H. Seward
and Salmon P. Chase VIII, 148
- Dec. 21 *To Mrs. Lincoln VIII, 148
- Dec. 22 To Gen. John A. Dix VIII, 149
- Dec. 22 Congratulations to Army of the Po-
tomac VIII, 149
- Dec. 22 To Gens. W. B. Franklin and W.
F. Smith VIII, 150
- Dec. 22 Message to U. S. Senate VIII, 151
- Dec. 23 Note to the Cabinet VIII, 151
- Dec. 23 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VIII, 152

Dec. 23	*To Miss Fanny McCullough . . . VIII,	152
Dec. 24	Message to Congress VIII,	153
Dec. 27	*To Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble . . VIII,	153
Dec. 29	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler . . . VIII,	154
Dec. 30	To Gen. A. E. Burnside VIII,	154
Dec. 30	To Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble . . VIII,	154
Dec. 30	Draft of Emancipation Proclama- tion VIII,	155
Dec. 31	Opinion on Admission of West Vir- ginia into the Union VIII,	157

1863

Jan. 1	Final Emancipation Proclamation VIII,	161
Jan. 1	To Gen. H. W. Halleck VIII,	165
Jan. 1	To Hon. Edwin M. Stanton from Gen. H. W. Halleck VIII,	165
Jan. 1	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . VIII,	166
Jan. 2	Message to Congress VIII,	167
Jan. 2	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler . . . VIII,	167
Jan. 2	To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII,	168
Jan. 4	To Secretary Gideon Welles . . . VIII,	170
Jan. 5	To Gen. S. R. Curtis VIII,	171
Jan. 5	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentatives VIII,	173
Jan. 5	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans VIII,	173
Jan. 5	*To Caleb Russell and Sallie A. Fen- ton VIII,	174
Jan. 5	From Gen. A. E. Burnside VIII,	177
Jan. 6	Memorandum about Organizing Blacks VIII,	175

- Jan. 7 *To Gen. John A. Dix.....VIII, 175
- Jan. 7 To Green Adams.....VIII, 175 ✓
- Jan. 7 To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....VIII, 176
- Jan. 7 To B. G. Brown.....VIII, 176 ✓
- Jan. 7 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VIII, 179
- Jan. 8 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VIII, 181
- Jan. 8 To Gen. J. A. McClernand.....VIII, 181
- Jan. 8 To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VIII, 183
- Jan. 9 Message to Congress.....VIII, 184
- Jan. 10 To Gen. S. R. Curtis.....VIII, 184
- Jan. 10 To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....VIII, 185
- Jan. 12 To Gov. W. A. Buckingham...VIII, 185
- Jan. 12 Instruction to Judge-Advocate-Gen-
eralVIII, 186
- Jan. 14 To Gen. John A. Dix.....VIII, 186
- Jan. 14 To Gen. S. R. Curtis from Secretary
Edwin M. Stanton.....VIII, 187
- Jan. 14 Message to U. S. House of Repre-
sentativesVIII, 188
- Jan. 15 *To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.VIII, 191
- Jan. 17 Message to Congress.....VIII, 191
- Jan. 19 To Workingmen of Manchester,
EnglandVIII, 194
- Jan. 20 To S. T. Glover.....VIII, 197 ✓
- Jan. 20 Message to U. S. Senate.....VIII, 198
- Jan. 21 Message to Congress.....VIII, 198
- Jan. 21 Indorsement on Proceedings and Sen-
tence of Court-Martial.....VIII, 199
- Jan. 21 To Gen. U. S. Grant from Gen. H.
W. Halleck.....VIII, 199
- Jan. 22 To Gen. J. A. McClernand.....VIII, 201

Jan. 22	To Gen. Frederick Steele.....VIII, 201
Jan. 22	Memorandum about a Man's Prop- ertyVIII, 202
Jan. 23	Message to Congress.....VIII, 203
Jan. 23	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.VIII, 203
Jan. 25	Order relieving Gen. A. E. Burnside and making Other Changes..VIII, 204
Jan. 26	Message to U. S. Senate....VIII, 204
Jan. 26	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 206
Jan. 28	Message to Congress.....VIII, 207
Jan. 28	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler....VIII, 208
Jan. 29	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.VIII, 208
Jan. 29	To Thurlow Weed.....VIII, 209
Jan. 29	*To Gen. John A. Dix.....VIII, 209
Jan. 30	*To Gen. John A. Dix.....VIII, 209
Jan. 31	*To Gen. John A. Dix.....VIII, 209
Jan. 31	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck.....VIII, 210
Feb. 1	*To Gov. O. P. Morton.....VIII, 210
Feb. 1	To Gen. J. T. Boyle.....VIII, 210
Feb. 2	To the Workingmen of London, EnglandVIII, 211
Feb. 4	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesVIII, 212
Feb. 4	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck.....VIII, 213
Feb. 6	Message to U. S. Senate.....VIII, 213
Feb. 6	Message to U. S. Senate.....VIII, 213
Feb. 10	Message to U. S. Senate.....VIII, 214
Feb. 12	Message to U. S. Senate.....VIII, 214
Feb. 12	Telegram to General W. S. Rose- cransVIII, 214
Feb. 13	Message to U. S. Senate.....VIII, 215

- Feb. 13 Message to U. S. House of Representatives VIII, 215
- Feb. 17 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans VIII, 215
- Feb. 19 *To William H. Herndon VIII, 217
- Feb. 22 To Rev. Alexander Reed VIII, 217
- Feb. 27 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 218
- Feb. 28 Message to U. S. Senate VIII, 218
- Feb. 28 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . VIII, 219
- Feb. 28 Proclamation convening the Senate
VIII, 219
- March 2 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . VIII, 220
- March 2 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . VIII, 221
- March 2 Message to Congress VIII, 221
- March 2 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . VIII, 222
- March 5 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 222
- March 7 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . VIII, 223
- March 9 Memorandum about Gen. William
F. Smith VIII, 223
- March 9 *To Gov. D. Tod VIII, 223
- March 10 Proclamation granting Amnesty to
Soldiers absent without Leave . VIII, 224
- March 13 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 226
- March 17 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans VIII, 226
- March 18 To Henry Winter Davis VIII, 229
- March 20 Revocation of Sentence of T. W.
Knox VIII, 230
- March 23 To Gov. Horatio Seymour VIII, 230
- March 24 Memorandum about Charles Wie-
gand VIII, 231
- March 25 To Gen. S. A. Hurlbut VIII, 232
- March 25 *To Benjamin Gratz VIII, 232

- March 25 *To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans VIII, 232
- March 26 To Gov. Andrew Johnson VIII, 233
- March 27 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . VIII, 233
- March 29 To Gen. N. P. Banks VIII, 234
- March 30 Proclamation appointing a National
Fast-Day VIII, 235
- March 31 License of Commercial Intercourse
VIII, 238
- April 1 To Gen. D. Hunter VIII, 239
- April 2 Proclamation about Commercial In-
tercourse VIII, 240
- April 3 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 243
- April 11 Indorsement on Gen. Joseph Hook-
er's Plan of Campaign against
Richmond VIII, 243
- April 11 To Gen. J. Pope from Gen. H. W.
Halleck VIII, 244
- April 11 To Gen. Carl Schurz VIII, 244
- April 11 *Order staying Execution VIII, 245
- April 12 To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 245
- April 13 To Gov. A. G. Curtin VIII, 246
- April 13 To Admiral S. F. DuPont VIII, 246
- April 14 To J. E. Bouligny VIII, 246
- April 14 To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 247
- April 14 To Gen. D. Hunter and Admiral S.
F. DuPont VIII, 248
- April 15 To Gen. Joseph Hooker VIII, 249
- April 16 Indorsement on Letter of T. Wood-
ruff VIII, 249
- April 20 Proclamation admitting West Vir-
ginia into the Union VIII, 250

- April 20 To C. Truesdale.....VIII, 251 ✓
 April 21 To Secretaries William H. Seward
 and Gideon Welles.....VIII, 252
 April 23 To Joseph Segar.....VIII, 253 ✓
 April 23 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....VIII, 254
 April 27 To Assistant-Secretary P. H. Wat-
 sonVIII, 255
 April 27 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 255
 April 27 To Gen. J. H. Lane.....VIII, 256
 April 28 Indorsement on Letter of F. L.
 CapenVIII, 256
 April 28 To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....VIII, 257
 April 29 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VIII, 257
 April 29 *To W. A. Newell.....VIII, 258 ✓
 April 30 Indorsement in the Case of Captain
 SchaadtVIII, 259
 April 30 To Gen. David Hunter.....VIII, 260
 May 1 To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....VIII, 261
 May 2 To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....VIII, 261
 May 3 To Gen. D. Butterfield.....VIII, 262
 May 3 To Gen. D. Butterfield.....VIII, 262
 May 4 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 262
 May 4 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....VIII, 262
 May 6 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 263
 May 6 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 264
 May 6 To Col. R. Ingalls.....VIII, 264
 May 7 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 263
 May 8 Proclamation concerning Aliens..VIII, 266
 May 8 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....VIII, 269
 May 8 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase..VIII, 270
 May 9 To Gen. John A. Dix.....VIII, 270

- May 11 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. VIII, 271
 May 11 *To Gen. John A. Dix. VIII, 271
 May 11 *To Gen. D. Butterfield. VIII, 271
 May 12 *To Gov. Horatio Seymour. VIII, 272
 May 13 *To Dr. A. G. Henry. VIII, 272
 May 13 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . VIII, 272
 May 13 To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 273
 May 13 Memorandum about Lieutenant
 Merryman VIII, 273
 May 13 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. VIII, 274
 May 14 To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 274
 May 14 To William Cullen Bryant. VIII, 275
 May 15 To H. T. Blow and Others. VIII, 276
 May 16 *To James Guthrie. VIII, 276
 May 16 *To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. VIII, 277
 May 17 To Gen. F. J. Herron. VIII, 277
 May 19 Orders sending C. L. Vallandigham
 beyond Military Lines. VIII, 278
 May 20 To Gen. A. E. Burnside. VIII, 279 ✓
 May 20 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. VIII, 279
 May 20 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. VIII, 280
 May 21 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. VIII, 280
 May 21 *To Gen. A. E. Burnside. VIII, 280 ✓
 May 22 To Gen. S. A. Hurlbut. VIII, 281
 May 24 *To Anson Stager. VIII, 281
 May 25 *To Colonel Haggard. VIII, 282
 May 27 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. VIII, 282
 May 27 To Gen. J. M. Schofield. VIII, 282
 May 27 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . VIII, 283
 May 27 To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 284
 May 28 *To Erastus Corning. VIII, 284

- May 28 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. VIII, 284
- May 28 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. VIII, 285
- May 29 To Gov. Andrew Johnson. VIII, 285
- May 29 To Jesse K. Dubois and Others. . VIII, 286
- May 29 To Gen. A. E. Burnside. VIII, 286
- May (30?) Reply to Members of the Presby-
terian General Assembly. VIII, 287
- June 1 To Charles Sumner. VIII, 288
- June 1 *To Colonel Ludlow. VIII, 290
- June 2 To Gen. U. S. Grant. VIII, 290
- June 4 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. VIII, 290
- June 4 *To Gen. D. Butterfield. VIII, 291
- June 5 To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 291
- June 5 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 292
- June 6 Anonymous Note to Washington
"Chronicle." VIII, 292
- June 6 *To Mrs. E. J. Grimsley. VIII, 293
- June 6 *To Gen. John A. Dix. VIII, 294
- June 8 To Gen. S. R. Curtis. VIII, 294
- June 8 *To Gen. John A. Dix. VIII, 295
- June 8 *To Gen. John A. Dix. VIII, 295
- June 9 *To J. P. Hale. VIII, 296
- June 9 *To Mrs. Lincoln. VIII, 296
- June 9 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 296
- June 10 To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 297
- June 11 *To Mrs. Lincoln. VIII, 297
- June 12 To Erastus Corning and Others. VIII, 298
- June 12 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 314
- June 13 *To Gen. Joseph Hooker. VIII, 314
- June 14 *To Gen. E. B. Tyler. VIII, 315
- June 14 *To Gen. E. B. Tyler. VIII, 315

June 14	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 315
June 14	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 315
June 14	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 316
June 14	To Gen. R. C. Schenck.....	VIII, 316
June 14	*To Gen. B. F. Kelley.....	VIII, 317
June 15	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....	VIII, 317
June 15	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 317
June 15	Call for Militia for Six Months.	VIII, 318
June 15	To J. R. Campbell.....	VIII, 319
June 16	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 320
June 16	*To F. Kapp and Others.....	VIII, 322
June 16	*To Gen. T. F. Meagher.....	VIII, 322
June 16	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....	VIII, 322
June 16	*To Col. W. S. Bliss.....	VIII, 323
June 16	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 323
June 17	Memorandum about I. D. Andrews	VIII, 323
June 17	*To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 324
June 18	*To Joshua Tevis.....	VIII, 324
June 18	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.	VIII, 325
June 18	To J. K. Moorehead.....	VIII, 325
June 18	*To Gov. D. Tod.....	VIII, 326
June 18	*To Gen. A. Dingman.....	VIII, 326
June 19	To E. E. Malhiot and Others..	VIII, 326
June 21	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 328
June 21	*To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....	VIII, 328
June 22	To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....	VIII, 329
June 22	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.	VIII, 330
June 22	To Gen. Joseph Hooker.....	VIII, 331
June 23	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.	VIII, 331
June 23	*To Major Van Vliet.....	VIII, 332

June 24	*To Gen. D. N. Couch	VIII, 332
June 24	*To Gen. John A. Dix	VIII, 332
June 25	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase	VIII, 333
June 25	*To General Peck	VIII, 333
June 27	*To Gen. Joseph Hooker	VIII, 333
June 28	*To Gen. A. E. Burnside	VIII, 334 ✓
June 28	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck	VIII, 334
June 28	To Gen. D. N. Couch	VIII, 334
June 29	To M. Birchard and Others	IX, 1 ✓
June 29	To W. Kellogg	IX, 10 ✓
June 29	To Gen. R. H. Milroy	IX, 11
June 30	*To Gov. J. Parker	IX, 13
June 30	*To Col. A. K. McClure	IX, 14
June 30	To Gen. David Hunter	IX, 14
June 30	*To Gen. D. N. Couch	IX, 15
July 3	*To Robert T. Lincoln	IX, 15
July 4	Draft of Telegram to Rear-Admiral S. P. Lee	IX, 15
July 4	To Rear-Admiral S. P. Lee	IX, 16
July 4	Announcement of News from Get- tysburg	IX, 17
July 4	To Gen. R. C. Schenck	IX, 17
July 5	*To Gen. W. H. French	IX, 17
July 6	To Gen. H. W. Halleck	IX, 18
July 7	*To J. K. Dubois and Others	IX, 19 ✓
July 7	Response to a Serenade	IX, 20
July 7	To Gen. G. G. Meade from Gen. H. W. Halleck	IX, 22
July 8	To Gen. G. G. Meade from Gen. H. W. Halleck	IX, 22
July 8	To Gen. L. Thomas	IX, 23

July 8	*To E. D. Smith	IX,	23
July 8	*To F. F. Lowe	IX,	23
July 9	*To L. Swett and F. F. Lowe	IX,	24
July 11	*To Robert T. Lincoln	IX,	24
July 11	To Jesse K. Dubois	IX,	24
July 11	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck	IX,	25
July 12	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck	IX,	25
July 13	To Gen. U. S. Grant	IX,	26
July 13	To H. T. Blow	IX,	27
July 13	To Gen. J. M. Schofield	IX,	27
July 14	To Gen. G. G. Meade	IX,	28
July 14	To Gen. R. C. Schenck	IX,	30
July 14	*To Robert T. Lincoln	IX,	30
July 15	*To L. Swett	IX,	31
July 15	*To Simon Cameron	IX,	31
July 15	Proclamation for Thanksgiving	IX,	32
July 15	To J. O. Broadhead	IX,	34
July 17	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	IX,	34
July 17	To Gen. J. H. Lane	IX,	34
July 18	*To Gov. O. P. Morton	IX,	35
July 20	To Gov. Joel Parker	IX,	35
July 20	To Gen. J. M. Schofield	IX,	36
July 21	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	IX,	37
July 21	To Gov. Thomas Carney	IX,	37
July 21	To Gen. O. O. Howard	IX,	39
July 21	To Gen. A. P. Hovey	IX,	40
July 22	To Gen. J. M. Schofield	IX,	40
July 23	To Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble	IX,	40
July 23	To Gen. R. C. Schenck	IX,	41
July 24	To Postmaster-General Montgomery Blair	IX,	42

July 24	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX,	42
July 25	To Gov. Joel Parker.....IX,	42
July 25	*Order concerning Contraband Trade	
	XI,	127
July 27	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX,	44
July 27	To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	44
July 27	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX,	45
July 28	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	46
July 28	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX,	46
July 29	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX,	47
July 30	Order of Retaliation.....IX,	48
July 30	To F. P. Blair, Sr.....IX,	49
July 31	To —— Moulton.....IX,	49
July 31	To Gen. S. A. Hurlbut.....IX,	51
Aug. 1	To Gov. Horatio Seymour.....IX,	52
Aug. 3	*To Gen. J. G. Foster.....IX,	53
Aug. 4	*To J. A. Bingham.....IX,	53
Aug. 5	*To the "Cincinnati Gazette"....IX,	53
Aug. 5	*To Commissioner of Agriculture..IX,	54
Aug. 5	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....IX,	56
Aug. 7	To Gov. Horatio Seymour.....IX,	58
Aug. 8	To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	61
Aug. 8	To Gen. J. G. Foster.....IX,	62
Aug. 9	To J. M. Fleming and R. Morrow..IX,	63
Aug. 9	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....IX,	64
Aug. 10	Memorandum concerning ——Sands	
	IX,	65
Aug. 10	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	66
Aug. 10	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX,	68
Aug. 10	Letter of Acknowledgment.....IX,	68
Aug. 11	To Gov. Horatio Seymour.....IX,	69

Aug. 11	To Gen. G. G. Meade IX,	71
Aug. 11	Indorsement IX,	71
Aug. 12	To Gen. J. A. McClelland IX,	71
Aug. 15	*To Gen. J. G. Foster IX,	73
Aug. (15?)	Opinion on the Draft (never Issued or Published by Lincoln) IX,	74
Aug. 16	To Gov. Horatio Seymour IX,	83
Aug. 16	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . IX,	84
Aug. 17	To J. H. Hackett IX,	84
Aug. 17	To F. F. Lowe IX,	85
Aug. 17	*To Gov. Andrew Johnson IX,	87
Aug. 18	To Gen. J. G. Blunt IX,	87
Aug. 19	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . IX,	88
Aug. 20	*To J. C. Conkling IX,	89
Aug. 20	*To Gen. A. J. Hamilton IX,	89
Aug. 21	*To Gen. G. G. Meade IX,	89
Aug. 21	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . IX,	90
Aug. 22	To Gen. D. E. Sickles IX,	90
Aug. 24	*To Mrs. Grimsley IX,	91
Aug. 24	To Secretary J. P. Usher IX,	91
Aug. 25	Indorsement on Note of Secretary Edwin M. Stanton IX,	91
Aug. 26	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . IX,	92
Aug. 26	To I. N. Morris IX,	94
Aug. 26	To J. C. Conkling IX,	95
Aug. 26	*To J. C. Conkling IX,	102
Aug. 27	To Gov. Horatio Seymour IX,	103
Aug. 27	To A. C. Wilder and J. H. Lane . . IX,	104
Aug. 27	To Gen. J. M. Schofield IX,	104
Aug. 27	To Gen. G. G. Meade IX,	104
Aug. 27	To F. C. Sherman and J. S. Hayes IX,	105

- Aug. 28 *To Gen. J. G. Foster IX, 105
- Aug. 28 *To Gen. S. W. Crawford IX, 106
- Aug. 29 *To L. Swett IX, 106
- Aug. 29 *To Mrs. Lincoln IX, 106
- Aug. 31 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans IX, 107
- Aug. 31 To Gen. H. W. Halleck IX, 107
- Sept. 1 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . IX, 108
- Sept. 2 Draft of Letter to Secretary Salmon
P. Chase IX, 108
- Sept. 3 *To J. C. Conkling IX, 109
- Sept. 3 *To Mrs. Lincoln IX, 110
- Sept. 4 Order concerning Commercial Regu-
lations IX, 110
- Sept. 5 *To Joseph Segar IX, 111
- Sept. 6 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . IX, 111
- Sept. 6 *To Gen. R. C. Schenck IX, 112
- Sept. 6 *To Mrs. Lincoln IX, 112
- Sept. 7 To F. C. Sherman and J. S. Hayes
IX, 112
- Sept. 8 To Gov. Andrew Johnson IX, 113
- Sept. 9 *To Gen. G. G. Meade IX, 113
- Sept. 10 *To Gen. F. Wheaton IX, 113
- Sept. 10 To Dr. J. P. Gray IX, 114
- Sept. 11 To Gov. Andrew Johnson IX, 116
- Sept. 11 *To Hannibal Hamlin IX, 117
- Sept. 11 *To Gen. G. G. Meade IX, 117
- Sept. 11 To Gen. A. E. Burnside IX, 118
- Sept. 12 To Josiah Quincy IX, 118
- Sept. 12 *To Gen. G. G. Meade IX, 119
- Sept. 13 *To Jesse K. Dubois and O. M.
Hatch IX, 119

Sept. 13	*To Dr. J. P. Gray.....IX,	119
Sept. 13	*To Dr. W. H. H. Scott.....IX,	120
Sept. 14	To Gen. J. A. McClernand.....IX,	120
Sept. 15	Proclamation suspending Writ of Habeas Corpus.....IX,	121
Sept. 15	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....IX,	123
Sept. 15	*To James G. Blaine.....IX,	124
Sept. 16	*To Mrs. J. F. Speed.....IX,	124
Sept. 17	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck.....IX,	124
Sept. 17	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	125
Sept. 18	To I. N. Morris.....IX,	125
Sept. 18	*To C. M. Smith.....IX,	126
Sept. 18	*To Mrs. Hannah Armstrong.....IX,	126
Sept. 19	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....IX,	126
Sept. 19	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....IX,	127
Sept. 19	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....IX,	128
Sept. 20	To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	130
Sept. 21	*To Gov. F. H. Peirpoint.....IX,	131
Sept. 21	To Gov. H. W. Halleck.....IX,	131
Sept. 21	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX,	132 ✓
Sept. 21	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX,	132 ✓
Sept. 21	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	132
Sept. 22	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	133
Sept. 22	*To Jesse K. Dubois and O. M. HatchIX,	133
Sept. 22	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	134
Sept. 23	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	134
Sept. 24	Proclamation opening the Port of Alexandria, Va.....IX,	135
Sept. 24	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	137
Sept. 24	To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	137

Sept. 24	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	138
Sept. 25	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	139
Sept. 25	*To Gen. D. C. McCallum.....IX,	139
Sept. 25	Draft of Letter to Gen. A. E. Burn- side	IX, 139
Sept. 25	*To Gen. R. C. Schenck.....IX,	141
Sept. 27	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX,	141
Sept. 27	To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX,	141
Sept. 28	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	142
Sept. 28	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	142
Sept. 28	To Horatio Ames.....IX,	143
Sept. 29	Reply to Sons of Temperance...IX,	144
Sept. 30	*To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX,	146
Sept. 30	*To F. S. Cockran.....IX,	146
Oct. 1	*To Gov. A. W. Bradford.....IX,	147
Oct. 1	To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX,	147
Oct. 1	*To Gen. E. B. Tyler.....IX,	150
Oct. 1	*To T. A. Scott.....IX,	150
Oct. 2	To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX,	150
Oct. 3	*To Colonel Birney.....IX,	151
Oct. 3	Proclamation for Thanksgiving...IX,	151
Oct. 4	To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX,	154
Oct. 4	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	154
Oct. 5	To C. D. Drake and Others.....IX,	155
Oct. 5	Memorandum concerning T. J. Car- ter	IX, 164
Oct. 7	*To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....IX,	165
Oct. 9	Detail of C. B. Stewart for Certain Purposes	IX, 165
Oct. 10	To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	166
Oct. 11	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	166

Oct. 12	*To Gen. G. G. Meade IX,	166
Oct. 12	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans IX,	167
Oct. 12	To Gen. G. G. Meade IX,	167
Oct. 13	*To Wayne McVeigh IX,	168
Oct. 14	*To Wayne McVeigh IX,	168
Oct. 14	To Thurlow Weed IX,	168
Oct. 15	*To J. W. Grimes IX,	169
Oct. 15	*To Gen. John G. Foster IX,	169
Oct. 15	*To L. B. Todd IX,	169
Oct. 15	*To Gen. G. G. Meade IX,	170
Oct. 16	*To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . . IX,	170
Oct. 16	To Gen. H. W. Halleck IX,	171
Oct. 16	To T. W. Sweeney IX,	171
Oct. 16	*To T. C. Durant IX,	172
Oct. 17	Call for 300,000 Volunteers . . . IX,	172
Oct. 17	To John Williams and N. G. Taylor IX,	175
Oct. 17	*To Gen. A. E. Burnside IX,	175
Oct. 17	*To W. B. Thomas IX,	175
Oct. 17	*To Gen. J. G. Foster IX,	176
Oct. 18	*To T. C. Durant IX,	176
Oct. 19	To Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble . . . IX,	176
Oct. 19	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans IX,	178
Oct. 21	To Gen. R. C. Schenck IX,	179
Oct. 22	To Gen. R. C. Schenck IX,	179
Oct. 24	To Gen. H. W. Halleck IX,	180
Oct. 26	Letter transmitting Original Draft of Emancipation Proclamation . . IX,	181
Oct. 26	To G. H. Boker IX,	181
Oct. 26	To E. B. Washburne IX,	182
Oct. 26	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . . IX,	183

- Oct. 27 Opinion on the Loss of Gen. R. H.
Milroy's Division.....IX, 183
- Oct. 27 To T. Swann.....IX, 185
- Oct. 28 *To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....IX, 186
- Oct. 28 To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX, 186
- Oct. 29 To Gen. C. B. Fisk.....IX, 188
- Oct. 29 *To T. J. Carter.....IX, 188
- Oct. 29 *To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX, 188
- Oct. 29 *To J. W. Grimes.....IX, 189
- Oct. 29 To Vice-President Hannibal Ham-
linIX, 190
- Oct. 30 *To F. F. Lowe.....IX, 191
- Oct. 30 *To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX, 192
- Oct. 31 *To A. Wakeman.....IX, 193
- Oct. 31 *To Saint Nicholas Hotel.....IX, 193
- Oct. 31 Memorandum concerning Troops in
New York.....IX, 194
- Nov. 1 *To Secretary William H. Seward..IX, 194
- Nov. 2 To Postmaster-General Montgomery
BlairIX, 195
- Nov. 2 To Gov. A. W. Bradford.....IX, 196
- Nov. 2 To J. H. Hackett.....IX, 198
- Nov. 3 *To Secretary William H. Seward..IX, 199
- Nov. 3 *To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX, 199
- Nov. 5 *To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX, 200
- Nov. 5 To Gen. N. P. Banks.....IX, 200
- Nov. 8 *To W. B. Astor and R. B. Roose-
veltIX, 202
- Nov. 9 To J. J. Astor, Jr. and Others....IX, 202
- Nov. 9 To B. F. Flanders.....IX, 203
- Nov. 9 To Gen. A. E. Burnside.....IX, 204

Nov. 9	To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	204
Nov. 10	*To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX,	204
Nov. 11	*To Gen. J. M. Schofield.....IX,	205
Nov. 11	*To Hiram Barney.....IX,	205
Nov. 11	*To J. Milderborger.....IX,	206
Nov. 11	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX,	206
Nov. 11	To Postmaster-General Montgomery Blair	IX, 206
Nov. 13	*To E. H. and E. Jameson.....IX,	207
Nov. 14	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....IX,	207
Nov. 17	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase...IX,	207
Nov. 17	Indorsement on Note of Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.....IX,	208
Nov. 19	Address at Dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery.....IX,	209
Nov. 20	To Edward Everett.....IX,	210
Nov. 20	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	212
Nov. 20	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....IX,	212
Nov. 20	To Zachariah Chandler.....IX,	212
Nov. 23	To Secretary William H. Seward..IX,	213
Nov. 23	*To E. P. Evans.....IX,	213
Nov. 24	To Secretary William H. Seward..IX,	214
Nov. 25	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....IX,	214
Dec. 1	To Gen. John A. Dix, President, Union Pacific R. R. Co.....IX,	214
Dec. 2	To George Opdyke and Others...IX,	215
Dec. 4	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	216
Dec. 5	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	216
Dec. 6	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	216
Dec. 7	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	217
Dec. 7	*To Mrs. Lincoln.....IX,	217,

- Dec. 7 *To C. P. Kirkland.....IX, 217
- Dec. 7 Announcement of Union Success in
East Tennessee.....IX, 217
- Dec. 8 Proclamation of Amnesty and Re-
constructionIX, 218
- Dec. 8 Annual Message to Congress...IX, 224
- Dec. 8 Message to Congress.....IX, 252
- Dec. 8 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....IX, 253
- Dec. 9 To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....IX, 254
- Dec. 10 Message to U. S. Senate.....IX, 254
- Dec. 14 Amnesty to Mrs. E. T. Helm....IX, 255
- Dec. 15 To Dr. T. Cottman.....IX, 256
- Dec. 15 Message to U. S. Senate.....IX, 258
- Dec. 15 To Judge O. Hoffman.....IX, 258
- Dec. 15 To Mother Mary Gonyeag.....IX, 259
- Dec. 16 Proclamation concerning Discrimi-
nating Duties.....IX, 260
- Dec. 17 Message to Congress.....IX, 263
- Dec. 17 *To Gen. S. A. Hurlbut.....IX, 263
- Dec. 18 To E. B. Washburne.....IX, 264
- Dec. 18 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX, 264
- Dec. 19 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....IX, 266
- Dec. 20 To Secretary Gideon Welles....IX, 266
- Dec. 21 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..IX, 267
- Dec. 21 Permit to Mr. and Mrs. Craig...IX, 268
- Dec. 21 To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler....IX, 268
- Dec. 22 To O. D. Filley.....IX, 269
- Dec. 22 Indorsement on Petition concerning
Dr. McPheeters.....IX, 269
- Dec. 22 *To Commander of Point Lookout
IX, 272

Dec. 23	Message to Congress.....	IX, 272
Dec. 24	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....	IX, 273
Dec. 24	*To Commander of Point Lookout IX, 274	
Dec. 26	*To U. F. Linder.....	IX, 275
Dec. 29	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....	IX, 275
Dec. 31	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..	IX, 275

1864

Jan. 2	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....	XI, 129
Jan. 5	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....	IX, 276
Jan. 5	Message to U. S. Senate.....	IX, 276
Jan. 5	To Gen. Frederick Steele.....	IX, 277
Jan. 6	To Gen. J. T. Boyle.....	IX, 278
Jan. 6	To Gov. F. E. Bramlette.....	IX, 278
Jan. 7	*To Officer in Command at Covington, Ky.....	IX, 278
Jan. 7	Indorsement concerning Private Andrews	IX, 279
Jan. 7	To C. J. Wright and C. K. Hawkes IX, 280	
Jan. 7	Message to Congress.....	IX, 280
Jan. 11	*To Robert T. Lincoln.....	IX, 281
Jan. 11	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase....	IX, 281
Jan. 12	Message to U. S. Senate.....	IX, 281
Jan. 13	To Gen. N. P. Banks.....	IX, 282
Jan. 13	*To Major Laidley.....	IX, 283
Jan. 13	To Gen. Q. A. Gillmore.....	IX, 283
Jan. 16	To Crosby and Nichols.....	IX, 284
Jan. 17	To Gov. F. E. Bramlette.....	IX, 285
Jan. 18	To T. B. Bryan.....	IX, 286

- Jan. 19 *To Robert T. Lincoln IX, 286
- Jan. 20 To Gen. J. J. Reynolds IX, 287
- Jan. 20 To Gen. Frederick Steele IX, 289
- Jan. 20 Message to Congress IX, 291
- Jan. 21 Message to U. S. Senate IX, 292
- Jan. 22 To Officer in Command at Fort Independence IX, 292
- Jan. 23 To A. Lewis IX, 292
- Jan. 25 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . . IX, 295
- Jan. 26 Order approving Trade Regulations
IX, 295
- Jan. 27 To Gen. Frederick Steele IX, 296
- Jan. 27 *To Gen. J. G. Foster IX, 297
- Jan. 28 To Gen. H. W. Halleck IX, 297
- Jan. 28 *To E. Stanley IX, 297
- Jan. 28 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase . . . IX, 298
- Jan. 29 *To Gen. D. E. Sickles IX, 299
- Jan. 29 Message to U. S. Senate IX, 299
- Jan. 30 To Gen. Frederick Steele IX, 299
- Jan. 31 To Gen. N. P. Banks IX, 300
- (Feb. ?) *Extract from letter to Gen. James
Wadsworth XI, 130
- Feb. 1 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . IX, 301
- Feb. 1 Order for Draft of 500,000 Men . . IX, 302
- Feb. 3 *Gov. Richard Yates IX, 302
- Feb. 4 To Edward Everett IX, 302
- Feb. 4 Message to U. S. Senate IX, 303
- Feb. 5 Indorsement relating to Administration of Oath IX, 303
- Feb. 5 Message to U. S. Senate IX, 304
- Feb. 6 To Gov. Isaac Murphy IX, 304

Feb. 6	Account of Emancipation Proclamation related to F. B. Carpenter. . . X,	1
Feb. 8	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. . . X,	4
Feb. 10	*To Gen. D. E. Sickles. X,	4
Feb. 11	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. . . X,	4
Feb. 12	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . X,	6
Feb. 13	Indorsement on Modifying Order relating to Methodist Churches in Rebel States. X,	7
Feb. 13	To Horace Maynard. X,	7
Feb. 15	To Gen. J. M. Thayer. X,	8
Feb. 15	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . X,	8
Feb. 15	To Gen. D. E. Sickles. X,	9
Feb. 16	Message to U. S. House of Representatives X,	10
Feb. 16	Message to Congress. X,	10
Feb. 17	*To Gen. Frederick Steele. X,	11
Feb. 17	To W. M. Fishback. X,	11
Feb. 18	Draft of Letter to Gov. J. A. Andrew X,	12
Feb. 18	Proclamation concerning Blockade. . X,	14
Feb. 20	To Warren Jordan. X,	17
Feb. 20	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . X,	17
Feb. 22	Message to Congress. X,	18
Feb. 22	*To Gen. Frederick Steele. X,	18
Feb. 22	*To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. X,	19
Feb. 23	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . X,	19
Feb. 25	To Gen. Frederick Steele. X,	19
Feb. 25	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. X,	20
Feb. 26	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. X,	20
Feb. 26	*To W. Jayne. X,	20

Feb. 27	To E. H. East.....X,	21
Feb. 27	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton....X,	22
Feb. 27	To Gen. J. W. Davidson.....X,	24
Feb. 28	To Gen. L. Thomas.....X,	24
Feb. 29	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase....X,	25
Feb. 29	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesX,	26
March 1	To Gen. L. Thomas.....X,	26
March 1	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton....X,	27
March 2	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton....X,	28
March 2	*Pass for Mrs. Rumsey.....X,	28
March 3	*To Gen. Frederick Steele.....X,	29
March 4	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	29
March 4	To Secretary Salmon P. Chase....X,	29
March 4	Memorandum about Churches.....X,	30
March 7	To John A. J. Creswell.....X,	30
March 7	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	31
March 7	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton....X,	32
March 9	Message to U. S. Senate.....X,	32
March 9	Address to Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	33
March 9	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....X,	34
March 10	Order assigning U. S. Grant to Com- mand of the Armies of the United StatesX,	35
March 10	Memorandum relating to Amsterdam ProjectileX,	35
March 10	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X,	35
March 10	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	36
March 12	Message to U. S. Senate.....X,	36
March 12	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	37
March 12	To Gov. Isaac Murphy.....X,	37

March 12	To W. M. Fishback.....X,	37
March 13	To M. P. Gentry.....X,	38
March 13	To Gov. Michael Hahn.....X,	38
March 13	To Gen. Carl Schurz.....X,	39
March 14	Message to Congress.....X,	40
March 14	Message to Congress.....X,	40
March 14	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	41
March 15	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	41
March 15	Pass for Gen. D. E. Sickles.....X,	42
March 15	Indorsement regarding Church....X,	42
March 15	To Gov. Michael Hahn.....X,	42
March 16	To Gov. Isaac Murphy.....X,	43
March 17	To John A. J. Creswell.....X,	43
March 17	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	43
March 18	Draft of Letter to Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.....X,	44
March 18	Remarks on closing a Sanitary Fair in Baltimore.....X,	48
March 18	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	49
March 21	Reply to Committee from Working- men's Association in New York..X,	50
March 22	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	54
March 22	*To Gov. John Evans.....X,	54
March 23	To Gen. Carl Schurz.....X,	55
March 25	To Thurlow Weed.....X,	56
March 25	To B. B. French.....X,	56
March 26	Proclamation about Amnesty.....X,	58
March 28	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton...X,	60
March 29	To Gen. G. G. Meade.....X,	61
March 29	Message to Congress.....X,	62
March 29	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	62

March 29	To Gov. Andrew Johnson X,	62
March 30	*To R. M. Corwine X,	63
April 4	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans X,	63
April 4	To A. W. Thompson X,	64
April 4	To A. G. Hodges X,	65
April 5	To Mrs. Horace Mann X,	68
April 5	Unfinished Draft of Letter to Gen. N. P. Banks X,	69
April 5	To Gov. John Brough X,	70
April 6	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler X,	71
April 7	To Gov. William Dennison X,	71
April 7	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler X,	71
April 9	*To Gen. G. G. Meade X,	72
April 11	Memorandum for Mrs. Hunt X,	72
April 11	Memorandum for Mrs. Keenan X,	73
April 11	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler X,	73
April 12	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler X,	73
April 13	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler X,	74
April 13	To Gen. L. Thomas X,	74
April 17	*To Gen. G. G. Meade X,	75
April 18	Address at Sanitary Fair in Balti- more X,	76
April 20	*To Calvin Truesdale X,	80
April 20	*Telegram concerning Charles Car- penter X,	81
April 21	*Telegrams concerning Charles Car- penter X,	81
April 23	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans X,	82
April 23	Indorsement on Offer of Troops X,	82
April 23	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton X,	82
April 23	Message to Congress X,	84

April 25	*To John Williams.....X,	84
April 25	*To Gen. G. G. Meade.....X,	85
April 27	To Gov. Isaac Murphy.....X,	85
April 28	Message to Congress.....X,	86
April 28	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesX,	87
April 28	To Mrs. Lincoln.....X,	89
April 30	To J. R. Fry.....X,	89
April 30	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	90
May 2	To Gen. S. A. Hurlbut.....X,	91
May 2	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesX,	91
May 3	To Members of the Cabinet.....X,	92
May 4	To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X,	93
May 5	*To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X,	93
May 7	Message to U. S. Senate.....X,	93
May 9	Recommendation of Thanksgiving X,	94
May 9	Response to Serenade.....X,	95
May 9	*To Mrs. S. B. Meconkey.....X,	96
May 10	*To Gen. Lew Wallace.....X,	97
May 11	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X,	97
May 12	To F. B. Loomis.....X,	97
May 12	To S. C. Pomeroy.....X,	98
May 13	To Gen. Lew Wallace.....X,	98
May 13	Indorsement about a Church at MemphisX,	99
May 14	Reply to a Methodist Delegation...X,	99
May 14	Indorsement of Letter of Gov. Thomas Carney.....X,	100
May 14	Reply to Baptist Delegation.....X,	101

- May 18 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase. . . . X, 102
- May 18 To Gen. U. S. Grant. X, 102
- May 18 To Gen. John A. Dix. X, 103
- May 18 *To Gov. Richard Yates. X, 104
- May 18 To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. X, 104
- May 19 *To Gov. Andrew Johnson. X, 105
- May 20 *To F. Schmedding. X, 105
- May 20 To A. Mackay. X, 105
- May 21 To Gov. O. P. Morton and to
Other Governors. X, 106
- May 21 *Telegram concerning Henry Sack. . X, 106
- May 23 *Telegram concerning Henry Sack. . X, 106
- May 24 *Telegram concerning Henry Sack. . X, 106
- May 24 Indorsement regarding New York
"Times" X, 107
- May 24 To Gov. John Brough. X, 107
- May 25 *To Gen. G. G. Meade. X, 107
- May 25 To I. N. Arnold. X, 108
- May 26 *Memorandum concerning Transpor-
tation of New York Naval Bri-
gade XI, 131
- May 27 To R. W. Thompson. X, 108
- May 28 To C. A. Walborn. X, 109
- May 30 To Dr. Ide and Others. X, 109
- May 30 To John H. Bryant. X, 110
- June 3 To F. A. Conkling and Others. . . X, 112
- June 5 Indorsement on Letter to Major
John Hay. X, 113
- June 7 & 8 Platform of the Union National Con-
vention in Baltimore. X, 118
- June 8 Message to Congress. X, 116

- June 8 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X, 116
- June 9 Reply to Committee notifying Lincoln of Renomination.....X, 116
- June 9 Reply to Ohio Delegation from National Union League.....X, 122
- June 10 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X, 123
- June 11 *Address to Envoy from Hawaiian IslandsXI, 132
- June 11 Remarks to an Ohio Regiment....X, 123
- June 13 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X, 124
- June 13 To Gen. L. Thomas.....X, 125
- June 13 *To T. Webster.....X, 125
- June 14 To Gen. S. G. Burbridge.....X, 125
- June 15 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X, 126
- June 15 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase....X, 126
- June 16 Speech at a Sanitary Fair in PhiladelphiaX, 127
- June 17 To Lyman Trumbull.....X, 130
- June 18 *Recommendation of a Newspaper..X, 131
- June 18 *To C. A. Walborn.....X, 131
- June 19 *To Mrs. Lincoln.....X, 131
- June 20 Draft of Letter to Gov. John Brough and Gen. S. P. Heintzelman....X, 132
- June 20 Memorandum of Interview with Postmaster of Philadelphia....X, 132
- June 24 To Attorney-General Edward Bates
X, 133
- June 24 To Mrs. Lincoln.....X, 134
- June 24 To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X, 134
- June 25 To Paymaster-General.....X, 134
- June 27 To William Cullen Bryant.....X, 135

- June 27 To William Dennison and Others ac-
cepting Renomination X, 136
- June 28 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase X, 137
- June 28 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase X, 138
- June 29 To Gen. Frederick Steele X, 139
- June 29 *To General U. S. Grant X, 140
- June 29 To Mrs. Lincoln X, 140
- June 30 To Secretary Salmon P. Chase X, 140
- June 30 To David Tod X, 141
- July 2 To Judge S. H. Treat X, 141
- July 4 To John L. Scripps X, 141
- July 5 To J. W. Garrett X, 142
- July 5 To Gov. Horatio Seymour X, 142
- July 5 Proclamation suspending Writ of
Habeas Corpus X, 144
- July 5 Indorsement about Memphis Church
X, 148
- July 7 Proclamation for a Day of Prayer
X, 149
- July 8 Proclamation concerning Reconstruc-
tion X, 152
- July 9 To Horace Greeley X, 154
- July 9 To J. W. Garrett X, 154
- July 9 To Gen. Lew Wallace X, 155
- July 10 To T. Swann and Others X, 155
- July 10 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 155
- July 11 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 156
- July 12 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 157
- July 14 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . . X, 157
- July (14?) Memorandum read to Cabinet X, 158
- July 15 To Horace Greeley X, 158

July 15	To Horace Greeley.....X,	159
July 16	To Maj. John Hay.....X,	159
July 16	Safe-Conduct for C. C. Clay and Others	X, 159
July 17	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	160
July 17	To Gen. David Hunter.....X,	160
July 17	*To Col. Frank Wolford.....X,	162
July 18	Announcement concerning Terms of Peace	X, 161
July 18	Proclamation calling for 500,000 Volunteers	X, 164
July 18	To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X,	166
July 20	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	167
July 20	*To J. L. Wright.....X,	168
July 20	To J. L. Scripps.....X,	168
July 22	To O. B. Ficklin.....X,	168
July 23	Reply to Commander Bertinatti, Italian Envoy Extraordinary....X,	169
July 23	To Gen. David Hunter.....X,	170
July 25	To Abram Wakeman.....X,	170
July 25	*To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....X,	171
July 25	*To W. O. Snider.....X,	172
July 25	To Gen. E. R. S. Canby.....X,	172
July 25	To J. C. Welling.....X,	173
July 26	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	174
July 26	To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X,	174
July 27	To Gen. David Hunter.....X,	175
July 27	To Gen. H. W. Halleck.....X,	175
July 27	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....X,	176
July 28	To John W. Forney.....X,	177
July 28	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	177

- July 29 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 177
- July 30 *To Gen. David Hunter X, 178
- July 30 *To M. Odell X, 178
- July 30 To J. A. Bingham X, 178
- July 30 *To Gen. J. A. McClernand X, 178
- Aug. 2 To Gov. Andrew Johnson X, 179
- Aug. 3 Indorsement on Letter from Secretary Edwin M. Stanton X, 179
- Aug. 3 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 180
- Aug. 4 To Col. Frank Wolford X, 180
- Aug. 5 To August McMichael X, 181
- Aug. 5 *To Gov. F. H. Peirpoint X, 182
- Aug. 6 To Horace Greeley X, 182
- Aug. 6 Unfinished Draft of Letter to—— . X, 183
- Aug. 6 *To Anson Miller X, 183
- Aug. 8 *To Horace Greeley X, 183
- Aug. 8 To Gen. S. G. Burbridge X, 184
- Aug. 9 To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler X, 321
- Aug. 9 To Horace Greeley X, 184
- Aug. 9 To Gen. N. P. Banks X, 185
- Aug. 9 To Gen. E. R. S. Canby X, 186
- Aug. 11 To Gen. Carl Schurz X, 186
- Aug. 11 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . . X, 187
- Aug. 14 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 187
- Aug. 15 To Gen. W. T. Sherman X, 188
- Aug. (15?) Interview with John T. Mills X, 189
- Aug. 15 To Henry J. Raymond X, 191
- Aug. 15 *Indorsement of Application for Employment X, 192
- Aug. 16 To Ward Hunt X, 192
- Aug. 17 To Gen. U. S. Grant X, 193

- Aug. 17 Unfinished Draft of Letter to
Charles D. Robinson.....X, 193
- Aug. 18 Proclamation concerning Commercial
RegulationsX, 197
- Aug. 18 Address to 164th Ohio Regiment..X, 199
- Aug. 18 *To Col. G. W. Bridges.....X, 200
- Aug. 19 To D. S. D. Baldwin.....X, 201
- Aug. 20 *To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X, 201
- Aug. 22 Order for Release of Joseph How-
ardX, 201
- Aug. 22 Address to 166th Ohio Regiment..X, 202
- Aug. 23 Memorandum concerning Re-election
of Administration.....X, 203
- Aug. 24 Draft of Instructions to Henry J.
RaymondX, 204
- Aug. 26 *To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....X, 205
- Aug. 27 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton...X, 206
- Aug. 28 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X, 206
- Aug. 29 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X, 206
- Aug. 31 To Mrs. Lincoln.....X, 206
- Aug. 31 Order concerning Cotton.....X, 207
- Aug. 31 Address to 148th Ohio Regiment..X, 208
- Sept. 1 To Col. H. C. Huidekoper.....X, 210
- Sept. 1 To Postmaster-General Montgomery
BlairX, 211
- Sept. 3 To Postmaster-General Montgomery
BlairX, 211
- Sept. 3 Proclamation of Thanksgiving...X, 211
- Sept. 3 Order of Thanks and Rejoicing...X, 212
- Sept. 3 Order of Thanks and Rejoicing...X, 213
- Sept. 3 Order of Thanks and Rejoicing...X, 213

- Sept. 4 To Gen. S. G. Burbridge.....X, 214
- Sept. 4 To Mrs. Eliza P. Gurney.....X, 215
- Sept. 5 Reply to Señor Blas Bruzual, Minister from Venezuela.....X, 216
- Sept. 7 Reply to Committee of Colored People presenting Bible.....X, 217
- Sept. 8 *Telegrams concerning Edward Conley.....X, 218
- Sept. 8 To Mrs. Lincoln.....X, 219
- Sept. 8 *To Gov. W. Pickering.....X, 219
- Sept. 10 Order of Thanks to Hundred-Day Troops from Ohio.....X, 219
- Sept. 11 *To Mrs. Lincoln.....X, 220
- Sept. 12 Unfinished Draft of Letter to Isaac M. Schermerhorn.....X, 220
- Sept. 12 To Isaac M. Schermerhorn.....X, 222
- Sept. 12 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X, 223
- Sept. 13 To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X, 224
- Sept. 13 *To James G. Blaine.....X, 224
- Sept. 15 To Gen. J. B. Steedman.....X, 224
- Sept. 17 To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X, 225
- Sept. 19 To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X, 225
- Sept. 19 To J. S. TenEyck.....X, 226
- Sept. 20 To Gen. P. H. Sheridan.....X, 227
- Sept. 21 To Gen. E. R. S. Canby.....X, 227
- Sept. 22 To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X, 228
- Sept. 23 To Postmaster-General Montgomery Blair.....X, 228
- Sept. 24 Order concerning Purchase of Products in Insurrectionary States....X, 230
- Sept. 24 To William Dennison.....X, 234

Sept. 26	To Gen. S. G. Burbridge.....X,	234
Sept. 26	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.....X,	234
Sept. 27	To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X,	235
Sept. 27	To William Dennison.....X,	235
Sept. 27	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	235
Sept. 28	To J. R. Cannon.....X,	236
Sept. 28	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	236
Sept. 29	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	236
Oct. 1	Order of Thanks to Hundred-Day Troops	X, 237
Oct. 3	*Recommendation of Mrs. Lotty Hough	X, 238
Oct. 5	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	238
Oct. 9	To Gen. Simon Cameron.....X,	239
Oct. 10	To Henry W. Hoffman.....X,	239
Oct. 10	*To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....X,	240
Oct. 11	*To Gen. Simon Cameron.....X,	240
Oct. 11	To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....X,	240
Oct. 11	To Robert T. Lincoln.....X,	241
Oct. 12	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	241
Oct. 13	*To G. S. Orth.....X,	241
Oct. 13	To Gov. O. P. Morton.....X,	242
Oct. 14	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	242
Oct. 17	To Gov. A. G. Curtin.....X,	242
Oct. 19	Response to a Serenade.....X,	243
Oct. 20	Proclamation of Thanksgiving....X,	245
Oct. 21	To John G. Nicolay.....X,	247
Oct. 22	To William B. Campbell and OthersX,	248
Oct. 22	To Gen. P. H. Sheridan.....X,	251
Oct. 23	To Gen. G. H. Thomas.....X,	251

- Oct. 24 Address to 189th New York RegimentX, 252
- Oct. 25 *To Colonel RobinsonX, 253
- Oct. 26 To Mrs. George W. SwiftX, 253
- Oct. 26 Unfinished Draft of Letter to J. R. Underwood and H. GriderX, 253
- Oct. 27 To Gen. S. G. BurbridgeX, 255
- Oct. 28 To A. G. HodgesX, 256
- Oct. 28 To J. A. PrallX, 256
- Oct. 31 *To T. T. DavisX, 257
- Oct. 31 Proclamation admitting Nevada into the UnionX, 257
- Oct. 31 To Secretary Edwin M. StantonX, 258
- Nov. 5 Indorsement on Letter from Secretary Edwin M. StantonX, 259
- Nov. 6 To Secretary William H. SewardX, 259
- Nov. 6 To Naval Officer at Mobile BayX, 260
- Nov. 8 To Sailors' Fair at BostonX, 260
- Nov. 8 To A. H. RiceX, 261
- Nov. 8 To Secretary William H. SewardX, 261
- Nov. 9 Response to a SerenadeX, 261
- Nov. 10 *To H. W. HoffmanX, 262
- Nov. 10 Response to a SerenadeX, 263
- Nov. 10 To Gen. S. G. BurbridgeX, 265
- Nov. 10 To Gov. T. E. BramletteX, 265
- Nov. 12 To Gen. John A. LoganX, 266
- Nov. 14 To Gen. S. A. HurlbutX, 266
- Nov. 15 *To Gen. G. H. ThomasX, 269
- Nov. 15 *To W. H. PurnellX, 269
- Nov. 15 To Jesse K. DuboisX, 269
- Nov. 15 To Loyal GovernorsX, 270

Nov. 17	Reply to Maryland Union Com- mittee	X, 270
Nov. 19	Proclamation concerning Blockade . . .	X, 272
Nov. 19	To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans	X, 273
Nov. 21	To A. R. Wright	X, 274
Nov. 21	To Mrs. Bixby	X, 274
Nov. 21	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton . . .	X, 275
Nov. 21	To John Phillips	X, 275
Nov. 22	To Gov. T. E. Bramlette	X, 276
Nov. 25	To Gov. A. G. Curtin	X, 277
Nov. 26	To Gen. N. P. Banks	X, 277
Nov. 29	To Gov. C. P. Stone	X, 277
Dec. 1	To James Speed	X, 278
Dec. 1	To Gov. Andrew Johnson	X, 278
Dec. 1	To Gov. Andrew Johnson	X, 278
Dec. 2	To Gen. N. P. Banks	X, 278
Dec. 3	*Order regarding Steamer "Funay- ma Solace"	XI, 133
Dec. 3	Memorandum regarding Two Pris- oners	X, 279
Dec. 5	Message to Congress	X, 280
Dec. 5	Message to Congress	X, 281
Dec. 6	Annual Message to Congress	X, 283
Dec. 6	Response to a Serenade	X, 310
Dec. 6	Nomination of Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase	X, 311
Dec. 7	*To Gov. W. P. Hall	X, 311
Dec. 12	To Gen. E. R. S. Canby	X, 312
Dec. 13	To Gen. Lew Wallace	X, 314
Dec. 13	To Gen. G. M. Dodge	X, 315
Dec. 16	*Concerning H. Walters	X, 315

Dec. 16	To Gen. G. H. Thomas.....X,	315
Dec. 19	Call for 300,000 Volunteers.....X,	315
Dec. 19	To Gen. Lew Wallace.....X,	318
Dec. 19	To Gen. Lew Wallace.....X,	318
Dec. 19	To Soldiers' Fair at Springfield, Mass.X,	319
Dec. 19	To Joseph H. Choate.....X,	319
Dec. 21	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	320
Dec. 23	Order to Commanders to pass James Harrison.....X,	323
Dec. 24	To Gen. John A. McClernand....X,	324
Dec. 26	To Gen. W. T. Sherman.....X,	325
Dec. 27	To Dr. John Maclean.....X,	326
Dec. 28	Pass for F. P. Blair, Sr.....X,	327
Dec. 28	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	327
Dec. 28	To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	327
Dec. 29	To Attorney-General James Speed.X,	328
Dec. 29	*To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.....X,	328
Dec. 30	*To Col. A. J. Warner.....X,	329
Dec. 31	*To Col. A. J. Warner.....X,	329

1865

Jan. 2	To Chief-Justice Salmon P. Chase.X,	329
Jan. 5	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesX,	330
Jan. 5	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	331
Jan. 6	To Gen. N. J. T. Dana.....X,	331
Jan. 7	Message to Congress.....X,	332
Jan. 7	To R. L. Ferguson.....X,	332
Jan. 9	To Mrs. ————X,	333
Jan. 9	To Lyman Trumbull.....X,	333

- Jan. 9 Message to U. S. House of RepresentativesX, 334
- Jan. 10 Proclamation concerning Commerce. X, 336
- Jan. 10 To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.X, 338
- Jan. 11 To Gen. Joseph Hooker.X, 338
- Jan. 12 To H. A. Swift.X, 339
- Jan. 13 To Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.X, 339
- Jan. 14 To Gen. U. S. Grant.X, 339
- Jan. 14 To Gov. Andrew Johnson.X, 340
- Jan. 15 To Gen. G. M. Dodge.X, 340
- Jan. 17 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. . .X, 341
- Jan. 18 To Richard T. Jacob.X, 341
- Jan. 18 To F. P. Blair, Sr.X, 342
- Jan. 19 To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. . .X, 342
- Jan. 19 To Gen. U. S. Grant.X, 343
- Jan. 19 *To Gen. E. O. C. Ord.X, 343
- Jan. 21 *To Gen. Lew Wallace.X, 344
- Jan. 22 *To Gen. Lew Wallace.X, 344
- Jan. 24 To William Lloyd Garrison.X, 344
- Jan. 24 To Gen. G. M. Dodge.X, 345
- Jan. 24 To Gov. Andrew Johnson.X, 345
- Jan. 24 Reply to a Committee.X, 346
- Jan. 26 To A. Wakeman.X, 347
- Jan. 28 Indorsement on Letter to F. P. Blair,
Sr.X, 347
- Jan. 30 Instructions to Maj. T. T. Eckert. .X, 348
- Jan. 30 *To Gen. E. O. C. Ord.X, 349
- Jan. 31 *Indorsement on Letter from J. M.
AshleyX, 349
- Jan. 31 To Gen. U. S. Grant.X, 350
- Jan. 31 To Gen. Lew Wallace.X, 350

Jan. 31	To Gen. Lew Wallace.....X,	350
Jan. 31	To Secretary William H. Seward..X,	351
Jan. 31	Response to a Serenade.....X,	352
Feb. 1	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	354
Feb. 1	To Gov. John A. Andrew.....X,	354
Feb. 1	To Maj. T. T. Eckert.....X,	354
Feb. (1?)	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	354
Feb. 2	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....X,	355
Feb. 2	To Secretary William H. Seward..X,	355
Feb. 3	To J. F. Driggs.....X,	355 ✓
Feb. 4	To Officer commanding at Johnson's IslandX,	356
Feb. 5	Draft of Message to Congress....XI,	1
Feb. 5	To Gov. T. E. Bramlette.....XI,	3
Feb. 6	To Gov. Andrew Johnson.....XI,	3
Feb. 6	Order to make Corrections in the DraftXI,	4
Feb. 7	To Lieutenant-Colonel Glenn.....XI,	4
Feb. 7	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....XI,	5
Feb. 8	To Gen. U. S. Grant.....XI,	5
Feb. 8	*To Mark Hoyt.....XI,	6 ✓
Feb. 8	To Governor Smith.....XI,	6
Feb. 8	Message to Congress.....XI,	8
Feb. 9	Message to Congress.....XI,	9
Feb. 9	Reply to Committee of Congress..XI,	10
Feb. 10	Message to U. S. House of Repre- sentativesXI,	10
Feb. 10	Message to U. S. Senate.....XI,	28
Feb. 10	To A. H. Stephens.....XI,	32 ✓
Feb. 11	*Letters Indorsing — Hammond.XI,	32
Feb. 12	To Gen. John Pope.....XI,	33

Feb. 13	To Commanding Officers in West Tennessee	XI, 33
Feb. 13	Message to Congress.	XI, 34
Feb. 14	To Gen. John Pope.	XI, 35
Feb. 15	To Gen. John Pope.	XI, 35
Feb. 17	Proclamation convening U. S. Senate in Extra Session.	XI, 35
Feb. 17	*To Officer in Command at Harper's Ferry	XI, 37
Feb. 18	To Gen. N. J. T. Dana.	XI, 37
Feb. 20	To James Gordon Bennett.	XI, 38
Feb. 20	To Gov. T. C. Fletcher on Affairs in Missouri.	XI, 38
Feb. 24	*To Gen. John Pope.	XI, 39
Feb. 24	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 39
Feb. 24	To Gen. J. M. Palmer.	XI, 40
Feb. 25	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 40
Feb. 27	To Henry Ward Beecher.	XI, 41
Feb. 27	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 41
Feb. 27	To Gov. T. C. Fletcher.	XI, 41
Feb. 27	*Order to — Dickson.	XI, 42
March 1	To Gen. Winfield Scott and Others.	XI, 42
March 2	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 43
March 3	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 43
March 4	Second Inaugural Address.	XI, 44
March 5	To Charles Sumner.	XI, 47
March 6	To Secretary William H. Seward.	XI, 47
March 7	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 47
March 7	To Gen. John Pope.	XI, 48
March 8	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 48
March 9	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 50

March 11	Proclamation offering Pardon to Deserters	XI, 51
March 13	To John Z. Goodrich	XI, 53
March 15	To Thurlow Weed	XI, 54
March 17	*To Col. R. M. Hough and Others	XI, 54
March 17	Address to an Indiana Regiment	XI, 55
March 17	Proclamation concerning Indians	XI, 57
March 18	Order annulling Sentence against Benjamin G. Smith and Franklin W. Smith	XI, 58
March 19	To Gen. John Pope	XI, 59
March 20	To Governor Swann	XI, 59
March 20	*To Gen. E. O. C. Ord	XI, 59
March 20	To Gen. U. S. Grant	XI, 59
March 21	To Judge W. B. Scates	XI, 60
March 21	To Capt. Robert T. Lincoln	XI, 60
March 22	To Gen. W. S. Hancock	XI, 60
March 23	To Gen. U. S. Grant	XI, 61
March 23	*To Gen. G. M. Dodge	XI, 61
March 25	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 61
March 25	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 61
March 26	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 62
March 27	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 63
March 28	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 63
March 30	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 63
March 31	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 64
April 1	To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 65
April 1	To Gen. U. S. Grant	XI, 65
April 1	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 66
April 2	*To Mrs. Lincoln	XI, 66
April 2	*To Mrs. Lincoln	XI, 67

April 2	Telegrams to Secretary Edwin M. Stanton	XI, 68
April 3	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..	XI, 70
April 4	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..	XI, 70
April 5	To Gen. N. P. Banks.	XI, 71
April 5	Unsigned Memorandum given to J. A. Campbell.	XI, 71
April 5	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..	XI, 73
April 6	To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 73
April 6	To Gen. G. Weitzel.	XI, 75
April 7	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..	XI, 75
April 7	*To Secretary Edwin M. Stanton..	XI, 76
April 7	*To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 77
April 10	Response to a Call.	XI, 77
April 10	To Gov. F. H. Peirpoint	XI, 78
April 11	*To Gen. G. H. Gordon.	XI, 78
April 11	Pass to W. H. Lamon and Friend.	XI, 78
April 11	Proclamation of Blockade.	XI, 79
April 11	Proclamation opening Port of Key West, Fla.	XI, 81
April 11	Proclamation concerning Immunity of U. S. Vessels.	XI, 82
April 11	Last Public Address.	XI, 84
April 12	To Gen. G. Weitzel.	XI, 92
April 12	To Gen. G. Weitzel.	XI, 92
April 14	*To Gen. U. S. Grant.	XI, 94
April 14	*To General Van Alen.	XI, 94
April 14	*To George Ashmun.	XI, 94
Undated	*Card to Secretary of War.	XI, 133

General Index.

General Index.

A

- Abell, Bennett**, appointment ofI, 55
- Abolition**, accession of Lincoln toIII, 210
- civil war not prosecuted for X, 191
- country swept by..III, 210
- debt of, to State rights.V, 7
- orators of, Douglas sneers at.....III, 216
- origin of movement.III, 268
- philosophy, Douglas opposes.....III, 96
- proposed by Act of Congress in D. C.....II, 96
- societies, effect of...III, 77
- See also*, African slave-trade; Brown, John; Emancipation; Everett, Edward; Garrison, William Lloyd; Lovejoy, Owen; Negro; Phillips, Wendell; Slavery.
- Abolition party**, coalition of, IV, 6
- inimical to the South.IV, 2
- organized in Ill....III, 204
- Abolitionists**, apportionment of legislative offices to..IV, 15
- compact to elect L. to U. S. Senate.....IV, 14
- compactness of, organization.....IV, 12
- demands of.....IV, 12
- dislike for.....II, 243
- elect Trumbull to U. S. Senate.....IV, 170
- hopes of.....IV, 5
- inconsistencies of...IV, 81
- Lincoln said to be.....II, 287; IV, 277
- — supported by....IV, 174
- negro equality declared by VI, 26
- sectionalism of...IV, 170
- silence of.....IV, 38
- "Abraham Lincoln,"** by Wm. Cullen Bryant.....VI, xix
- "Abraham Lincoln as a Man Inspired of God,"** by Henry WattersonIII, v
- "Abraham Lincoln and the Promises of the Declaration of Independence"** by Chas. SumnerIX, v
- "Abraham Lincoln, the Great**

- Republican," by Wm. McKinley.....V, v
- Abrams, Richard M.**, appeals in behalf of.....IX, 125
- Accomac County, Va.**, Confederate soldiers paroled in IX, 90
- takes oathVII, 54
- Adams, Chas. Francis**, anticipated cessation of intercourse with Eng. reported by.....VI, 280
- despatch concerning publications presented to Library of Congress.....VIII, 146
- Hampton Roads Conference reported toXI, 29
- minister at London..VII, 91
- proposed minister to Eng... VI, 223
- Seward's corrected despatch to.....VI, 277
- — letter of instruction to.. XI, viii
- See also*, Great Britain, Trent Affair.
- Adams, Christopher**, candidate for position in Bur. of ConstructionVI, 268
- Adams County, Ill.**, Hanks family in.....V, 286
- Adams, D. W.**, Brig.- Gen., woundedIX, 137
- Adams, Green**, Haggard's telegram sent to.....VIII, 282
- letter to, about arming special force in Ky..VIII, 175
- Adams, J. H.**, supported by L. II, 272
- Adams, Jas.**, Gen., case againstI, 57
- controversy with.....I, 57
- reply to.....I, 65, 76
- Adams, John Quincy**, appropriations for internal improvements under II, 32, 39
- cost of administration.I, 126
- Addison, John**, letter to.II, 129
- Adjutant-General**, ordered to receive Ind. regiments..... XI, 120
- "Admiral P. Tordenskiold,"** appropriation to owners recommendedVIII, 96
- "Africa,"** attempt by commander, of, to seize Mr. Fauchet VIII, 137
- Africa**, cotton in.....VII, 110
- return of negroes to..... II, 176, 338
- African slave question**..... VIII, xvii
- African slave-trade**, abolition ofV, 208, 263
- — a Constitutional compromise.....V, 183
- — expected by Fathers.... V, 183
- death penalty for....II, 246
- declared piracy.....II, 246
- failure to suppress...II, 223
- forced on colonies...V. 165
- language of Constitutional prohibition of.....V, 48

- African slave-trade** (*contd.*)
- legal revival impossible.... II, 208
 - message to Congress on suppression of.....VII, 215
 - prohibition of..... II, 244, 245, 246; V, 146
 - — in Miss..II, 245; V, 299
 - proposal to furnish Liberia with gunboat for arrest of.. X, 286
 - public opinion formed for revival of.....V, 185
 - public sentiment of colonies against.....V, 184
 - revival insured by "popular sovereignty" II, 253; V, 137, 182
 - suppression of, by treaty with Eng.....IX, 225
 - — entrusted to Dept. of Interior.....VII, 47
 - ultimate revival after secession certain.....VI, 181
 - See also, Slave trade; Slavery.
 - "Afton," steamboat....II, 349
 - Agricultural exhibition** in HamburgVIII, 184
 - Agricultural fairs**, growth of V, 236
 - influence of.....V, 237
 - usefulness of.....V, 237
 - Agriculture**, annual reports of VII, 47
 - Calhoun on.....I, 245
 - Commissioner of, remuneration of.....IX, 54
 - excessive labor employed in I, 244
 - Jackson on.....I, 244
 - Jefferson on.....I, 244
 - steam power in.....V, 244
 - thoroughness in.....V, 239
 - See also, Commissioner of Agriculture; Department of Agriculture; Hamburg.
 - "Alabama," destruction.X, 280
 - Alabama**, ceded by Ga..V, 298
 - Thirteenth amendment conditionally ratified....X, 352
 - Albany "Evening Journal,"** Weed's valedictory.VIII, 209
 - Albany**, N. Y., invitation to visit accepted.....VI, 102
 - reply to Mayor of...VI, 136
 - reply to Gov. Morgan at... VI, 138
 - resolutions of public meeting at.....VIII, 298
 - "Albemarle," destruction of.. X, 281
 - — confirmed.....X, 260
 - Alden**, Jas., Com., received thanks of Congress VII, 162
 - Aldie's Gap**, firing heard at.. VIII, 328
 - Alexandria**, Va., Wadsworth goes toVII, 194
 - Alienage**, voting an estoppel against plea of....IX, 229
 - Aliens**, attitude toward..... VIII, 267
 - liability to military duty in

- U. S. VIII, 267
 — proclamation concerning . . .
 VIII, 266
- Allegiance**; *See*, Oath; Oath
 of Allegiance.
- Allen, —**, II, 275
 — defeat by Archer . . . II, 266
- Allen County, Ky.**, assessment
 of rebel sympathizers
 X, 253, 255
- Allen, Cyrus M.** . . . VII, 242
 — empowered to muster Ind.
 troops VI, 292
- Allen, Dupage**, IV, 50
- Allen, J. M.**, signer of invita-
 tion to Clay I, 232
- Allen, Nathan** IV, 50
- Allen, Robt., Col.**, letter to . . .
 I, 15
- Allentown, N. J.**, trouble with
 provost-marshal in VIII, 258
- Allison, —**, Taylor's letter to . .
 II, 90
- Allotment**, commissioners for
 Ia. VII, 74
- "Alton Courier,"** II, 271
- Alton, Ill.**, debate with Doug-
 las at V, 1
 — Trumbull's attack upon
 Douglas at IV, 92
- Ambition**, Lincoln's early . . I, 8
 — personal . . . IV, 214; X, 189
- Ambos, —**, claim of, against
 Barret V, 134
- Amendment**, to charter of Ill.
 State bank I, 32
- See also*, Constitution; Thir-
 teenth Amendment.
- America**, Lincoln, a child of . .
 VIII, xix
 — overland telegraph to Eu-
 rope from X, 286
 — undermined by slavery
 II, 248
- American Baptist Home
 Missionary Society**, re-
 sponse to X, 109
- "American classics"**. VIII, 78
- American Colonization So-
 ciety**, speech of Henry Clay
 before II, 174
- American Party**, Lincoln's re-
 pudiation of
 V, 90; VI, 39, 45
 — sensitiveness of VI, 47
- American people**, grief of, at
 Lincoln's death. X, x, xi, xxii
- American Revolution**, debt
 of VI 312
 — effect of Battle of Trenton
 upon L.'s mind VI, 151
- American Tract Society**, dis-
 cord in III, 355
 — shaken by slavery question
 V, 55
- Ames, —**, Bishop, order of
 War Dept. for control of
 Methodist Churches . . . X, 5
- Ames gun**, Butler asks . . X, 224
- Ames, Horatio**, letter to
 IX, 143
- Amnesty** for Southern repre-
 sentatives VIII, 143

Amnesty (*contd.*)

- general, necessity of. XI, 131
- oath of. X, 21, 22
- proclamation about.

IX, 247; X, 58

- persons taking oath of, de-
spoiled of effects. . . . X, 342
- to Helm, Mrs. E. T. IX, 255
- to political prisoners. VII, 100
- to soldiers absent without
leave. VIII, 224
- universal, assured. . . XI, 131

Amsterdam projectile.

IX, 283; X, 35

Ancestors, debt to. I, 36

- L's Quaker II, 15

Anderson, Jos., case of heirs

of I, 57

Anderson, Robt., Gen., au-

thorized to commission
Buckner VI, 348

- commanding Fort Sumter. .

VI, 188

- despatches withheld. VI, 226

- instructions to. VI, 239

- invitation to call. . . . VI, 260

- opinion on Fort Sumter. . .

VI, 203, 300

- order to muster troops.

VI, 267

- report on Fremont's procla-

mation. VI, 359

Anderson, W. G., letter to. . .

I, 151

Andre, —, hanging of. . II, 247

Andrew, John A., Gov. of

Mass., Banks' movements re-

ported to. VII, 196

- letter to. X, 12

- recruits negro troops. . X, 12

- telegram to. VI, 352; X, 354

Andrews, Henry, sentence

commuted IX, 279

Andrews, Israel D. VIII, 323

Andrews, —, Paymaster-Gen.,

personal feeling relative to

VIII, 227

Anecdotes, Lincoln's skill at. .

III, 209

Annexation; *See*, Cuba; Hay-

ti; Mexico.

Antietam, battle of. . VIII, 34

Anthony, —, Sen., assistance

solicited XI, 33

Appalachicola, Fla., blockad-

ed XI, 80

"Appendix," Lincoln's speech

in II, 58

- sent to Whig papers.

II, 50, 51

Appomattox, Federal lines on

XI, 68

Aquia Creek, Lincoln meets

Burnside at VIII, 87

Aquia Creek R. R., McClellan

asked to cut. VII, 195

Arbitration of Chilean seizure

IX, 226

- disputed boundary. . VI, 221

- domestic contention. VI, 254

Archer, Col., defeat of. . II, 266

Argentine Republic. . . X, 285

Argument, in Rock Island

Bridge case. II, 340

- Argument** (*contd.*)
 — notes of....II, 366; XI, 112
- Arizona**, mineral resources... IX, 230
 — question of admission.IV, 75
- Arkansas**, Congress refuses seats to representatives of.. X, 139
 — election plans.....X, 11
 — electoral conventions.IX, 296
 — emancipation in.....IX, 52
 — Federal control of..IX, 246
 — Murphy elected governor... X, 85
 — reconstruction in..... IX, 277, 289, 299; X, 8
 — registry of voters authorized IX, 275
 — re-occupation of plantations encouraged.....IX, 293
 — re-organization of State government.....X, 130
 — repression of Union sentiment in.....VI, 305
 — Sickles asked to visit.IX, 299
 — — goes toX, 20
 — Steele given complete charge of elections.....X, 12
 — — instructed to order elections.....IX, 291
 — — instructed about elections.....IX, 296
 — vote desired in.....X, 37
- Arlington, Va.**, concentration of troops at.....VI, 332
- Armed neutrality**, folly of... VI, 307
- Armistice**, impracticability of X, 222
- Arms**, destruction of, in Southern States.....VI, 298
 receipt forI, 9
- Armstrong, A. N.**, Maj. V, 94
- Armstrong, Hannah**, telegram to.....IX, 126
- Army, U. S.**, annoyed by slavesVII, 121
 — call for 100,000 militia to serve six months.VIII, 318
 — character of.....VI, 320
 — condition of.....VIII, 88
 — discipline, L.'s leniency upsets.....X, 44
 — Grant made Lieut.-Gen. of. X, 34
 — Halleck made Gen.-in-Chief VII, 266
 — immediate payment of, authorized by Congress..... VIII, 192
 — increase of.....VI, 264
 — jealousy between Hooker and Halleck.....VIII, 320
 — legality of increase.VI, 308
 — negro force proposed for.. VIII, 233
 — negro troops to be employed in.....VIII, 186
 — negroes in.....IX, 246
 — number of slaves in, in 1863, and 1865.....VIII, 288
 — observance of Sabbath ordered.....VIII, 77
 — pay-system in.....VIII, 227

Army, U. S. (contd.)

- raising of armies by substitution.....IX, 79
- re-organization of medical department.....VII, 226
- resignations of Southern officers from....VI, 298, 321
- Scott proposes movements of.....VI, 92
- soldiers enticed to desert from.....VIII, 225

Army and Navy, general

- movement ordered..VII, 89
- joint expedition under Sherman.....VI, 357
- officers, dismissal of, opinion on.....X, 45
- — aid BrownVI, 89
- See also, Army, U. S.; Navy, U. S.*

Army Corps, organization....

VII, 156

Army of the James....XI, 59

Army of the Potomac, arrest

- of StoneX, 69
- Burnside in command.....VIII, 72
- — relieved from.VIII, 204
- — resignation of.VIII, 177
- changes in, only by L.'s orders.....VII, 117
- congratulations to.VIII, 149
- Franklin relieved from duty in.....VIII, 204
- Heintzelman in command of Third corps.....VII, 116
- heroism of, praised.VII, 261

Army of Potomac (contd.)

- horses supplied to..VIII, 69
- Hooker assigned to command.....VIII, 204
- — letter to, on taking command.....VIII, 206
- — plan of campaign against Richmond.....VIII, 243
- — reported retreat VIII, 264
- — to command Porter's corps.....VIII, 73
- Hunter to command Burnside's division.....VIII, 72
- Keyes to command Fourth corps.....VII, 116
- Lee, not Richmond, its main object..VIII, 297; IX, 130
- Lincoln, pleasure of, at movements of.....VIII, 70
- — suggests immediate attack on Lee.....IX, 181
- — visits Harrison's Landing.....VII, 262
- — visits headquarters.XI, 61
- — wishes to "borrow"....VII, 141
- Md. soldiers' vote in.X, 262
- McClellan loses confidence of L.....VIII, 68
- — plans for movements of.VII, 92
- — relieved of command....VIII, 72
- — takes field at head of...VII, 129
- McDowell assigned to First corps.....VII, 116

Army of Potomac (contd.)

- N. Y. soldiers' vote in. X, 34
- Navy to co-operate. VII, 118
- plan for movement. VIII, 89
- plan of operations by Franklin and Smith... VIII, 150
- Porter relieved of command VIII, 73
- reserve cavalry corps formed for..... VIII, 176
- Rosecrans choice of Halleck and Stanton for command.. VIII, 206
- Schurz wishes his division withdrawn from.. VIII, 244
- Sumner assigned command of Second corps of. VII, 116
- — relieved from duty in... VIII, 204
- Wheaton's leave of absence IX, 113

See also, Potomac River; Troops, U. S.

Army pensioners, number of in 1864.....X, 301

Army of the Tennessee with Sherman on march to sea.. X, 325

Army of Virginia, Banks commands Second corps.... VII, 236

- Fremont commands First corps..... VII, 236
- McDowell commands Third corps..... VII, 236
- order constituting the..... VII, 235

Army of Virginia (contd.)

- organization of... VII, 236
 - plan of operations of..... VII, 236
 - Pope in command.. VII, 236
- Arnold, Isaac N., letter to, on "Chicago Times" X 108**
- nominated X, 141
- Arrests, made for private malice in Mo..... VIII, 171**
- by process of courts and in cases of rebellion defined... VIII, 304, 305

Arsenals, Confederate seizures of VI, 297

Articles of Confederation, government by..... II, 193

- perpetuity of Union plighted in..... VI, 314

Asbury, Henry, letters to.... III, 197; V, 94; VI, 71

Ashland, Ky., Clay's retirement to..... IV, 163

Ashland, Va., Federal cavalry raid reported at... VIII, 263

- seizure by Northern troops VII, 202

Ashley, Chester, Gen., U. S. Sen., death of..... II, 16

Ashley, J. M., inquiry regarding peace commissioners... X, 349

Ashmun, Geo., U. S. Rep. from Mass., amendment on Mexican War VI, 35

- amendment of, on Mexican War..... IV, 192

Ashmun, Geo. (contd.)
 — invites L. to attend Soldiers' Fair.....X, 319
 — letter to.....VI, 14, 38
 — L. votes for his amendment VI, 35
 — note to.....XI, 94
 — resolutions on Mexican War V, 73
 — vote on Mexican War.V, 75
Assessments for Confederate outrages, evils of..VIII, 171
Astor, J. J., Jr., letter to..... IX, 202
Astor, W. B., letter to.IX, 202
Atchison, D. R., Vice-presidency of.....II, 302
Atchison, Kas., predicted growth of.....VI, 6
Atherton's Ferry, Ky., home of L. near.....VI, 26
Atkinson, — removal of.X, 126
Atlanta, Ga., Sherman capturesX, 211
 — — success at.....X, 325
Atlantic and Pacific States, railway and telegraph connectionX, 299
Atlantic cable, recommended to Congress VIII, 99; IX, 229
Attorney-General, charged with superintendence of proceedings under Confiscation ActVIII, 74
Auburn, N. Y., Seward's speech at.....X, 243

Augusta, Ill., Lincoln speaks atIV, 68
Austin, Benj., letter of Thos. Jefferson to.....I, 244
Austria, Anson Burlingame proposed as minister to... VI, 223
Autobiography of Lincoln... II, 368; VI, 24
Autograph sent to Mrs. Swift X, 253
Averell, W. W., Gen., success at Lewisburg.....IX, 204
Avery, —, mail contract.I, 348
Aves Island, claim paid X, 284

B

Babcock, O. E., Lt.-Col., Hampton Roads conference XI, 27
Backus, Abner L., letter to.. IX, 1
Bailey, Joshua F., collector of customs at N. Y.....X, 6
Bailey, Theodorus, Capt., recommended for thanks of CongressVII, 161
Baily, —, Gen., report of starvation in La.....X, 227
Baird, Isaac P., charge of desertionVII, 309
Baird, Mrs., letter to, about sonVII, 309
Baker, —,.....II, 275
Baker, E. D., Col.....VII, 62
 — cabinet membership desired for.....II, 100

- Baker, E. D.** (*contd.*)
- defeat of L., byI, 263
 - interest asked for Taylor..
 - II, 16
 - — of, in Ill. appointments
 - II, 105
 - services in Mexican War..
 - I, 353; II, 85
 - signer of call for Whig State Convention....I, 181
 - — of Whig circular.....
 - I, 145, 166
 - stipulation with.....II, 111
 - understanding with..VI, 37
- Baker, Ezra**, liberty restrained
 - XI, 78
- Baker, Jehu**, speech at Waterloo, Ill.....IV, 10
- Baldwin, Abraham**, Constitutional Father...V, 299, 300
- vote against slavery..V, 297
- Baldwin, Chas. H.**, Com., receives thanks of Congress..
 - VII, 162
- Baldwin, D. S. D.**, Dickinson's note returned..X, 201
- Ballot**, right of negro soldier toXI, 130
- Ballots**, rightful successor of bulletsVI, 322
- Ball's Bluff**, battle of.VII, 62
- "Baltic,"** movements.VII, 129
- Baltimore, Md.**, changes in 1864.....X, 76
- collision of troops with people of.....VI, 251
 - committee of colored people,
 - reply to.....X, 217
 - convention of Democrats at
 - II, 29; III, 202; IV, 3, 166
 - — of 1844, delegates to be instructed for Van Buren..
 - II, 71
 - — resolutions approving vetoes of internal improvements.....II, 67
 - — Whig, 1852, at.IV, 3, 166
 - Gen. Wallace to retard enemy's march on ...X, 155
 - held by Federal forces.....
 - VI, 332
 - mob.....VII, 293
 - sacking, danger of..X, 155
 - salute ordered.....X, 214
 - Sanitary Fair at.....X, 76
 - Union National Convention, platform of.....X, 118-121
- Baltimore and Ohio Railroad**, Meade clears, of enemy
 - IX, 47
- fear for security of..IX, 47
- Baltimore "American,"** characterization of oratory by..
 - II, 70
- Bancroft, Geo.**, "Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln"VIII, v
- opinion of L....V, vii, xxvi
- Bankrupt law**, position of Cass on.....II, 63
- Bangor, Me.**, military line extended to.....VII, 8
- speech of Jefferson Davis..
 - at.....V, 24

- Bank Speech**, Lincoln's, in Ill. legislature.....I, 19
- Banking Association**, organization of.....VIII, 193
- Bank-note** circulation, compelled by specie revenue collectionsI, 104
- in D. C., legislation in regard to.....VII, 231
- to be issued by government....VIII, 102; X, 295
- taxation of.....VIII, 193
- to be secured by government X, 295
- See also*, Currency; Greenbacks; Money; Specie.
- Banks**, issue of notes by.....VII, 231; VIII, 100, 193
- suspension of issues of....VIII, 192
- — of specie payment by...VII, 231; VIII, 100, 193
- See also*, National Banks, State Banks, United States Bank.
- Banks, Nathaniel P.**, Maj.-Gen., at Strasburg..VII, 186
- authority assured...IX, 275
- beaten back.....VII, 187
- Boutwell, Geo. S., letter to IX, 56
- canvass for L. by..IV, 176
- critical position....VII, 177
- Fremont moves against Jackson.....VII, 179, 180
- draft of letter to.....X, 69
- fights EwellVII, 181
- Banks, N. P.** (*contd.*)
- force to be strengthened...VI, 332
- incapacity "to run an omnibus on Broadway"..IX, 49
- in La.....X, 334
- letter to.....X, 277
- — at Middletown..VII, 230
- — concerning a requisition VIII, 81
- — on DurantIX, 200
- — raising negro brigade..VIII, 234
- La., destitution in...X, 227
- — electoral rights..IX, 282
- — new constitution..X, 186
- — reconstruction in..IX, 282
- — supreme control given to IX, 273
- Miss. River opening, L.'s thanks for.....IX, 56
- moved to Shenandoah Valley.....VII, 214
- news from.....VIII, 332
- operations at Port Hudson..VIII, 291
- question of resigning..X, 277
- reported as losing an arm..VIII, 295
- retreat to Williamsport....VII, 194
- suggestion of, for Cabinet position.....VI, 76
- telegram to.....XI, 71
- — asking information about enemy at Winchester.....VII, 182

- Banks, N. P.** (*contd.*)
 — — saying "watch enemy closely".....VII, 201, 203
 — to command Fifth corps...
 VII, 117
 — — Second corps..VII, 236
 — to co-operate with Fremont
 VII, 207
 — to form a junction with
 Grant at Vicksburg.....
 VIII, 200
 — to sustain Fremont at Mount
 Jackson.....VII, 218
- Baptist Home Mission Society,** response to....X, 109
- Baptist Delegation,** reply to
 X, 101
- Barbary Powers,** relations
 withX, 287
- Barnes, H., Gen.,** petition of..
 X, 339
- Barney, Hiram,** collector of
 N. Y. Custom House..X, 6
 — despatch to.....VIII, 10
 — offered post of minister to
 Portugal.....X, 6
 — removal urged.....X, 138
 — retirement rumored.....
 IX, 281; X, 6
 — telegram to.....IX, 205
- Barney, H. M.,** petition of...
 II, 10
- Barren County, Ky.,** assess-
 ment of rebel sympathizers
 X, 253, 255
- Barret, —,** attack on Taylor
 byII, 116
- Barret, —** (*contd.*)
 — claim of Columbus Mfg. Co.
 against.....V, 134
 — Democrat partisan...II, 109
- Barrett, Jas. A., Col.** VII, 139
- Barrett, R. F.,** signer of Whig
 circularI, 145
- Barrett, Rich.,** vote against
 slaveryV, 297
- Barry, W. T.,** Postmaster-
 Gen., appointment to Span-
 ish missionI, 134
 — favoritism to friends..I, 132
- Bartlett, —,** N. Y., Naval Bri-
 gade, organized....XI, 131
- Bartlett, W. A., Col.,** dispatch
 toVI, 289
- Bartlett, W. O.,** presence de-
 sired in Washington, D. C..
 X, 347
- Bartley, T. W.,** letter to.IX, 1
- Barnburners,** support of Gen.
 Taylor by.....II, 27
- Bates, Edw., Atty.-Gen.,** letter
 toX, 133
 — Homestead law, suggests
 modification of....IX, 242
 — letter to.....
 VI, 83, 101, 106, 225
 — — on "State troops".VIII, 91
 — L.'s invitation to Washing-
 ton.....VI, 106
 — opinion on Fort Sumter....
 VI, 217, 230
 — political situation of.VI, 20
 — suggestion to raise revenue
 from mineral lands.IX, 243

- Bates, Edw. (contd.)**
 — to have charge proceedings under Confiscation Act.... VIII, 74
See also, Secretary of the Interior.
- "Battery,"** Whig paper..II, 58
- Baxter's Fire Zouaves** VII, 306
- Beardsley, H. C.**, sentenced for desertion.....IX, 189
- Beardstown, Ill.**, flatboat trip fromVI, 29
- Beaufort, N. C., U. S.**, purchasing agency at....X, 230
 — blockade.....XI, 80
- Beck, —**, keeper of Globe Tavern, Springfield, Ill...I, 268
- Bedell, Grace**, letter to VI, 63
- Beecher, Henry Ward**, assassination of L.....X, xviii
 — invitation of, to L. to lecture.....VI, 8
 — letter to.....XI, 41
 — "Loss of Lincoln".....X, v
 — opinion on slavery....X, xv
 — release of Howard...X, 201
- Belgium, King of**, award in Chilean seizureIX, 226
- Bell, David**, to be shot at St. LouisIX, 84
- Bell Henry H., Com.**, recommended for thanks of CongressVII, 161
- Bell, John**, candidate for presidentVI, 13
 — Douglas' manipulation of followers.....VI, 52
- Bell, W. M.**, at Rock Island, discharge asked.....X, 63
- "Belleville Advocate,"** quotation from.....III, 23
- Belmont, August**, letter to.. VII, 299
- Belts, Chas. R.**, execution suspendedIX, 292
- Benefit of few at expense of many**I, 105
- Bennett, Jas. Gordon**, Minister to France, appointment promisedXI, 38
- Bennett, John**, appointment of I, 55
 — letters to.....
 I, 54, 259, 284, 285; II, 295
- Benning, Henry L.**, Brig.-Gen., wounded at ChickamaugaIX, 137
- Berdan, Jas.**, letter to..... I, 293, 294
- Berks County, Pa.**, Lincoln family in.....II, 15, 24
 — removal of President's grandfather from....V, 287
- Berrett, Jas. G.**, unsigned draft of letter to...VII, 148
- Berry, Nathaniel S.**, telegram to.....VI, 352
- Berry, H. S.**, Gov. of N. H., requests L. to call for volunteersVII, 249
- Berryville**, Lee reported near VIII, 316
- Bertinatti, Com.**, reply to Italian envoy.....X, 169

- Bible**, a cure for blues..I, 180
 — L.'s opinion of.....X, 218
 — presentation by committee of colored people....X, 217
- Big Black River**, Grant drives Pemberton over...VIII, 281
- Big Blue River**, Ind., residence of Josiah Lincoln on II, 181
- Bigler, W.**, Sen., declaration of, on Kan. Enabling Act.. IV, 94, 96, 107, 146, 194, 196
- Bill**, against Ill. Cent. R. R. Co. II, 288
 — draft of, to compensate States abolishing slavery.. VII, 276
 — prohibiting circulation of notes less than five dollars.. VII, 231
See also, Currency.
- Bingham, John A.**, Judge at Key West, Fla....IX, 53, 92
 — appointed solicitor in U. S. Court of Claims....X, 178
- Birchall, C.**, signer of invitation to Clay.....I, 232
- Birchard, M.**, letter to..IX, 1
- Birdsall, —**, on rejection of Van Buren by Baltimore ConventionII, 71
- Birney, —**, Col.....IX, 150
 — asked number of slaves recruited in Md.IX, 151
- Birney, David B.**, Gen., nominated Maj-Gen.....X, 32
- Birth**, Southern, of L....II, vi
- Bishop, —**, Capt., ed. of "Charleston Courier" I, 354
 — position on Mexican War.. I, 354
- Bissell, Wm. H.**, Gov. of Ill., action on McCallister and Stebbins bonds..... IV, 16; V, 133
- Bixby, Mrs.**, letter of condolence toX, 274
 — — literary style of..I, xxix
- Black, Frank S.**, "The Greatness of Lincoln".....IV, v
- Black Hawk War**, Lincoln captain of company in.... V, 288; VI, 31; VIII, xx
- "Black Republicans"**..V, 195
 — creed of.....III, 302
 — platform of...III, 264, 306
 — — adopted in Ill. counties.. III, 310
 — pledges of.....III, 264
 — principles of.....III, 263
 — silence of, in Senate debate III, 301
 — Southern bitterness against V, 310
See also, Republican Party.
- Black, Wm., J.**, recommendation of.....II, 266
- Blackburn, Eng.**, distress of operatives at.....VIII, 219
- Blackmail**, cotton seized for.. X, 172
- "Blackstone's Commentaries,"** XI, 114
- Blackwell, R. S.**, endorser of

- L.'s bill against Ill. Cent. R. R. Co.....II, 289
- Blaine, Jas. G.**, news of Me...
X, 224
- telegram to.....IX, 124
- Blair, Austin**, Gov. of Mich., requests call for volunteers
VII, 250
- Blair, Frank P., Jr.**, Gen., defection of, from Democratic PartyIV, 350
- desired to join Gen. McClelland.....VIII, 78
- desires to raise troop in Mo.
VI, 339
- gradual emancipation plan defeated....V, 332, 334, 354
- Grant requested to find command for.....X, 41
- L.'s estimate of....IX, 196
- possibility of election for Speaker.....IX, 195
- resignation and re-instatement of.....X, 87, 88
- returns to army.....X, 89
- telegram to....VIII, 76, 77
- to withhold order for relief of Harvey.....VI, 275
- withdraws resignation.X, 84
- Blair, F. P., Sr.**, endorsement on letter.....XI, 13, 16
- Hampton Roads conference
XI, 25
- instructions, copy of, to Seward.....X, 351
- Jefferson Davis explains his position to.....XI, 11
- Blair, F. P., Sr.** (*contd.*)
- — reports on visit to.....
X, 342, 347
- letter of L. to be shown to Jefferson DavisXI, 12
- pass for.....XI, 11
- peace, terms of suggested byX, 342
- Richmond, Va., mission to
XI, 11
- Texas, invasion of, letter to regarding.....IX, 49
- Blair, Montgomery**, Postmaster-Gen., conduct commendedX, 229
- invites Slave State Representatives to confer.VII, 120
- letter to
VI, 190; IX, 195, 206
- — on postmasterships for widows of soldiers...IX, 42
- opinion on Emancipation Proclamation.....X, 2
- — Fort Sumter.VI, 214, 230
- resignation asked....X, 229
- return to Washington ordered.....X, 211
- visit to Fremont....VI, 354
- Blake, Marshal B.**, appointed collectorVIII, 17
- Blake, Wm. H.**, execution suspendedIX, 268
- Blanchard, M. A.**, telegram to
X, 224
- Blandinsville, Ill.**, L. at..V, 89
- Blankenship, E. C.**, letter to
I, 10

- Blatchford, Rich. M.**, money advanced to, for public defenseVII, 192
 — appointment of, as ass't treas. at N. Y.....X, 138
- Bledsoe, A. T.**, appointment ofI, 242
 — signer of invitation to Clay I, 232
 — — Whig circular....I, 259
- Blenker, Louis, Gen.**, ordered to command of Fremont.... VII, 138
- Bliss, Geo.**, letter to....IX, 1
- Bliss, W. S.**, Col., offers Loyal Brigade of the North..... VIII, 323
- Blittersdorf, Gustave**, pardonedIX, 170
- Blizzard, A.**, letter to..X, 248
- Blockade, Charleston**, property of Herman Koppel condemnedIX, 104
 — effect of, on price of cotton X, 312
 — effectiveness of, increased.. VI, 331
 — extension of.....IX, 236
 — Florida ports.....X, 14
 — Mobile Bay, order to close X, 260
 — order concerning, at Norfolk.....VIII, 74
 — prizes, number and value... IX, 236
 — proclamation Feb. 18, 1864.. X, 14
- Blockade (contd.)**
 — questions arising from..... IX, 224
 — raising in various ports.... X, 272
 — relaxed at Port of Alexandria, Va.....IX, 135
 — rights of, message to Congress concerning...VII, 61
 — Southern ports, Great Britain expected to respect.... VI, 281
 — — order concerning, Apr. 11, 1865XI, 79
 — — proclamation of Apr. 19, Apr. 27, 1861..VI, 248, 256
- Bloomington, Ill.**, Lincoln's visit toI, 177
 — lost speech at.....II, 308
 — "Pantagraph," speech of L. in.....III, 349
 — perversion of L.'s speech by Douglas at.....IV, 215
 — Republican Party, organization at.....III, 272
 — speech of Douglas at.III, 54
 — State Convention at.IV, 311
- Blount, Wm.**, vote against slaveryV, 296
- Blow, H. T.**, letter to, on factional quarrels....VIII, 276
 — telegram to on publication of a letter.....IX, 27
- Blue Ridge**, Geary reports on VII, 197
- Blue River, Ind.**, settlement of Josiah Lincoln on....VI, 25

- Blunt, Jas. G.**, Maj.-Gen., advice to Schofield about.... IX, 150
- encourages Judge Lynch in Kan.....IX, 88
- Gov. Carney complains of.. VIII, 256
- Kansas, not to be removed from department....IX, 38
- letter to on difficulties in Kansas.....IX, 87
- L.'s dissatisfaction with... IX, 87
- removal not demanded by Carney.....IX, 34
- restraint demanded by Gov. Carney.....IX, 35
- Boal, Robt., Dr.**, letters to.... I, 280; II, 298, 313
- Boggs, Chas. Stewart**, Com., receives thanks of Congress VII, 162
- Boker, Geo. H.**, "Our Heroic Themes"VIII, liii.
- letter to, on being made member of Phila. Union LeagueIX, 182
- Bolivia**, relations with X, 285
- Bolsom, Jane C.**, affidavit in Wright case.....IX, 119
- Bond, Benj.**, recommendation ofII, 106
- Bond, L. Montgomery**, letter ofVI, 62
- Bonds, U. S.**, increasing value ofVIII, 193
- six per cent.....VII, 276
- Boonville, Mo.**, Ann Todd in I, 268
- Border States**, appeal to representatives of, to favor compensated emancipation.. VII, 270
- effect of emancipation upon VIII, 33
- R. Mallory at White House conference.....VII, 128
- "Boston Advertiser,"** speech of L. at Worcester in..II, 89
- Boston "Courier,"** Trumbull's speech inVI, 74
- Boston, Mass.**, Lincoln in.... II, 89
- proposed sub-treasury at... I, 117
- Sailors' Fair, telegram to.. X, 260
- Botsford, Alban B.**, Capt.... VIII, 175
- Botts, John Minor**, assurances of, as to South.....VI, 50
- Bouck, W. C.**, Gov. of N. Y. I, 256
- Bouligny, John E.**, correspondence with...VIII, 247
- negotiates for election of La. representatives.VIII, 61
- negotiates for election of New Orleans.....VII, 278
- Bounty**, distribution of..II, 13
- lands, distribution of in parcels.....II, 13
- — location of, in parcels.. II, 13

- Bounty** (*contd.*)
 — navy, proposal to provide.. IX, 239
- Boutwell, Geo. S.**, Gov. of Mass., Banks' letter to... IX, 56
- Bowden, L. J.**, action in Wright case.....IX, 115
- Bowen, Geo. W.**, discharge asked by wife.....X, 256
- Bowen, Jas.**, appointment of brigadier-general...VIII, 21
- Bowen, S. W.**.....IV, 50
- Bowling Green, Ky.**, Buell's movements on.....VII, 75
 — enemy holding railroad at.. VII, 106
 — letter to Buell as to an attack on.....VII, 83
- Boxing, L.**'s participation in.. III, 210
- Boyle, F. E.**, Rev.....VII, 61
 dispatch on situation at
- Boyle, J. T.**, Gen., answer to LouisvilleVIII, 26
 — in trouble; to call on HalleckVII, 275
 — ordered to suspend executions.....IX, 278
 — telegram to.....VIII, 20
 — — about whereabouts of Bragg.....VIII, 21
 — — at Louisville, about Buell.....VIII, 56
- Boyle, S. T.**, Gen., letter to.. VIII, 210
- Boyles, Jesse, Col.**, empow-
 ered to raise Ky. regi-
 mentVI, 295
- Bradford, A. W.**, Gov. of Md., letter toIX, 196
 — requests L. to call for volun-
 teers.....VII, 250
 — telegram to.....IX, 147
- Bragg, Braxton, Gen.**, account of battle of Chickamauga.. IX, 137
 — Buell's troops in pursuit of VIII, 55
 — dispatch to Gen. Cooper.... IX, 135
 — inquiries about whereabouts of.....VIII, 21, 22
 — Johnston re-enforced by... IX, 66
- Bramlette, Thos. E.**, Gov. of Ky., Houston's discharge orderedX, 266
 — removal of troops, explained to.....IX, 279, 285
 — telegram to.....X, 276
 — Thirteenth amendment sent to.....XI, 3
- Branch, L. O. B.**, Gen., de-
 feated at Hanover Court HouseVII, 196
- Branham, —**, letter to.VI, 99
- Brayman, M.**, letter to.II, 179
- Brazos de Santiago, Tex.**, blockadeXI, 80
- Breck, —**, Judge.....X, 29
- Breckinridge County, Ky.**, descendants of Mary Lincoln inVI, 25

- Breckinridge, John C.**, alarm of, at Douglas' campaign schemesVI, 52
 — candidate for president..... VI, 13
 — Douglas supporter...V, 216
 — order of, copy desired.XI, 40
 — treason of.....VIII, 305
- Breckenridge, Robt. J.**, Col. XI, 40
- Breese, K. Randolph**, Capt., receives thanks of Congress VII, 162
- Breese, Sidney**, discussion with DouglasIV, 8
 — opposition to Douglas..... IV, 169, 170
- Brewster, Benj. E.**, correspondence on arrest of Simon Cameron.....VII, 147
- Bridges, G. W.**, Col., care of Wm. R. Bridges.....X, 201
- Bridges, R. T.**, case of.X, 324
- Bridges, Wm. R.**, suspension of execution asked...X, 201
- Brigadier-Generals**, inefficiency among, in Dept. of Mo... VII, 77
- Briggs, Jas. A.**, letter to.... V, 258
- Bright, Jesse D.**, Vice-presidency of.....II, 293
- Bristow Station**, affair at... IX, 179
- Brimfield, Peoria Co.**, Ill., burning of post-office at.... II, 10
- British North America**, arrest of U. S. Consul-General... X, 10
- Broadhead, Jas. O.**, Prov.-Mar.-Gen., supersedes Franklin A. Dick...IX, 158
 — telegram to.....IX, 34
- Brockman, J. M.**, letter to... VI, 59
- Brooklyn "Eagle,"** authorship of L.'s epigram III, 349
- Brooklyn, N. Y.**, L. invited to lecture inV, 293; VI, 8
- "Brooklyn,"** U. S. S., order to land troops.....VI, 301
- Brooks, —**, Gen., in command at Pittsburg.....VIII, 325
- Brooks, Edw. P.**, exchanged X, 41, 49
- Brooks, Phillips**, "Character of Lincoln".....VI, v
- Brooks, Preston S.**, assault on SumnerIII, 175
 — opinion on Constitution... III, 175
 — — perpetuation of slavery.. IV, 33, 374
 — — slavery III, 175; V, 66, 335
- Brough, —**,.....VIII, 326
- Brough, John**, Gov. of O., draft of letter to, to watch VallandinghamX, 132
 — sends offer of troops from O.....X, 83
 — telegram to, ordering pardon of the 12th Ohio.X, 70

- Brough, John** (*contd.*)
 — — transmitting news from Grant.....X, 107
- Brougham, Henry**, warning wordsIX, lx
- Brougham, Lord**, supposed speech of Dallas to...VI, 53
- Brown, —**, correspondent of "Tribune," detained at RichmondVIII, 290
- Brown, B. Gratz**, Sen., defeat of, gradual emancipation... V, 63, 332
- objection to Pope..IX, 267
- part in relief of Schofield.. IX, 264
- telegram to.....VIII, 176
- Brown, Egbert B.**, Brig.-Gen., Shelby driven out of Mo. by.....X, 341
- Brown, Geo. T.**, election of.. II, 271
- Brown, Geo. W.**, desire to consult with.....VI, 252
- reply to Mayor of Baltimore VI, 251
- Brown, Harvey**, Col., expedition ofVI, 233
- Brown, Jas.**, Douglas partisan IV, 190
- Brown, Jas. N.**, letter to V, 87
- Brown, John**, execution of.. XI, 115
- fate of.....VI, 7
- nature of his effort..V, 318
- not a Republican.V, 314, 315
- Republicans dealt with un- fairly over.....V, 315
- warning to rebels...XI, 115
- Brown, John C.**, Brig.-Gen., woundedIX, 137
- Brown, John O.**, Gov. Morton asked about.....IX, 35
- Brown, Mathias**, pardoned... IX, 170
- sentencedIX, 188
- Brown, W. H.**, letter to..... V, 283
- Brown, Wm. Y.**, Rev. VII, 61
- Browning, —**, candidate for Gen. Land Office....II, 105
- Browning and Bushnell**, letter to.....II, 149
- Browning, O. H.**, criticism of First Inaugural address.. VI, 169
- endorser of L.'s bill against Ill. Cent. R. R. Co...II, 289
- interest asked for Taylor.. II, 17
- letter to..... II, 134, 312; VI, 357; XI, 100
- Browning, O. H., Mrs.**, letter toI, 87
- Brownsville, Tex.**, blockade.. XI, 80
- — relaxation of.....X, 16
- Brumfield, Wm.**, husband of Nancy Lincoln.....VI, 25
- Brunswick, Ga.**, blockade.... XI, 80
- Bruzual, Blas**, Minister from Venezuela, reply to..X, 216
- Bryan, Thos. B.**, thanks for

- lithograph of Emancipation ProclamationIX, 286
- Bryant, John H.**, letter to, on monument for Hon. Owen LovejoyX, 110
- Bryant, Wm. Cullen**, "Abraham Lincoln" . . .VI, xix, 42
- letter toI, 89
- — L., asking Sigel's reinstatementVIII, 275
- — on Henderson caseX, 135
- L. introduced by . . .V, 293
- Buchanan County, Mo.**, troubles inIX, 187
- Buchanan, Franklin, Com.**VIII, 305
- Buchanan, Jas. B.**, conditions of acceptance for nominationIV, 366
- difference with DouglasII, 336
- disagreement of, with DouglasIV, 187
- Douglas disavows interview withIII, 240
- effect of policyVI, 216
- embodiment of Democratic platformIV, 366
- likeness to *Lear*II, 309
- minister to Eng.III, 330; IV, 160
- on Lecompton ConstitutionIII, 163
- presidential nomination accepted byIV, 232
- Pres., election for . . .II, 308
- Buchanan, Jas. B. (contd.)**
- principle on which electedVI, 25
- ruling on admission of Minn.IV, 29
- slavery in Territories, right of people to decide . . .VI, 23
- — views onVIII, xvi, xxviii
- threatens Douglas . . .V, 18
- weakness ofVI, 215
- Buchanan party**, Douglas' attitude towardIII, 198
- Buckingham, Wm. A.**, letter to, on loyalty of Conn. peopleVIII, 185
- requests L. to call for volunteersVII, 249
- telegram toVI, 352
- Buckner, Simon B., Gen.**, Federal commission forVI, 348
- L.'s statement as to Ky.VI, 325
- treason ofVIII, 305
- Buell, Carlos, Gen.**, East Tenn. main object of campaignVII, 73
- instructions on commercial intercourseVII, 118
- letter to, on capture of East Tenn.VIII, 63
- — on attack on Columbus and Bowling Green . . .VII, 83
- — on meeting with the enemyVII, 128
- movements on Bowling

- Green.....VII, 75
 — part of command merged into the Dept. of Miss.... VII, 130
 — position of, in Ky..VII, 84
 — telegram of inquiry about Bragg.....VIII, 22
 — — to.....VII, 70
 — to co-operate with Gen. Halleck..VII, 71, 74, 84, 98
 — troops in pursuit of Bragg.. VIII, 55
- Buena Vista, battle of.**..II, 23
 — death of Whig officers..... II, 85
- Buffalo Convention, silence of, on Mexican War.**..II, 94
- Buffalo, N. Y., address at.**.. VI, 132
- Bulkly, Mrs., accused.**...X, 20
- Bull Run, defeat at.**...VI, 331
 — Pope's disaster.....X, 3
- Bullets, folly of appeal to.**.. VI, 322
- Bullitt, Cuthbert, nomination as collector of customs.**... VIII, 152
 — letter to.....VII, 294
- Bunker Hill, Jackson and Ewell near.**.....VII, 199
- Bunker, R. B., appointed attorney for Nev.**...VIII, 296
- Bunn, —, Brig.-Gen., wounded at Chickamauga.**...IX, 137
- Bunn, Jacob,**.....VIII, 286
- Burbridge, S. G., Gen., action at Cynthiana, Ky.**...X, 125
- Burbridge, S. G. (contd.)**
 — assessments for depredations.....X, 255
 — ordered to investigate Harris case.....X, 214
- Helm, Emily T., Mrs., directions for dealing with.**X, 184
 — Houston departs ...X, 265
 — report on Meade's discharge of.....X, 234
- Bureau for Employment of disabled and discharged soldiers**XI, 42
- Bureau of Ordnance, changes necessary in.**.....VII, 88
- Burlingame, Anson, proposed minister to Austria.**..VI, 223
- Burnet, David G., pres. Republic of Tex., signer of treaty with Santa Anna.**.. I, 347
- Burnley, J. Hume, British charge d'affaires.**...XI, 9
- Burnside, Ambrose E., Maj.-Gen., approves Halleck's letter to.**.....VIII, 181
 — arrests Vallyandigham..... VIII, 278
 — at Newport News..VII, 277
 — backed by L. in arrest of Vallyandigham...VIII, 279
 — concerted movement of forces in crossing Rappahannock.....VIII, 89
 — confers with L....VIII, 88
 — correspondence with..... VIII, 177

- Burnside, A. E. (contd.)**
- courage and skill as commander.....VIII, 150
 - defeated at Fredericksburg VIII, 149
 - dissatisfaction with.IX, 139
 - draft of letter to....IX, 139
 - draws up plan of movement at Warrentown..... VIII, 178, 179
 - drives enemy across the river at London....IX, 111
 - East Tenn. relief attempted IX, 64
 - has Kingston and Knoxville IX, 111
 - in command of Army of Potomac.....VIII, 72
 - letter to, on movement across Rappahannock..... VIII, 179
 - — about George Patten... VIII, 146
 - — at Cumberland Gap.... IX, 118
 - — on sale of negroes..... VIII, 257
 - — Stahel and Schurz..... VIII, 145
 - loss at Rogersville..IX, 204
 - menaced from West.IX, 167
 - mud march of.....IX, 119
 - not to move army without notifying L.....VIII, 154
 - ordered to re-enforce McClellan.....VII, 257
 - plan for crossing Rappahannock.....VIII, 165
 - — marching into Richmond VIII, 88, 89
 - raising troops in Tenn..... IX, 175
 - ready to attack Lee..... VIII, 88
 - relieved from command of Army of Potomac..... VIII, 204
 - resignation of....VIII, 177
 - strength of army..VIII, 88
 - telegram inquiring for King's division....VII, 307
 - — to VIII, 147, 262, 334; IX, 42, 141, 175, 204
 - — about Pope.VIII, 18, 19
 - — about Thomas M. Campbell, spy.....VIII, 280
 - to drive Lee from Fredericksburg.....VIII, 89
 - to help Rosecrans..IX, 132
 - to meet L. off Aquia Creek VIII, 87
 - to re-enforce McClellan at James River.....VII, 239
 - to help Rosecrans at Chattanooga.....IX, 141
- Bushwhackers,.....X, 134**
- Bushwhacking, by Democratic party.....V, 357, 360**
- Busteed, Rich. Gen., recommended to Gen. Dix..... VIII, 149**
- Butler, note,XI, 98**
- Butler, Benj. F., Maj.-Gen.,**

- Ames gun, promise to supply.....X, 224
- Blake, ordered to suspend execution of.....IX, 268
- canal, progress on..X, 224
- commanding Fortress Monroe.....VI, 331
- Crouse complains of dismissal by.....X, 235
- Findley, supposed skulking of.....X, 242
- holds runaway slaves as contraband of war..VI, 351
- Lester, confiscation of money.....X, 236
- letter to.....X, 29, 31, 37
- — concerning exchange of prisoners.....X, 71
- — Gen. Phelps' report of fugitive negroes...VII, 258
- — Norfolk matters..X, 320
- naval prisoners, exchange, supervised by.....X, 238
- note to.....X, 20
- orders election in eastern Va.....X, 320
- order to allow Judge Snead to return home.....X, 201
- Point Lookout prisoners, discharge of.....VIII, 167; XI, 129
- proposes to raise troops in New Eng.....VI, 352
- requested to come to Washington...VIII, 154; X, 339
- spoliation of personal effects X, 343
- Butler, Benj. F. (contd.)**
- Stanton, telegram to..X, 259
- telegram to.....VIII, 208; X, 20, 40, 49, 54
- — concerning remains of Col. Dahlgren.....X, 43
- — election in eastern Va...X, 327
- — volunteer commissions..X, 104
- to aid Boulogne in election VIII, 61
- to go to New Orleans.....VIII, 203
- to inquire into case of Charles Crumblin...X, 73
- Wilmington Expedition report.....X, 338
- wishes to go to Tex.....VIII, 203
- Butler, Pierce**, causes arrest of Simon Cameron.VII, 147
- vote against slavery..V, 297
- Butler, John G.**, Rev...VII, 60
- Butler, Wm.**, recommendation of.....II, 112
- — for clerk of U. S. Circuit Courts of Ill.....II, 266
- telegram to.....VII, 145
- witness.....I, 63
- Buts, ifs, and ands**.....VIII, 229, 305
- Butterfield, Dan.**, Maj.-Gen., telegram to...VIII, 262, 271
- — on news from Richmond VIII, 291
- Butterfield, Justin**, attack on

- by Linder.....II, 133
- defeat of L. for Gen. Land Office by.....II, 111
- opposition to appointment to Gen. Land Office....II, 118
- Button, —, Gen., captured by Sheridan.....XI, 76

C

- “C. E. Hillman,” steamer, seizure of.....VI, 258
- Cabinet, approves reconstruction plan of 1863....XI, 86
- Cameron in, impossible....VI, 91
- defection in the....VII, 101
- desire of West for representation in.....II, 100
- desired recall of Cameron’s appointment to.....VI, 97
- difficulty of Northern appointments to.....VI, 95
- emancipation, compensated, disapproval by.....XI, 3
- — proclamation, advice of.....VIII, 161
- — — anounced to...XI, xii
- — — division of, on.XI, xii
- — — draft of, submitted to VIII, 155
- Gentry, M. P., for...VI, 94
- Hunt, Randall, for...VI, 94
- Johnson’s coming to Washington, discussion of.X, 345
- letters to members on Fort Pillow massacre.....X, 92
- L.’s determination to co-op-

- erate with successor.X, 203
- note to, about admission of W. Va.....VIII, 151
- opinions asked on Fort Sumter.....VI, 192
- — on Fort Sumter..VI, 227
- power of dismissal from, reserved to L.....X, 158
- Southern appointments to, L.’s desire for.....VI, 91
- — — rumor of.....VI, 78
- Cabiniss, J. M., signer of invitation to Clay,.....I, 232
- Caesar, Lincoln contrasted with IX, lii
- Caesarism, warning of...I, 47
- Cairo, Ill., joint movement from VI, 333
- information desired upon situation at.....VI, 339
- Caldwell, Chas. H. B., Lt.-Com., receives thanks of Congress.....VII, 162
- Caldwell, Geo. W., letter to..VI, 260
- Calhoun, John C., bill of rights ridiculed by..II, 173
- land resolutions of....I, 140
- Mephistopheles of slavery..IX, xxiii
- position of, on slavery.....VIII, xiv
- speech of, on tariff...I, 245
- truth of Declaration denied by.....V, 37
- vice-president.....II, 293
- California, additional collec-

- tion districts.....X, 336
 — admission of.....II, 201
 — — effect upon Northern
 representation in Congress.
 V, 28
 — land claim, letter to Gen.
 Sickles on.....IX, 90
 — proposed extension of sla-
 very to.....II, 93
 — treasure ships, protection or-
 dered for.....VII, 190
Call for volunteers, legality
ofVI, 308
Cambridge, Mass., degree con-
ferred upon Jackson in...
 IV, 82
 — Lincoln in.....II, 89
Camden, N. C., blockade...
 XI, 80
Cameron, R. A., letter to...
 VI, 99
Cameron, Simon, Sec. of
War, advocates arming of
slaves.....VII, 79
 — appoints Lane to raise vol-
 unteers in Kan.....VI, 294
 — arrest of.....VII, 147
 — candidacy for presidential
 nomination.....V, 258
 — commission for S. B. Buck-
 ner.....VI, 348
 — consultation about assigning
 Fremont.....VI, 296
 — desired to muster in N. Y.
 German regiments..VI, 272
 — — receive Indiana regi-
 ments.....VI, 292
Cameron, Simeon (contd.)
 — — — Mass. regiment.....
 VI, 291
 — — — Mich. regiment.....
 VI, 291
 — — — O. troops...VI, 292
 — emancipation proclamation,
 suppression by L...XI, xii
 — letter of, to Gov. of Mo....
 VI, 338
 — — to
 VI, 91, 96, 97, 339; VII, 79
 — memorandum to.....VII, 6
 — note to.....VI, 242
 — objects to appointment of
 Meigs.....VI, 290
 — offered Cabinet position....
 VI, 90
 — — post of minister to Rus-
 sia.....VII, 80
 — opinion on Fort Sumter....
 VI, 202
 — order to prepare expedition
 by sea.....VI, 226
 — ordered to prosecute army
 and navy expedition.VI, 356
 — recommendations of, for
 Cabinet position....VI, 72
 — request as to appointment of
 Lane.....VI, 337
 — resignation of.....VII, 79
 — resolutions of House of Rep.
 censuring.....VII, 193
 — telegrams to.....
 IX, 31; X, 239, 240
 — unsuited for difficulties of
 War Dept.....VII, 79

- Camp Beauregard** and Columbus, movements of the enemy about.....VII, 75
- Camp Chase, O.**, Bowen prisoner of war at.....X, 256
- Dr. J. J. Williams, prisoner at.....VIII, 10
- Camp Morton, Ind.**,...IX, 88
- Campaign**, memorandum for plan of.....VII, 3
- political, L.'s first.....I, 1
- of 1856, L.'s speeches in... VI, 38
- Campbell, —**, marriage to Ann Todd.....I, 268
- Campbell, Antrim**,...II, 129
- letter to.....III, 27
- Campbell, Jas.**, letter to.... VIII, 286
- Campbell, John Arch.**, Judge, Va., Confederate peace commissioner.....X, 348, 349
- error as to L.'s offer to.... XI, 92
- Hampton Roads conference XI, 16, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30
- remission of confiscations.. XI, 93
- Seward ordered to meet.... X, 351
- unsigned memo. given to.. XI, 71
- visits L. at Richmond..... XI, 73
- See also*, Confederate Peace Commission.
- Campbell, Julian R.**, letter to, from John Hay...VIII, 319
- Campbell, Lew.**, witness to III, 349
- Campbell, Thos. H.**,...IV, 78
- Campbell, Thos. M.**, convicted as spy.....VIII, 280
- sentence respited..VIII, 280
- Campbell, Thompson**, candidate for Congress..IV, 45
- Campbell, "Uncle Tom,"** complaint of.....I, 270
- Campbell, Wm. B.**, Johnson's proclamation.....X, 248
- Camps**, annoyed by slaves.... VII, 121
- Canada**, depredations in..... X, 289
- reciprocity treaty with.... X, 290
- relations with U. S..X, 290
- Canadian commerce**, communications on.....X, 10
- Canal lands**; *See* Public Lands.
- Canals**, in Ill., enlarging.... VIII, 109
- N. Y., enlarging..VIII, 109
- Jefferson's proposed application of Treasury surplus to.....II, 38
- speech on grant of public lands to.....II, 101
- tonnage duties impossible to construct.....II, 42
- See also*, Rivers.
- Canby, E. R. S.**, Gen., consent desired for Bailey's re-

- lief expedition.....X, 227
 — Farragut, forwards telegram to.....X, 314
 — Hamilton not to be molested by.....X, 186
 — Hurlbut, correspondence with.....X, 267
 — letters to, relative to cotton X, 172, 312
 — Mobile harbor, operations in X, 212
 — officer at Mobile Bay, orders to.....X, 260
 — wounded.....X, 314
Canedy, P. C., witness..I, 63
Canisius, H. L., letter to, on Mass., naturalization.V, 129
Canisius, Theo., memo. of letter toVIII, 68
Canning, Geo., warning words IX, 1x
Cannon, J. R., telegram to.. X, 236
Capability of Lincoln, Douglas' idea of.....III, 209
Cape Girardreau, Mo., slavery in.....V, 224
Capen, F. L., indorsement on letter to.....VIII, 257
Capital, relation to labor.... V, 230, 248; VII, 56; X, 51
 — rights of.....VII, 57; X, 52
See also, Wealth.
Capitalists, appeals of, for legislation.....I, 23
 — proposition of, to workingmen.....V, 230
Capitol, U. S., paintings in.... XI, v
Captives of war, negroes taking refuge within Federal lines.....VIII, 258
Carley, Mark, letter to..... XI, 104
Carlin, Thos., Gov., removal of Sec. of State by..IV, 377
Carlin, W. H., campaign incident.....IV, 376
Carmichael, —, Judge, case of VII, 237
Carney, Thos., Gov. of Kan. Blunt's removal not asked by.....IX, 34
 — complains of Gen. Blunt... IX, 87
 — explanation to, in regard to commissions.....IX, 38
 — letter of indorsement of.... X, 100
Carpenter, Chas., telegrams to Fort Warren, to execute sentence.....X, 81
Carpenter, F. B., account of Emancipation Proclamation, X, 1
 — letter to Wadsworth, reported by.....XI, 131
 — painting by.....XI, v
Carpenter, Wm., resolutions on Hungarian freedom.... II, 127
Carroll, Dan., vote against slavery.....V, 297
Carter County, Tenn., Lincoln

- family in.....II, 182
- Carter, Jas. T. P.**, letter to..
X, 248
- Carter, John P.**, release of..
X, 278
- Carter, T. J.**, appointment of
IX, 164
- Cass, Lewis, Gen.**, acceptance
of Democratic nomination..
II, 29
- approval of vetoes of public
improvements by Polk..II, 68
- debate on Chase's amend-
ment to Neb. bill.....
III, 287, 299
- effect of election to Presi-
dency.....II, 67
- encouragement of extension
of slavery by.....II, 93
- equivocation of, at Cleve-
land.....II, 69
- Gov. of Mich.II, 80
- nomination of, for president
II, 29
- originator of "Nebraskaism"
IV, 231
- — "Popular sovereignty"..
XI, 106
- position of, on bankrupt law
II, 63
- reply to Miller.....II, 77
- record of, on Wilmot provi-
so.....II, 76
- speeches of, in Ill....IV, 8
- Supt. of Indian Affairs ex-
officio.....II, 80
- true hickory stripe of..II, 73
- Cass, Lewis** (*contd.*)
- working and eating capaci-
ties of described by Lincoln
II, 80
- Caucus** for Speaker..VIII, 229
- Cavalry Depot**, employment
desired at.....X, 192
- Cedar Creek, Va.**, battle of..
X, 251
- Census** reports..VIII, 121, 123
- of 1850, slave population..
II, 220
- See also*, Population.
- Central America**, political af-
fairs in.....VIII, 8
- effects of race equality in..
III, 92
- negro colonization in.....
VIII, 6
- Chaffee, C. C.**, Dr. owner of
Dred Scott.....IV, 159
- Challenge** to Joint Debates..
III, 189
- Chambers, —**, rumor brought
byII, 126
- Chambrun, Marquis de**, article
on LincolnXI, 131
- Chancellorville**, Lee's army
near.....VIII, 315
- Chandler, L. H.**, action in
Wright case.....IX, 115
- Chandler, Zachariah**, letter to
IX, 212
- Chaplains**, to hospitals, ap-
pointment of.....VII, 60
- Character**, the American....
IV, xi

- "Character of Lincoln," by
 Phillips Brooks.....VI, v
Characteristics of Lincoln...
 IX, xli
Charleston, Ill., fourth Lin-
 coln-Douglas debate at.....
 IV, 89
 — L. at.....I, 180; II, 150
 — rejoinder of L. to Douglas
 at.....IV, 184
 — reply of Douglas to L. at..
 IV, 142
 — residence of L.'s father....
 II, 14
Charleston, S. C., blockade...
 XI, 80
 — Du Pont and Hunter to co-
 operate at.....VIII, 248
 — Du Pont at..VIII, 246, 247
 — Gen. Gilmore throws shot
 into.....IX, 106
 — naval and military opera-
 tions.....IX, 267
 — sub-treasury proposed at...
 I, 117
 See also, Fort Sumter.
Charleston, Va., Saxton forced
 from, by Jackson...VII, 199
Chase, —, Maj., writ of habeas
 corpus suspended in case of
 VII, 87
Chase, Salmon P., Sec. of
 the Treasury.....V, 140
 — amendment to Nebraska bill,
 III, 286, 287
 — appeal of Evans in behalf of
 Welch.....IX, 213
Chase, Salmon P. (contd.)
 — — Hoadley in behalf of An-
 drews.....IX, 279
 — appointment of Streeter and
 Smith.....VI, 330
 — candidacy of, for president
 V, 138
 — canvass for L. by..IV, 176
 — character of, Garfield's de-
 scription.....XI, vi
 — collectorship at Hartford,
 Conn.....VIII, 221, 222
 — correspondence with.VII, 71
 — description of announce-
 ment of Emancipation Pro-
 clamation to Cabinet by...
 XI, xiv
 — Douglas' position on amend-
 ment of.....III, 299
 — draft of letter to...IX, 108
 — feeling of L. for.....
 V, 137; VI, 8
 — illness of.....X, 8
 — information desired of Bar-
 ney.....IX, 281
 — letter to
 VI, 21, 90, 224; VII, 306,
 307; VIII, 133; IX, 183;
 X, 6, 18, 25, 29
 — — accepting resignation...
 X, 140
 — — on appointment of Au-
 gustin Chester...VIII, 283
 — — — Dennison....VI, 274
 — — — M. B. Field...X, 137
 — — B. F. Flanders.....
 VIII, 273

Chase, Salmon P. (contd.)

- — interest on loans..... X, 102
- — introducing Thos. H. Campbell.....VII, 128
- — removal of Atkinson.... X, 126
- — — Victor Smith, collector of customs....VIII, 270
- — Edw. J. Westcott and Gov. Dickinson...VIII, 234
- nominated Chief Justice of Supreme Court.....X, 311
- note to VIII, 148; IX, 295; X, 8, 19, 329
- — on asst. collector at N. Y.VIII, 221, 222
- — John E. Bouligny as surveyor at New Orleans.. VII, 278
- — Cuthbert Bullitt..... VIII, 152
- — going to Gettysburg.... IX, 208
- — Hon. Wm. Kellogg.... VIII, 333
- — "Picayune" and "True Delta".....VIII, 73
- — tax commissions for Conn.....VIII, 9
- — opinion on arming blacks.. X, 2
- — Fort Sumter..... VI, 201, 228
- — special suspension of habeas corpus.....VIII, 274

Chase, Salmon P. (contd.)

- order to, for appointment.. VI, 266
- — appoint Geo. Denison... VI, 273
- permission to appoint David Webb.....VI, 273
- rascal catching.....X, 18
- refusal of, to recognize slavery in amendment to Nebraska bill.....III, 288
- resignation of.....X, 140
- — not accepted..VIII, 148
- rival for nomination of president.....X, 116
- speeches of, in Ill....IV, 8
- Taylor's money scheme.... XI, 122
- telegram to, on Judge Lawrence.....IX, 170
- — telling movements of Banks.....VII, 184
- to issue notes for payment of army and navy..... VIII, 192
- Treasury rules of, approved IX, 298
- Wilmot proviso supported by.....V, 77
- Chase, W. M., Sec., letter to.. VI, 268**
- Chattahoochee River, Sherman at.....X, 166**
- Chattanooga, Tenn., expedition to, L.'s solicitude for.. VII, 255**
- Grant secure at....IX, 253

- Chattanooga** (*contd.*)
 — important to hold..IX, 154
 — Rosecrans to hold his position at.....IX, 131
- Cheap** buying and dear selling a fallacy.....I, 304
- Cheatham County, Tenn.**, election in.....X, 17
- Chelsea, Mass.**, Lincoln in....
 II, 89
- Cheney, T. A.**, letter to.....
 VI, 48
- Cherokee Indians**, loyalty of
 VIII, 44, 45
 — regiments of, correspondence with Gen. Curtis.....
 VIII, 56
- Cherrystone, Va.**, blockade..
 XI, 80
- Chesapeake Bay**, orders to move on.....VII, 118
- Chesley, —**, appointment.....
 IX, 19
- Chester, Augustin**, candidate for controller of the Treasury.....VIII, 283
- Chew, Henry**, order for furniture for.....IV, 199
- Chew, R. S.**, instructions to..
 VI, 241
- Chicago, Ills.**, Cass superintendent of Indian agency at.
 II, 81
 — convention 1860, reply of L. to committee of....VI, 12
 — — 1864, significance of adjournment.....X, 244
- Chicago** (*contd.*)
 — — Confederate commissioners, supposed plans for
 X, 171
 — Douglas' speech at..IV, 79
 — indignation of against Compromise of 1850.....IV, 79
 — letter to Conkling at, botched up in eastern papers.....
 IX, 109
 — L.'s advice to settle in.....
 VI, 6
 — — conduct of case at.....
 II, 339
 — — speech at.II, 308; III, 19
 — — — perversion of, by Douglas.....IV, 215
 — "Long John" attacked.....
 XI, 103
 — municipal election, speech at.....V, 114
 — reply to committee from, asking for proclamation of emancipation.....VIII, 28
 — speech of Trumbull at
 IV, 91
- Chicago "American,"** letter toI, 96
- Chicago "Daily Press,"** argument in.....II, 341
- Chicago "Journal,"** letter to editor of.....II, 131
- Chicago "Times,"**....IV, 153
 — Douglas answers L. in....
 III, 193
 — — interrogatories of, in...
III, 272

- Chicago "Times" (contd.)**
 — — attack of, on L...XI, 104
 — — supported by..VIII, 293
 — foundation of....VIII, 293
 — Jas. Sheahan, editor of....
 VIII, 293
 — Mexican War charge
 against L. in.....IV, 192
 — opposition of, to Lecompton
 Constitution.....IV, 225
 — order for suspension of, re-
 voked
 VIII, 290, 293; X, 108
- Chicago "Tribune,"**...II, 361
 — authorship of Lincoln's epi-
 gram.....III, 349
- Chickahominy River,** advice
 to McClellan about.VII, 210
 — bridges over, constructed by
 McClellan.....VII, 177
 — interview between Gen.
 Cobb and Col. Key on bank
 X, 335
- Chili,** friendly relations with..
 X, 285
 — seizure of treasure belong-
 ing to U. S. citizens.IX, 226
- China,** consular service in....
 X, 287
 — position toward U. S.....
 X, 287
- Chitty's "Pleadings,"** XI, 114
- Chivalry, L.'s high**....I, 56
- Choate, Jos. H.,** letter to, de-
 clining invitation....X, 319
- Chrisman, John,** letter to....
 VI, 56
- Christian Commission,** meet-
 ing Feb. 22, 1863..VIII, 217
- Christianity,** duty of, to negro
 III, 218
- Church,** indorsement about a,
 at Memphis.....X, 99
- Churches,** government's posi-
 tion as to.....VIII, 169
 — Government does not con-
 trol.....X, 4
 — — should not control.....
 X, 42
 — memorandum about..X, 30
 See also, under the names
 of the various denomina-
 tions.
- Churchill, Sam. B.**....VII, 95
 — allegiance of.....VIII, 277
 — property assessed at St.
 Louis.....XI, 48
- Cincinnati, O.,** address at....
 VI, 115
 — address to Germans.....
 VI, 119
 — convention, platform of...
 III, 43
 — Democratic convention at..
 III, 180
 — joint movement from VI, 333
 — speech at.....V, 190
- Cincinnati "Gazette,"** view
 of Ky. elections.....IX, 53
- Cinnabar mines,** discovery of
 X, 300
- Circuit courts;** *See,* Courts,
 circuit.
- Circular letter** to the gover-

- nors.....VII, 256
- Circulation**, effect of national banks upon.....I, 110
See also, Banks; Greenbacks; Money; Treasury.
- Cisco, John L.**, assistant treasurer at N. Y.....X, 138
- Citizens**, foreign born, evasion of military duty....IX, 227
 — rights of, resolutions relative to.....VIII, 300
- City Point, Va.**, Robt. T. Lincoln at.....XI, 60
 — visit to.....XI, 59, 73
- Civil Liberty**; *See*, Liberty.
- Civil service**, disbursements for.....X, 292
- Civil War**, account of, up to May 26, 1862....VII, 189
 — anxiety over loss of life... X, 164
 — commenced on unequal terms.....VIII, 302
 — committee on conduct of... X, 339
 — consequences of....IX, 159
 — cost of, compared with compensated emancipation..... VII, 113, 119, 132; VIII, 120
 — — for one day...VII, 132
 — — for one half day..... VII, 119
 — — for eighty-seven days... VII, 132
 — — bounty, pay, clothing, etc.....X, 133
- Civil War** (*contd.*)
 — — incident to military and naval operations..VIII, 100
 — economic stimulus of..... IX, 231
 — effects of, on the people... VIII, 94
 — emancipation proclamation necessary to success of.... X, 191
 — — would shorten..... VIII, 124
 — influence of foreign powers on the.....VIII, 195
 — liberty involved in...X, 199
 — L.'s views of condition of June 28, 1862....VII, 240
 — national existence threatened by.....X, 208
 — policy for suppression of... VII, 51
 — political ambitions excited by.....VIII, 94
 — prediction in regard to... X, 130
 — Schermerhorn, policy of.... X, 222
 — slavery the root of..... VIII, 32
 — social condition changed by VIII, 94
 — statement as to number of troops with McClellan..... VII, 142
 — when is war to end..X, 129
- Claim**, "Macedonian," settlement of, by Chili....X, 285

- Claims, Government; See, Government claims.**
- Clarksburg, Md., McClellan at**
VIII, 25
- Classes of labor**.....I, 307
- Clay, Brutus, elected to Congress**.....IX, 62
- guarantees good faith of Ark. planters.....IX, 294
- Clay, Cassius M., canvass in Ind.**.....VI, 44
- capture of.....I, 353
- letters to.....VI, 44, 47
- political situation of..VI, 21
- proposed as minister to Spain.....VI, 190
- re-appointment as minister to Russia.....VII, 309
- Clay, Chris. F., loyalty assured**
IX, 294
- Clay, Clement C., Peace Commissioner from Confederate States**.....X, 159
- Clay Club, invitation of**....
I, 232
- Clay County, Ill., election returns from**.....II, 267
- Clay County, Mo., Mrs. Price to remain in**.....X, 345
- Clay, Henry, birth of**..II, 155
- character of.....II, 165
- confirmation of L. on slavery by.....IV, 320
- death of son in Mexican War.....II, 85
- Douglas at death-bed of...
III, 104
- Clay, Henry (contd.)**
- Douglas' respect for.....
IV, 162
- Emancipation, position on..
III, 255; IV, 289
- failure of, to extinguish slavery.....II, 279
- founding of slavery.....
III, 182
- influence of, on Taylor's nomination.....II, 16
- invitation to.....I, 231
- land bill of, indorsed.....
I, 248
- leader of Union men..IV, 2
- L. on electoral ticket of....
VI, 34
- L.'s adherence to tariff views of.....VI, 11
- — campaign work for, in Ind.I, 291
- — estimate of.....II, 163
- — eulogy of.....II, 155
- — ideal statesman..III, 255
- negro and Declaration of Independence.....III, 256
- nomination for president defeated by L.....V, 76
- old horse turned out to root
II, 70
- opposed to slavery..V, 63
- petition to liberate negroes of.....V, 39
- — — reply to.....IV, 382
- re-entrance of, into politics
V, 20, 77
- return of.....VII, 80

- Clay, Henry** (*contd.*)
— return of, to Senate.....
IV, 164
— rewards supporter..II, 114
— sentiments for Declaration
of Independence....IV, 381
— sketch of life.....II, 160
— slavery in D. C.....III, 277
Clay, John M., gift of snuff-
box from.....VII, 307
Clay, T. H., letter to, on send-
ing Gen. Morgan to Ky....
VIII, 55
Claybrook, Edwin C., ordered
sent to L.....IX, 274
Clayton, J. M., *See*, Secretary
of State.....II, 130
Cleburne, Pat., Maj-Gen.,
wounded,IX, 137
Clemency of Lincoln.....
VII, xxvi; IX, xlix, 117
Cleveland, O., address at.....
VI, 129
— equivocation of Cass at....
II, 69
— invitation to visit, accepted
VI, 109
Clifton, Ill., plea of Douglas
at.....IV, 216
Clinton, Ill., speech at.....
III, 349
Clymer, Geo., vote against
slavery.....V, 297
Coal land best thing to com-
mence an enterprise.VIII, 7
Coalter, John D., interested in
McPheeters case....IX, 269
Codding, Ichabod, calls Re-
publican State Convention..
III, 259, 260
— letter to.....II, 264
— negro equality.....V, 3
Cody, H. H.,.....IV, 50
Coercion, meaning of..VI, 113
Coleman, —, Dr., letter of An-
drew Jackson to.....I, 245
Coles County, Ill., death of
Thos. Lincoln in....II, 181
— home of Sally Bush John-
ston.....VI, 27
— Johnston advised to work in
II, 145
— indictment of men of.....
X, 168
— reports of riot at....X, 168
— riot cases.....X, 141
Colfax, Schuyler, speaker of
House of Rep., letter to...
V, 131; VI, 187
— Lincoln's opinion of.....
VI, 187
— support of Douglas for re-
election.....VI, 187
Collamer, Jacob, amendment
to bill to admit Wis...II, 18
— letter to.....XI, 119
College of N. J. confers degree
X, 326
Collingsworth, Jas., Sec. of
State, Republic of Tex.,
signer of treaty with Santa
Anna.....I, 347
Collins, Wm., sentence sus-
pended.....X, 72, 73

- Colonies, how made States**.... VI, 314
 — slaveholding III, 147; IV, 24
- Colonization, address on, to deputation of negroes**.... VIII, 1
 — discussed in message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862.... VIII, 97
 — for South America..... VII, 272
 — in Central America..... VIII, 6
 — in Hayti..... VIII, 97
 — in Liberia..... VIII, 5
 — of negroes..... II, 337; VII, 50; VIII, 1, 97; X, 36
 — — appropriation proposed for..... VIII, 117
 — — difficulties of..... II, 206; VIII, 98
- Colonization Society, Clay supports**..... IV, 289
- Colorado, enabling act signed** X, 54
 — legislature, resolutions of.. VII, 48
 — mineral resources of..... IX, 231
 — organized..... VII, 48
- Colored race; see Negro.**
- Colt, —, Judge, asks release of step-son**..... IX, 88
- Columbia, District of; see District of Columbia.**
- Columbia (contd.)**
 — United States of; *see*, United States of Columbia.
- Columbus Machine Mfg. Co., suit against Barret**.. V, 134
- Columbus, O., feigned attack on, suggested**..... VII, 71
 — invitation to visit accepted VI, 107
 — letter to Buell regarding attack on..... VII, 83
 — L.'s speech at..... V, 140
 — movements of the enemy about..... VII, 75
- Commanders, orders to**..... X, 323
- Commentaries on American law by Kent**..... II, 39
- Commerce, annual report suggested** VII, 47
 — depredations upon.. IX, 245
 — power of Congress to regulate..... II, 40
 — proclamation, concerning Jan. 10, 1865..... X, 336
 — with foreign countries..... VII, 61
- Commercial intercourse, license of**..... VIII, 238
 — order relating to... VII, 109
 — proclamation forbidding with insurgent States VIII, 118, 242
 — marine, protection for VII, 190
 — regulations, order concerning IX, 110

- Commercial** (*contd.*)
 — proclamation order concerning.....X, 197
- Commercial treaty**, between U. S. and Turkey.VIII, 98
- Commissioner of Agriculture**, remuneration of.....IX, 54
See also, Agriculture; Department of Agriculture.
- Committee of Colored People**, reply to.....X, 217
- Committee on conduct of War**, Butler summoned by..X, 339
- Committee of notification**, L.'s reply toX, 116
- Committee**, reply to...X, 346
See also, House of Representatives; Whig Party; and under names of appointing bodies.
- ✓ **Compensated Emancipation**, appeal to Border Slave StatesVII, 270
 — attention of Congress called to.....VIII, 110
 — benefits of...VIII, 120, 124
 — burden of, shared by increased populationVIII, 121
 — Cabinet disapproves..XI, 3
 — compared to cost of war...VII, 113, 119, 132; VIII, 123
 — constitutionality of.....VII, 125
 — denunciation of, by Thaddeus Stevens.....VII, 112
- Compens'd Emcip'n** (*contd.*)
 — draft of message proposing XI, 1
 — L.'s scheme for.....VII, 122-127, 133
 — message to Congress recommending.....VII, 112
 — — — misunderstoodVII, 121
 — N. Y. "Tribune" favors...VII, 123
 — ready money not required for.....VIII, 121
 — resolution and articles preparatory to.....VIII, 117
See also, Emancipation; Gradual Emancipation.
- Compromise**, impossible for maintenance of the Union..IX, 96, 97
 — of 1820.....XI, 109
 — of 1850, confirmation of, by political parties.....IV, 36, 187
 — — description and effects of II, 203
 — — history of.....IV, 164
 — — slavery cause of.....IV, 187
 — on slavery extension, object of.....VI, 103
See also, Missouri Compromise.
- Conduct of War**, Committee on, Butler summoned by..X, 339
- Confederate Peace Commis-**

- sioners, Grant ordered to entertainX, 350
 - L. meets at Fortress Monroe.....X, 355
 - report of meeting with, demand by Congress...XI, 6
 - — — sent to Congress.... XI, 10
 - terms of peace indicated to X, 351
 - Thirteenth amendment announced to.....XI, 31
 - *See also*, Campbell, J. A.; Hunter, R. M. T.; Stephens, A. H.
- Confederate scrip**, question of changing for cotton..... VIII, 83
- Confederate States** of Amer., allegiance of Va. with.... VI, 306
 - announce purpose to privateer.....VI, 308
 - declarations of independence qualified.....VI, 321
 - foreign intervention asked VI, 299; VII, 28, 29, 61
 - hopes of union with Border States.....VII, 122, 123
 - intercourse with Eng..... VI, 279
 - provisional government of VI, 85
 - recognition of, not to be defined.....VI, 281
 - — refused by L.....IX, 16
 - what constitutes...VI, 282
- Confederate States** (*contd.*)
 - recruiting, methods of..... IX, 60
 - representatives in London.. VI, 278
 - seizures of U. S. property.. VI, 297
 - status of.....VI, 282
- Confiscation** of property, act in regard to.....VIII, 39
 - Attorney-General to have superintendence of..... VIII, 74
 - order concerning..VIII, 74
 - courts alone competent to pass on.....IX, 287
 - military rule for....IX, 288
 - remission of, in Va..... XI, 72, 74, 93
 - used for insurrectionary purposes.....VII, 49, 280
- Congress of the U. S.**, acts of, criticized by L..VII, 40
 - administration of justice in insurgent States referred to VII, 42
 - amendment to Constitution for abolishment of slavery VIII, 116; X, 303
 - appropriation for liberation of slaves in D. C..VII, 112
 - — in aid of colonization.. VIII, 1, 117
 - — of public moneys by.... II, 39
 - Ark. Senators refused seats in.....X, 139

Congress of U. S. (contd.)

- Arnold, Isaac N., nominated
X, 141
- article of war, act of, to
make additional...VIII, 38
- assembling of, prevented by
Confederate machinations..
VI, 310
- authority of people over...
V, 232
- clerk of House of Rep., act
of, to regulate duties of..
IX, 190
- colonization of contrabands
in suitable climate suggested
to.....VII, 49
- confiscation of property....
VII, 49, 52
- constitutional duties of.....
IX, 75
- — rights to be supported by
IV, 61
- Court of Claims, removal of,
to relieveVII, 43
- Crittenden-Montgomery bill
in.....V, 118
- Currency, power of, to reg-
ulate.....VIII, 193
- Cushing, Lieut. Wm. B., re-
ceives thanks of...X, 280
- D. C., act to release slaves
in.....II, 97; VII, 146
- — — recommended to, for
favorable consideration....
VII, 48
- electoral votes, power to ex-
clude.....XI, 9

Congress of U. S. (contd.)

- — report of result of, to L.
XI, 10
- emancipation, first step to-
ward.....IX, xxiv
- — proclamation, division
upon.....XI, xii
- executive control of, L.'s
ideas upon..V, 19; VI, 129
- extra session called.....
VI, 246
- foreign affairs, correspond-
ence on.....VIII, 93
- Freedman's Aid Societies,
plan of, referred to.....
IX, 263
- fugitive slave clause, need
of provisions to enforce...
XI, 116
- "Glen," appropriation for
illegal capture of...IX, 281
- Goldsborough, Capt. L. M.,
receives thanks of.....
VII, 105
- government of new terri-
tory by.....II, 77
- Grant, Gen., presented with
medal and resolutions from
XI, 48
- hospital chaplains compen-
sated by.....VII, 60
- Indian system remodeled by
X, 300
- internal revenue act, cor-
rection of errors in..X, 330
- Kansas, agitation about....
III, 353

Congress of U. S. (contd.)

- Kelley, Judge, Philadelphia, renomination of.....X, 132
- Library of, correspondence about publications.....VIII, 146
- L. asks, to make war short and decisive.....VI, 311
- — elected to.....I, 298
- — followed preference of, in appointments.....VIII, xlvi
- — member ofII, 270; III, 210; VIII, xx
- — not a candidate for re-election to.....VI, 37
- La. representatives, election of.....VIII, 79, 80
- members of, duty of to be informed.....VI, 129
- message to.....VI, 297; VII, 189; VIII, 167; X, 18, 40, 62, 84, 86, 116, 280, 281, 332
- — giving account of war up to May 26, 1862.....VII, 189
- — African slave-trade, suppression of.....VII, 215
- — agricultural exhibition at Hamburg.....VIII, 184
- — amendment to, April 16, 1862.....VII, 147
- — annual, Dec. 3, 1861....VII, 28
- — — Dec. 1, 1862.....VIII, 93

Congress of U. S. (contd.)

- — — Dec. 8, 1863.IX, 224
- — — Dec. 6, 1864..X, 283
- — Army and Navy, payment of.....VIII, 192
- — Blackburn, Eng., distressed operatives in.....VIII, 219
- — British charge d' affairs, note of.....XI, 9
- — compensated emancipation....VII, 112, 276; XI, 1
- — — misunderstanding of..VII, 121
- — consular pupils.....VIII, 153
- — cotton cultivation in Africa.....VII, 110
- — Dahlgren, Com. J. A., recommended for thanks...VII, 267
- — Davis, Capt. Chas. H., recommended for thanks...VII, 267
- — Du Pont, Capt. Samuel F.....VII, 136
- — Ecuador claims....X, 40
- — electoral vote....XI, 8
- — Farragut, Capt. David G. VII, 160
- — fisheries correspondence VI, 330
- — Foote, Capt. Andrew H., recommended for thanks...VII, 253
- — fortification of sea-coast and lakes.....VII, 66

- Congress of U. S. (contd.)**
- — Hanover, treaty with...
VII, 100
 - — industrial exhibition in
London
VI, 329; VII, 66, 72
 - — insurrection, suppression
of, and punishment of trea-
son.....VII, 280
 - — "Jargen Lorentzen".....
VII, 134
 - — "Jules et Marie" and
"San Jacinto," indemnity
for.....VIII, 132
 - — July 17, 1862, criticism
of.....VII, 280
 - — Lardner, Capt. John L.,
recommended for thanks...
VII, 267
 - — Morris, Com. Geo. U.,
recommended for thanks...
VIII, 138
 - — naval officers....VII, 97
 - — — list of, engaged in
operations under Farragut..
VII, 161
 - — navy, further efficiency
of.....VII, 104
 - — N. M., Legislative As-
sembly of.....VIII, 221
 - — Nev., Territory of.....
VII, 138
 - — Oporto, exhibition at...
XI, 34
 - — Peru, claims of citizens
of.....IX, 272
 - — Porter, Com. D. D., rec-
ommended for thanks.....
VII, 268; VIII, 208
 - — "Providencia"...VII, 88
 - — railroads concentrating
on Washington, construction
of.....VIII, 198
 - — Sec. of State, cor-
respondence of, with Benj.
E. Brewster.....VII, 147
 - — Siam, correspondence
with King of.....VII, 108
 - — "Trent" affair.....
VII, 75, 86, 107
 - — — letter to King of Italy
..... VII, 111
 - — — removal of U. S. citi-
zens from.....VII, 67, 92
 - — Turkey, consular courts
of.....VIII, 203
 - — Worden, Com. John L.,
recommended for thanks...
VIII, 136
 - — Wright, Jos. A., report
of.....IX, 291
 - Mexican party in....V, 75
 - Mexico, declaration of war
against.....II, 51
 - Miss. River and Atlantic,
memorialized to connect...
IX, 244
 - need of all opinions in....
II, 91
 - Northwest Territory, ac-
cepted by.....II, 194
 - Ordinance of '87, act to en-
force.....V, 297
 - organization of militia rec-

- recommended to.....VII, 36
- pirates in eastern seas.....
VII, 33
- plan to run Douglas Republicans in Ill. for.....
III, 199
- public domain, right of....
II, 104
- railroad and canal land grants to States...II, 101
- reconstruction plan, 1863, commendations from.....
XI, 86
- representation of slave States in...II, 233; XI, 31
- representative of people....
II, 64
- Rogers, Capt., John, recommendation ofIX, 253
- Rowan, Com. S. C., receives thanks of.....VII, 267
- Scheldt dues, recommendation of appropriation for...
X, 332
- "Signing of the Proclamation of Emancipation," Garfield's speech on presentation of.....XI, v
- slave State majority in.....
II, 234
- slave trade, power of, to abolish.....III, 187
- slavery, purpose of Democratic party and, to nationalize.....V, 146
- slavery, early views of.....
II, 245
- Congress of U. S. (contd.)**
- State Constitutions, power of, to regulate....IV, 230
- Stringham, Capt. S. H., receives thanks of...VII, 268
- taxation, authority over...
II, 40
- Thirteenth amendment.....
X, 352; XI, 31
- — — ratified by La. Legislature.....XI, 89
- U. S. Bank, passage of bill to charter.....II, 60
- — — Courts, effect of act relative to cases in..II, 149
- — — Notes, issue of.....
VIII, 193
- unprepared to meet condition of country in 1862....
VII, 101
- war-making power of.....
II, 2; VI, 36
- Winslow, Capt. John A., receives thanks of...X, 280
See also, Committee on Conduct of the War; House of Representatives; Senate.
- Congress of Paris, 1856, participation of U. S. in.....
VI, 283
- "Congressional Globe"**
I, 354; III, 289; IV, 28, 107,
155, 156
- Douglas' reply to Trumbull in.....IV, 58
- L.'s record in as shown in...
VI, 35

- "Congress'l Globe" (contd.)**
 — — speech in.....II, 58
 — request for.....II, 288
 — sending of, to Whig papers
 II, 50, 51
- Conkling, F. A., Hon.,** asks
 appointment for Marshal B.
 Blake.....VIII, 17
 — letter declining to be pres-
 ent at mass meeting in N.
 Y.....X, 112
- Conkling, Jas. C.,** appointment
 of, to Whig State Central
 Committee.....I, 242
 — letter to.....IX, 95
 — — containing speech to be
 read at Springfield meeting
 IX, 102
 — telegram to.....IX, 89, 109
- Conkling, Roscoe,** employ-
 ment of negro troops.....
 X, 195, 197
 — nomination for Congress...
 X, 193
- Conley, Edw.,** respite for....
 X, 218
- Connecticut,** abolition of slav-
 ery in.....V, 8
 — Butler's proposal to raise
 troops in.....VI, 352
 — formation of districts of R.
 I. and.....VII, 306
 — loyalty and patriotism of..
 VIII, 185
 — tax commissioners for.....
 VIII, 9
- Conscription; see, Draft.**
- Conspiracy to nationalize slav-
 ery.....III, 188; IV, 386**
 — — — Douglas,' part of, in..
 III, 187
 — — — — denies....IV, 339
 — to perpetuate slavery.....
 IV, 214
- "Constellation,"** frigate, serv-
 ices to British brig....XI, 9
- Constitution of U. S.,** African
 slave-trade, abolition of....
 V, 183, 208
 — — — prohibited in.,V, 48
 — Amendment of...II, 44, 45
 — — for abolition of slavery
 VIII, 116
 — — guaranteeing perpetuity
 of slavery.....VI, 182
 — — Lincoln's opinion on....
 II, 44
 — — public improvements by
 II, 38
 — — resolution of Congress
 on.....X, 354
 — Articles of Confederation
 superseded by.....II, 193
 — commander-in-chief, powers
 of, in war time.....IX, 98
 — Congress, power of, to do
 things expressly ordered by
 IX, 75
 — Democratic party, view of,
 as to internal improvements
 under.....II, 29
 — deserters, power of, to pun-
 ish.....VIII, 308
 — Douglas' opinion of position

- of negro under.....IV, 181
 - Federal Union, perpetuity of, under.....VI, 173
 - foundations of.....III, 73
 - framers of, would have improved.....IX, 78
 - fugitive slave clause, enforcement ofXI, 116
 - — reclamation provision.... V, 49
 - habeas corpus, provision of VIII, 304
 - — suspension of, an executive power.....IX, 2
 - inviolability of.....III, 73
 - loyalty of North to..II, 282
 - military arrests...VIII, 299
 - — rights of.....VIII, 306
 - pardon, executive authorized to grant or withhold..... IX, 248
 - perversion of, to be corrected.....V, 232
 - power of the.....IX, 76, 77
 - preservation of, the first thought.....X, 66
 - Pres., limitations of..... XI, 31
 - public improvements..... II, 38, 39
 - rebellion, L.'s opinion on... IX, 2
 - revenue for.....I, 50
 - secession, law regarding.... VIII, 301
 - servant of the people..... IX, 97
 - Constitution U. S. (contd.)**
 - slave States, representation of.....II, 235
 - slavery, covert language of, on.....V, 48
 - — contemporary with.... III, 187
 - — guaranteed by...III, 129
 - — not mentioned in..... V, 49, 335, 357
 - — prohibition of, in new Territories.....V, 209
 - — provided for in...V, 5
 - slaves not mentioned in.... V, 322
 - — recognition of, as property.....IV, 57
 - — right to hold, under.... II, 207, 282
 - States, sovereignty of, not mentioned in.....VI, 315
 - — created by.....VI, 314
 - — powers of, reserved by.. VI, 316
 - — Story on the.....II, 40
 - support of.....I, 43
 - supreme law of land.IV, 210
 - teaching of, L.'s devotion to VI, 156
 - Texas acknowledges, as supreme.....VI, 315
 - treason, definition of..... VIII, 299
- See also*, Thirteenth amendment.
- Constitution, State; see**, State Constitution.

- Constitutional power in the acquisition of territory.**.... VII, 50
 — — difference of, in times of peace and war....VIII, 309
 — — used by L. to quiet insurrection of States..... VII, 102
- Consular court; see, Courts, Consular.**
 — pupils.....VIII, 153
 — system, self-sustaining..... IX, 230
- Consuls, foreign, exemption of** IX, 232
 — — taxation of.....IX, 232
- Contraband, and leasing business.**.....X, 24
 — capture of British vessels having, on board..... VIII, 204
 — correspondence with Mexico on.....VIII, 198
 — intelligence and trade, restraint of.....IX, 158
 — trade, order concerning.... XI, 127
- Contrabands,** VII, 105; VIII, 258
 — colonization of, suggested to Congress.....VII, 49
 — give information to King.. VII, 199
 — order authorizing employment of.....VII, 287
See also, Colonization; Negroes; Slaves.
- Convention, for adjustment of claims by joint commission.** IX, 232
See also, Democratic Party; Illinois; Republican Party, Whig Party;
- Converse, Geo. L., letter to..** IX, 1
- Cook, —,**II, 275
Cook, B. C., head of Ill. delegation to Baltimore..X, 114
 — letter to.....III, 198
- Cook, Isaac,.....**IV, 50
- Coolie-trade, Asiatic..**VII, 67
- Cooper, Henry, letter to....** X, 248
- Cooper Institute, character of audience at.....**V, 293
 — L.'s speech changed to.... VI, 9
 — speech at, nomination of L. made possible by....XI, x
- Cooper, Sam., Gen., telegram from Bragg to.....**IX, 135
- Cooper Shop.....**X, 128
- Copperhead,.....**VIII, 278
- Corinth, Miss., army fighting McClellan.....**VII, 260
 — force from, to go to Chattanooga.....IX, 133
 — occupied by Northern forces VIII, 204
 — rumored raid from, into Western Ky.....X, 252
- Corkran, —, refusal of L.'s request for Evans' appointment** VI, 266

- Corkran, F. S., Hon.**, telegram to.....IX, 146
- Corning, Erastus**, letter to.. VIII, 288, 314
- telegram to, on resolutions of Albany meeting..... VIII, 284
- Corruption**, in Post Office Dep. I, 134
- in purchase of supplies.... IX, 10
- Corse, —**, Gen., captured by Sheridan.....XI, 76
- Corwine, R. M.**, telegram about Smith case.....X, 63
- Corwin, Thos.**.....V, 140
- followed in debate by L.... V, 74
- proposed as minister to Mexico.....VI, 190
- speech on Mexican War... V, 75
- Coryden, Ind.**, residence of L.'s cousins.....II, 14
- Costa Rica**, relations with... X, 285
- Cothran, —**, Capt., case of... VII, 211
- Cottman, Thos., Dr.**, letter to VIII, 326
- on committee of La. State planters.....VIII, 326
- reconstruction of La., participates in.....IX, 256
- Cotton**, bringing out, persons engaged in, not to be hindered.....X, 207
- Cotton** (*contd.*)
- capture of, at Savannah... X, 325
- changing Confederate scrip for.....VIII, 83
- culture of, in Africa..... VII, 110
- effect of blockade on..... X, 312, 313
- Hamilton's shipment of, to Treas. Dept.....X, 186
- price of, greater because of blockade.....X, 312
- seizure of, instructions in regard to.....X, 172
- Sherman's advice asked... X, 188
- Wright and Hawkes' plan to secure.....IX, 280
- Cotton-gin**, effect upon slavery III, 175; IV, 33
- Couch, D. N.**, Gen., dilatory at Gettysburg.....IX, 28
- telegram to..... VIII, 332, 334; IX, 15
- Court of Claims, U. S.**, Bingham appointed solicitor... X, 178
- removal of Congressional control of.....VII, 43
- Court of Justice, Federal**, defection in.....VII, 101
- inefficient in times of rebellion.....VIII, 303, 304
- Lincoln's first case in.... II, 140
- provisional, in La., order to

- establish.....VIII, 64
 — — Peabody, Chas. A., Judge
 of.....VIII, 65
 — subject to supreme author-
 ity of people.....V, 232
Court, U. S., Circuit, message
 to House of Rep. about...
 VII, 217
 — — recommended...VII, 38
 — — resolution on death of
 Judge Nathaniel Pope.....
 II, 135
Court, U. S. Supreme, author-
 ity of.....II, 294
 — — Chase, Salmon P., nomi-
 nated Chief Justice.....
 X, 311
 — — decisions of, not sacred
 XI, 111
 — — degradation of a danger
 III, 136
 — — Douglas' charge of L.'s
 imputation upon...III, 302
 — — Dred Scott decision....
 II, 315
 — — governmental incursions
 of.....VI, 180
 — — Jackson's opposition to..
 III, 180
 — — Jefferson on powers of..
 III, 179
 — — judicial functions rele-
 gated to.....VII, 39
 — — L.'s attitude toward...
 III, 41
 — — on Fifth Amendment...
 V, 305
Court, U. S. Sup'm (*contd.*)
 — — negro suffrage, decision
 upon right of States to con-
 fer.....IV, 26
 — — questions of law to be
 referred to.....VII, 43
 — — slavery in Territories,
 decision on..IV, 57, 64, 208
Courts, consular, in eastern
 countries.....VII, 33
 — — U. S., in Turkey.....
 VIII, 203
 — military, collection of debts
 by.....VII, 41
Covington, Ky., telegram to
 officer in command..IX, 279
Cowles, Edwin, recommended
 for postmaster of Cleveland
 VI, 190
Craig, Mr. and Mrs., permit to
 occupy plantation..IX, 268
Craven, Thos. T., recom-
 mended for thanks of Con-
 gress.....VII, 161
Cravens, John R., appoint-
 ment a question...VII, 242
Crawford, —, Gen., telegram
 toIX, 106
Crawford, Andrew, school of
 VI, 27
Creed, political, Douglas on..
 IV, 11
 — — must be uniform in all
 sections.....V, 4
Creswell, John A. J., letter to
 X, 30, 43
Crisfield, John W., letter to,

- concerning Judge CarmichaelVII, 237
- L. receives letter from.... IX, 206
- memo. of interview between L. and border slave State representatives....VII, 120
- Crittenden, John J.,**...III, 119
- at conference at White House.....VII, 127
- bill on admission of Kan. V, 118
- death of.....IX, 62
- Douglas supporter...V, 217
- Douglas' tribute to..III, 61
- letter to.....III, 17; V, 90
- name of, contributes to L.'s defeat.....V, 91
- slavery agitation denied by V, 45
- Crittenden-Montgomery bill** V, 278
- Crook, Geo., Gen.,** movements of.....XI, 60
- Crosby and Nichols,** letter to.. IX, 284
- Crosby, Pierce, Lt.-Com.,** receives thanks of Congress.. VII, 162
- Crowell, —,** execution suspended.....IX, 278
- Crozier, —,** Col., acquaintance of Lincoln with.....II, 181
- Crumblin, —,** [Crumpton] sentenced.....X, 73
- Crume, Ralph,** husband of Mary Lincoln.....VI, 25
- Cuba,** annexation of, possible pro-slavery demand..VI, 93
- free labor in.....VIII, xiv
- maritime jurisdiction of Spain.....IX, 225
- position of Douglas upon acquisition of.....IV, 28
- "San Jacinto" and "Jules Marie," indemnity to..... VIII, 132
- Culpepper Court House**..... VIII, 58
- Cumberland, Army of the,** on march to the sea...X, 325
- "**Cumberland,**" engagement with "Merrimac,".VIII, 138
- Cumberland Gap,** Burnside at IX, 118
- Gen. Morgan's force leaves VIII, 55
- Cunningham, J. O.,** letter to III, 270
- Currency,** duty of government in regard to..... I, 110; VIII, 101
- effects of contracting..... I, 106
- furnished by banking assocn. VIII, 193
- influence of banks on..... VII, 23F
- position of Taylor on..... II, 63
- power of Congress to regulate.....VIII, 193
- See also,* Bank Notes; Banks; Circulation; Green-

- backs; Finance; Money; National Banks; Revenue; Specie; Taxation; Treasury Notes.
- Curtin, Andrew G.**, Gov. of Pa., asks for 80,000 troops VIII, 25
- asks L. to call for volunteers.....VII, 249
 - fears raid in Pa....X, 242
 - letter to.....IX, 254
 - — of thanks for a cane.... X, 171
 - — offering foreign mission VIII, 246
 - — sanctioning call of Pa. militia.....VIII, 23
 - reply to.....VI, 160
 - Stover not to be mustered X, 240
 - suggestion for exemption from draft.....X, 258
 - telegrams to..... VIII, 35; X, 240, 277
 - — about order 154..... VIII, 70
 - — at Harrisburg..VIII, 25
 - — for regiments to be sent to Washington....VII, 310
 - — regarding safety of Pa. VIII, 257
 - — as to situation at Hagerstown.....VIII, 24
- Curtis, Benj. R.**, Judge, decisionII, 320
- Kirkland's letter to..IX, 217
- Curtis, S. R.**, Gen., Churches
- not to be interfered with.. IX, 270
 - cotton transactions, supposed.....IX, 265
 - department created for..... IX, 275
 - departmental command proposed for.....IX, 265
 - head of faction of Union men in Mo.....VIII, 283
 - letter to, assessing and collecting from Southern sympathizer.....VIII, 138
 - — charges against Dr. McPheeters.....VIII, 168
 - — Cherokees occupying Cherokee country..VIII, 56
 - — civil authority into Mo. VIII, 146
 - — completing railroad at Springfield.....VIII, 57
 - — Fremont, Gen. John C. VII, 9, 10
 - — Mo. matters...VIII, 171
 - — removal from Dept. of Mo.....VIII, 294
 - — slave troubles in Mo.... VIII, 184
 - — Watkins, N. W..... VIII, 145
 - New Mexico, ordered to prevent outbreak in...IX, 297
 - order of provost-marshal disapproved.....VIII, 187
 - Price engaged with, at Fayetteville:.....X, 259
 - removal of.....VIII, 271

- Curtis, S. R.** (*contd.*)
 — superseded by Schofield....
 VIII, 282; IX, 158
 — telegram to.....VII, 308
 — — force wanted by Frank
 Fithian.....VIII, 144
 — — concerning Dr. Wm.
 Blair.....VIII, 92
Curtis, W. E., opinion on L.'s
 protest against slavery....
 I, 52
Cushing, Wm. B., Lieut., to
 receive thanks of Congress
 X, 281
Custom-houses, Confederate
 seizures of.....VI, 297
Cuthbert, —, Mrs.....IX, 134
Cynthiana, Ky., action at....
 X, 125
- D**
- “**Dacotah**,” movements.....
 VII, 129
Dahlgren, John A., Adm.....
 VIII, 68; X, 29
 — gunpowder tests referred to
 IX, 54
 — thanks of Congress to....
 VII, 267
Dahlgren, Ulric, Capt., brings
 dispatch to Gen. Hooker..
 VIII, 320
 — killed at King and Queen
 Court House.....X, 31
 “**Daily Register**,” article on
 challenged voters in.II, 177
Dakota Territory.....VII, 48
- Dallas, Geo. M.**, minister to
 Eng., dispatch from.VI, 277
 — loyalty and fidelity..VI, 279
 — intercourse between Eng.
 and Confederacy...VI, 279
 — supposed speech of..VI, 53
Dana, N. J. T., Maj.-Gen., let-
 ter of instructions to.X, 331
 — passage of lines for certain
 persons.....XI, 37
Dana, Richard A., reports
 views of Grant on Emanci-
 pation Proclamation..IX, 65
Danforth, J. B., Jr., charges
 against T. J. Pickett.....
 VIII, 252; X, 80
Davidson, J. W., Gen., Cairo
 X, 24
Davis, —, Gen., nomination of
 VIII, 232
Davis, —, U. S. Rep., from
 Ind., Republican support of
 V, 117
Davis, Chas. Henry, Capt.,
 thanks of Congress VII, 267
Davis, David, Judge, criticism
 of first inaugural...VI, 169
 — opinion of L.'s legal abili-
 ties.....II, 140
Davis, Eliza, L.'s remembrance
 of.....I, 180, 211
Davis, G. T. M., thanks of L.
 to.....II, 130
Davis, Henry Winter, letter
 to.....VIII, 229
Davis, Jefferson, Blair's mis-
 sion to.....XI, 11

- Davis, Jefferson** (*contd.*)
 — — visit to.....X, 342, 347
 — effort to nationalize slavery
 V, 333, 353
 — Federal government, character-
 ization of.....IX, xvii
 — Hampton Roads conference
 XI, 25, 29
 — Hood, visit to.....X, 235
 — L.'s magnanimity to.....
 IX, xlvi
 — — peace proposition.X, 154
 — peace, states to Blair wil-
 lingness to negotiate for...
 X, 11
 — speech at Bangor, Me.....
 VI, 24
 — Stephens not the bearer of
 terms of peace.....X, 185
- Davis, John W.**, indorsement
 on letter of.....VI, 355
- Davis, Levi**, information about
 Edwards by.....II, 125
- Davis, T. T.**, telegram to....
 X, 257
- Davis, Walter**, mistake of,
 about Post Office...II, 122
 — opposition to.....II, 116
 — recommendation for Land
 Office at Springfield.....
 II, 115
- Davis, Winter**, Cabinet possi-
 bility.....VI, 94
- Dawson, —**, sentenced..X, 85
- Day, —**.....II, 272
- Dayton, O.**, invitation to visit
 declined.....VI, 108
- Dayton, Jonathan**, Constitu-
 tional Father.....V, 300
- Dayton, Wm. L.**,.....II, 289
 — proposed as minister to Eng.
 VI, 189
 — — — France.....VI, 223
- De Bare, —**, Gen., captured by
 Sheridan.....XI, 76
- Debates with Douglas**, chal-
 lenge to.....III, 189
 — Fifth, at Galesburg..IV, 237
 — First, at Ottawa...III, 200
 — Fourth, at Charleston.....
 IV, 89
 — preliminary correspondence
 to.....III, 193
 — Second, at Freeport.....
 III, 271
 — Seventh, at Alton....V, 1
 — Sixth, at Quincy...IV, 311
 — Third, at Jonesboro..IV, 1
- De Camp, John**, Com., thanks
 of Congress.....VII, 162
- Declaration of Independence**
 adherence to.....III, 185
 — amendment of.....III, 185
 — called a lie...II, 247; V, 37
 — Clay's sentiments on.....
 IV, 381
 — colonies named states by..
 VI, 314
 — criticism of.....II, 205
 — denied by Calhoun...V, 37
 — Douglas' construction of...
 III, 185
 — effect upon L.'s character..
 X, ix

- Decl'n Indepen'ce** (*contd.*)
 — equality under.....III, 186
 — first general order issued afterVIII, 77
 — negro equality and....V, 3
 — — — denounced by Douglas.....IV, 254
 — — included in.....V, 87
 — — no share in.....IV, 23; V, 187, 201, 270; VI, 26
 — Pettit declares self-evident lie.....V, 37
 — political feelings spring from.....VI, 157
 — privileges of, for whites only III, 147
 — ridiculed by Calhoun.....II, 173
 — signers of, representing slave-holders.....IV, 24
 — teaching of, L.'s devotion to VI, 156, 158
 — Washington's lack of adhesion to.....IX, xi
- Decoy Ducks**, Lincoln and Trumbull likened to.III, 317
- Deep Snow**, winter of, in Ill.. VI, 29
- Defalcations**, of public officers I, 113
- Defeat**, political, L.'s only popular.I, 1; V, 288; VI, 31
- Deist**, Lincoln, suspected of beingI, 263
- De Kalb County**, Ill.....IV, 51, 52
- De Kalb County** (*contd.*)
 — "Sentinel,"IV, 52
- Delafield**, Richd., Brig.-Gen., ordered to make draft.XI, 4
- Delahay**, M. W., letter to.... V, 128
- Delaware**, negroes, number of, in.....VI, 127
 — regularly organized regiment of.....VI, 305
 — slavery, proposed bill for compensated abolishment... VII, 21
 — slaves in, census of 1860.. VII, 132
 — Thirteenth amendment rejected.....X, 352
 — value of slaves in..VII, xvii
- Democracy**, maintenance of.. VI, 304
- "Democrat,"** editor of, postmaster at St. Louis.....VIII, 250
- Democratic Party**.....II, 304
 — abolitionizing of.....III, 211, 314; IV, 5, 6, 77, 167, 171
 — — denied by L.....IV, 189
 — Black Republican President, won't stand.....XI, 115
 — Blair's denunciation of treason.....VI, 214
 — combination against..IV, 14
 — Bush-whacking tactics of.. V, 335
 — compact to carry Ill. against IV, 14

- Democratic Party** (*contd.*)
- conduct of Douglas' campaign.....III, 190
 - Congressional convention at Joliet, 1855.....IV, 47
 - Convention of, at Baltimore II, 29; IV, 3, 166
 - creed of, a compulsion.... II, 66
 - declaration in Cincinnati platform.....III, 180
 - defeat in O.....V, 335
 - — Pa.....V, 335
 - defections from.....IV, 5
 - degeneration of.....V, 125
 - desire of, to aid Taylor's army.....II, 52
 - District convention at Naperville, 1850.....IV, 50
 - division of, in N. Y..II, 88
 - Douglas Republicans in.... III, 199
 - effort to tranquilize country III, 353
 - endorsement of Compromise of 1850.....II, 203; IV, 37
 - intolerant of anti-slavery views.....V, 64
 - Lincoln condemns doctrine of.....VIII, xxiii
 - — on resourcefulness of... VI, 43
 - — assurance of fraternal feeling for.....VI, 118
 - Mo. Compromise...III, 202
 - national character of..... IV, 247
- Democratic Party** (*contd.*)
- need of union in.....V, 20
 - negro soldiers, disbandment of, demanded by....X, 190
 - platform of, on internal improvements.....II, 30
 - political necessities of..... IV, 263
 - — principles of..... III, 201; IV, 1, 83, 161, 331
 - prospects of, in 1860..... VI, 43
 - Republican Party, difference XI, 107
 - revolt of, against Supreme Court decision.....III, 180
 - slavery question in..... II, 285; V, 61, 65..XI, 107
 - Vt. State convention of.... IV, 53
- "Democratic Review,"** Douglas' organ.....V, 101
- Democrats,** rather than American Citizens.....VIII, 310
- Denmark,** liquidation of Scheldt dues to.....IX, 226
- Dennison, Geo.,** commission for.....VI, 273
- L.'s exculpation of..VI, 275
- Dennison, Wm.,** appointed Postmaster Gen.....X, 234
- collector of customs, New Orleans.....IX, 283
 - letter to.....VI, 107
 - — accepting re-nomination for president.....X, 136
 - telegrams to.....X, 71, 235

- Department of Agriculture,**
 report of.....X, 302
 — organization of recommended.....VIII, 109
- Department of the Interior,**
 expenses under, 1862.....
 VIII, 103
 — suppression of African slave-trade.....VII, 47
 — order for construction of Union Pacific R. R..X, 33
 — report of secretary of.....
 VII, 44
- Department of the Mississippi,** created....VII, 130
- Department of the Missouri,**
 Butler desired instead of Schofield.....IX, 155
 — complaints in, of dishonest assessment for Southern outrages.....VIII, 171, 172
 — contraband intelligence and trade.....IX, 158
 — Curtis relieved of command of.....VIII, 282
 — Dick, F. A., superseded by Jas. O. Brodhead..IX, 158
 — dissatisfied with Schofield..
 IX, 155
 — distressed condition of people in.....VIII, 197
 — — — the consequence of war.....IX, 157
 — enrolled militia of.....
 IX, 155, 158
 — — — refuses destruction of, for national force...IX, 163
- Dept. of Missouri (contd.)**
 — Frémont system of restraint IX, 158
 — Halleck system of restraint IX, 159
 — letter to Chas. Drake on situation in.....IX, 155
 — L. pressed to give Gen Schofield command of..VII, 153
 — Pope, command of, objections to.....IX, 267
 — Prov.-Marshal Gen.....
 IX, 158
 — reasons for removal of Curtis from.....VIII, 282
 — Schofield gives satisfaction in the.....VIII, 278
 — — charges against, refuted IX, 161
 — — imbecility charged as cause for removal.....
 IX, 161
 — — Lincoln declines to remove.....IX, 161
 — — relieved from command of.....IX, 264
 — — temporary command, difficulties of.....IX, 267
See also, Missouri.
- Department of the Mountain**VII, 130, 236
- Department of the Potomac,**
 McClellan placed in command of.....VIII, 72
- Department of St. Louis,** orders persons south of military lines.....VIII, 277

- Department of the Susquehanna, under command of Halleck.....X, 176
- Department of Washington, under Halleck's command.. X, 176
- Department of the West, letter to commander of.VII, 11
- Department of West Virginia, placed under Halleck X, 176
- De Puy, Henry W., appointment as Indian agent.VI, 258
- Derrickson, —, Capt., guard at Soldier's Retreat.VIII, 71
- Description, personal, of LincolnV, 288
- Deserters, combinations to resist arrest of.....IX, 6
- proclamation offering pardon to.....XI, 51
- penalties of.....VIII, 308
- Deshler, Jas., Brig.-Gen., reported killed at Chickamauga.....IX, 137
- Despotism, warning against.. X, 51; XI, 110
- Dick, Franklin A., Prov.-Marshal-Gen., of Dept. of the Mo., superseded by Jas. O. Brodhead.....IX, 158
- arrest of McPheeters..... IX, 269
- Dickinson, D. S., Gov., note to Baldwin.....X, 201
- interested in Edw. J. Westcott.....VIII, 234
- Dickson, Engineer of the "Hibernia".....XI, 42
- Dictators.....VIII, 207
- Dictionary of Congress, autobiography in.....II, 368
- Diggins, —,II, 272
- Diligence, rule for all..II, 141
- Diller, Isaac R., Capt., new formula for gunpowder.... IX, 54
- Diller, J. R., postmaster at Springfield, Ill.....II, 109
- Dimmick, —, Mrs., death of.. X, 219
- Dingman, A., Gen. telegram to.....VIII, 326
- Diplomatic Corps....VI, 186
- Directory of Congress, *see* Dictionary of Congress.
- Discoveries, Inventions and Improvements, lecture on V, 99
- Distillery, Lincoln works in III, 230
- District of Columbia, abolition of slavery in..IV, 7, 12
- — — appropriation for.... VII, 112
- — — bill for.....II, 96
- — — currency, in....VII, 231
- gradual emancipation favored in.....II, 215
- L. on abolition in...VI, 80
- negroes in, number of..... VIII, 127
- opposition to slavery in.... III, 262

- District Columbia** (*contd.*)
- recommended to Congress for favorable consideration. VII, 48
 - slavery in, Henry Clay on. III, 277
 - — L. on. III, 276
 - — L.'s tolerance of. VI, 103
 - slave-trade abolished. II, 203
 - — in II, 202
 - slaves, number of, in. VII, 132
- District Court**; *see*, Court, district.
- Divine Providence**, belief in VIII, xxi
- Divine Will**, meditation on. VIII, 52
- regard for. VIII, 77
- Dix, John A.**, Maj.-Gen., commissioner to examine State prisoners. VII, 109
- letter to. VIII, 186
 - — asking consideration for Gen. Busted. VIII, 149
 - — concerning N. Y. "World" and N. Y. "Journal of Commerce" X, 103
 - money advanced for public defence. VII, 192
 - paroles Confederate soldiers IX, 90
 - pickets at New Kent Court House. VII, 245
 - President Union Pacific R. R. Co., letter to. . . . IX, 214
- Dix, John A.** (*contd.*)
- proposed for N. Y. mayoralty. IX, 202
 - telegram to. VII, 260; VIII, 175, 209, 295
 - — as to condition of railroad between Richmond and Fredericksburg. . . . VIII, 270
 - — number of Southern force at Richmond and Petersburg. VIII, 78
 - — telegraphic communication between White House and Williamsburg. . VII, 247
 - — case of Chas. Carpenter, deserter. X, 81
 - — movements of Kirby Smith. VIII, 332
 - — siege at Vicksburg. VIII, 294
 - to go to Fortress Monroe. VII, 210
- Dixon, Jas.**, Sen., letter to, introducing Bronson Murray, VII, 290
- recommends Edw. Goodman for collector at Hartford. VIII, 221
 - speech of, on Mexican war II, 51
- Dockyards**, Confederate seizures of. VI, 297
- Doctrine**, of Republican Party, Lincoln on VI, 22
- Dodge, G. M.**, Maj.-Gen., plan to restore quiet in Mo. X, 340

- Dodge, G. M.** (*contd.*)
 — Price, Mrs., to remain in Mo.....X, 345
 — telegram to.....X, 315
 — — concerning Mrs. R. S. Ewell.....XI, 61
- Dodge, Wm. E., Jr.**, letter to XI, 42
- Dole, Geo. W.**, letter to.... V, 283
- Donaldson, Edw.**, Lt.-Com., receives thanks of Congress VII, 162
- Doniphan, A. W.**, Col., position on Mexican war..I, 353
- Donnelly, Neil**.....IV, 50
- Doolittle, —**, Sen.....X, 4
 — announces a slate..... VII, 286
- Doremus, John C.**, appointment of, to Whig State Central Committee.....I, 242
- Dorsey, Azel W.**, family of.. VI, 27
 — school of.....VI, 27
- Doubleday, —**, Gen., to await further orders.....IX, 110
- Dougherty, John**, Col., delegate at Springfield, Ill.IV, 42
 — opposition to Douglas..... IV, 170
 — support of Trumbull by.... IV, 9
- Douglas, —**, Mrs., memorandum of advice to..VII, 23
- Douglas, J. M.**, Ill. Central R. R. Agent.....II, 354
- Douglas, Stephen A.**, U. S. Sen. from Ill., alleged conspiracy of, in Dred Scott case.....III, 133
 — answer to L.'s interrogatories III, 294, 297, 300, 302; IV, 83
 — — to Trumbull's interrogation.....IV, 58
 — attack of Trumbull upon IV, 91, 94, 147
 — attitude toward South..... III, 198
 — cabinet-maker.....III, 209
 — candidacy for president.... III, 157; VI, 12
 — change of front on Territorial exclusion.....V, 67
 — character of.....IV, 67
 — — sketch of Lincoln by.. III, 209
 — charge that Republican party dare not use name in Monroe Co., Ill.....IV, 10
 — Chase's amendment defeated by.....III, 286
 — connection with Lecompton Constitution.....III, 27
 — conscientiousness of..... IV, 212
 — conspiracy of, to nationalize slavery,..III, 187, 188, 284
 — continues fight against L.. V, 140
 — contrast to Lincoln..... III, 158

Douglas, S. A. (contd.)

- danger of, to Republican Party.....V, 118
- debates with, challenge to.. III, 189
- — L.'s use of Declaration of Independence in..XI, x
- — literary quality of..... I, xxi
- — reports of, to be preserved.....XI, 111
See also, Debates with Douglas.
- deception of.....III, 162
- declares government founded on white basis..... II, 259; III, 92, 216
- degree conferred upon..... IV, 82
- Democracy of.....VI, 22
- desirability as Democratic presidential nominee..... V, 195
- disagreement with Buchanan II, 358; III, 333
- disavowal of interviews on Dred Scott decision..... III, 240
- disclaims negro kinship... III, 146
- difference between States and Territories stated by.. IV, 263
- — from L. on slavery question.....IV, 32
- dupe of conspirators..... IV, 217

Douglas, S. A. (contd.)

- early home in Vermont.... IV, 53, 81
- election of, to Ill. Supreme Court.....IV, 222
- enemy of liberty....V, 137
- estimate of Lincoln..... III, 70, 152, 209; IV, 157
- estimate of Mo. Compromise by.....II, 199
- evasiveness of..... IV, 97, 207, 208
- expectation of leading Republicans.....III, 347
- extract from speech at Charleston in the matter of alleged plot of Kansas Constitution.....IV, 128
- falsity of his slavery premises.....XI, 109
- fatal heresy denounced.... V, 271
- fracas with Francis..I, 149
- Fred Douglass' appeal for defeat of.....IV, 169
- holds L. responsible for Trumbull's charges..IV, 93
- indifference to slavery..... V, 62
- influence of.....IV, 223
- instrumentality in changing basis of slavery.....V, 67
- interrogatories of, answered by L.....III, 273
- — to L.III, 271
- introduction of Kan.-Neb. bill by.....III, 352

Douglas, S. A. (contd.)

- Iowa letter of, opposing repeal of African slave-trade laws.....V, 207
- Kansas, admission of.....
III, 295
- L. charged with desire to impose uniformity on North and South.....III, 286
- — charged with dissension by.....III, 102
- — — dissolution of Whig Party by.....III, 316
- — — inciting war by.....
III, 238; IV, 19
- — — lying by..III, 283, 331
- — interrogatories to.III, 279
- — quoted in "Harper's Magazine".....V, 150
- — rival of, in 1858.....
VIII, xx
- — welcomed to Congress by
III, 210
- Little Giant.....XI, 106
- manipulation of Bell supporters by.....VI, 52
- motion to extend Mo. line..
II, 201
- negro, estimate of...V, 273
- — preferred to crocodile..
V, 204
- — citizenship opposed by..
III, 91, 216
- — declared inferior by....
III, 217, 218
- — suffrage opposed by.....
IV, 26

Douglas, S. A. (contd.)

- new States, admission of..
IV, 28
- opposed to repeal of laws against African slave-trade
V, 183
- — to Lecompton Constitution.....III, 110; IV, 225
- orders from, to Ill. Legislature to approve Nebraska Bill.....II, 286
- preservation of the Union..
III, 105
- persistence of.....VI, 77
- personal appearance of.....
III, 158
- pledge to Clay.....III, 104
- policy towards Americans..
III, 183
- — — Old Whigs...III, 183
- political ingenuity of.....
V, 94
- — good faith, necessity for
IV, 11
- — shrewdness of.....
V, 118, 216, 217
- principles of, alike in all quarters.....III, 208
- prospects of, for presidential nomination.....VI, 11
- public opinion molded by..
V, 197
- purpose to nationalize slavery ..
III, 181, 188, 239; IV, 158
- reasons for nomination of, for presidency.....V, 215

Douglas, S. A. (contd.)

- recoil of sectionalism upon VI, 43
- rejoinder at Alton....V, 72
- — Galesburg.....IV, 297
- — Jonesboro.....IV, 71
- — Ottawa.....III, 258
- renown of.....III, 157
- re-opening of slavery question by.....IV, 187
- reply to L. at Charleston... IV, 142
- — — Freeport.....III, 293
- — — Quincy.....IV, 335
- report of, upon Kan. Enabling Act.....IV, 95
- Republican support of.... VI, 116
- — feeling for.....II, 364
- resolution of pro-slavery, Democrats to sustain..... II, 268
- reversal of, on Mo. Compromise.....V, 210
- school-teacher at Winchester, Ill.....III, 209
- sedition law of.....V, 325
- services as Sen.....III, 283
- share in breaking down Ill. Supreme Court..... IV, 377; V, 213
- shrewdness in debate..... V, 33
- speech at Alton.....V, 1
- — Bloomington.....III, 54
- — Galesburg.....IV, 237
- — Jonesboro.....IV, 1

Douglas, S. A. (contd.)

- — Memphis....V, 121, 199
- — Ottawa.....III, 200
- — Peoria.....II, 190
- — Springfield.....III, 108
- subversion of equality by.. IV, 200
- sustained by Ill. Legislature 1854II, 306
- Tenth amendment...V, 305
- Territories' power to exclude slavery.....III, 297
- Trumbull's repudiation plan defeated by.....III, 211
- vote of, on Chase's amendment to Neb. bill...III, 286
- youth.....III, 209
- — a disadvantage of.V, 101
- See also, Debates with Douglas; Kansas-Nebraska Bill; Leocompton Constitution; Missouri Compromise; Squatter Sovereignty.*

Douglass, Fred, abolition radicalism of.....IV, 347

- appeal of, to support L..... IV, 169
- canvass for L..... IV, 76, 77, 176
- counsellor with L..III, 305
- Douglas offended by..IV, 8
- Lincoln's ally.....IV, 168
- opinion of L.....V, vi
- speeches of, in Ill....IV, 8

Doyle, Thos. A., candidate for postmaster at Providence.. VI, 270

- Draft**, constitutionality of.... IX, 60
 — exemptions in Penn..X, 258
 — for one-year troops..X, 166
 — form for notification of.... IX, 93
 — for 300,000 men Oct. 17, 1863.....X, 172
 — — 500,000 July 18, 1864.... X, 164
 — — 500,000 Dec. 19, 1864... X, 316
 — law, complaint of....IX, 78
 — law of substitutes....IX, 79
 — N. Y., reduction of quotas.. X, 23
 — — refusal to suspend in... IX, 58
 — N. J., letter regarding..... IX, 43
 — operation of the....IX, 105
 — order for, for 500,000 men, IX, 302
 — — corrections in..... X, 317; XI, 4
 — principle of.....IX, 80
 — requirements of.....XI, 8
 — riots in N. Y. C..VIII, 266
 — telegram to J. S. Hayes, concerning....IX, 105, 112
 — Vt., complains of.....XI, 6
 — volunteers to have credit on quotas of.....IX, 93
- Draft-bill**, opposition in both houses toVIII, 266
- Draft law**, faithful execution of.....IX, 83
- Draft law** (*contd.*)
 — difficulties in administering IX, 82
- Drafted men**, difference between volunteers and.IX, 83
 — old regiments filling up with VIII, 69
- Drafting** from militia.VII, 287
 — government pressed to course of.....VII, 301
- Drake, Chas. D.**, letter to on situation in Mo.....IX, 155
 — — factional quarrels in Mo. VIII, 276
- Dred Scott**, appeal to court.. III, 81
 — emancipated.....IV, 159
 — held in slavery in Kan..... IV, 205
 — ownership of...IV, 159, 340
 — reason for trial of..IV, 387
 — remanded to slavery..... III, 81
 — slavery in Mo.....III, 81
 — taken to Minn.....III, 81
- Dred Scott decision**,..... II, 315; III, 9, 39, 251, 255, 288; IV, 158, 159; V, 67, 70, 271.
 — adherence of Douglas to... IV, 222
 — attitude of L. towards..... V, 2
 — binding character of..... IV, 357
 — comprehensive character of IV, 380

- Dred Scott dec'n (contd.)**
 — consequence of.....XI, 109
 — conspiracy to secure.....
 III, 244
 — destroyer of popular sov-
 ereignty.....III, 138
 — discussion of.....V, 175
 — Douglas on.....
 III, 90, 133, 181
 — effect of....III, 235; V, 178
 — — elections upon...IV, 286
 — — how nullified....IV, 87
 — essence of.....IV, 283
 — force of.....IV, 209
 — free States, applies to.....
 XI, 109
 — how made.....IV, 59
 — L.'s reply to Douglas on...
 II, 315
 — nationalization of slavery by
 V, 121
 — nature of, anticipated.....
 IV, 218
 — objections of L. to...IV, 22
 — on negro citizenship.....
 IV, 185
 — opposition of L. to...III, 177
 — — Republican party to.....
 IV, 329
 — part of conspiracy to nation-
 alize slavery.....V, 31
 — points of.....IV, 233
 — right of State to confer ne-
 gro suffrage.....IV, 26
 — slavery carried into free
 States by.....V, 181
 — — nationalized by..III, 290
- Dred Scott dec'n (contd.)**
 — — superiority asserted
 XI, 108
- Dresser, Chas.,** contract with
 L.....I, 269
- Driggs, J. F.,** letter to.X, 355
- Drummond, —,** debate on
 election case.....I, 153
- Drunkenness** in the army....
 IX, 145
- Dryer, —,** U. S. minister at
 HonoluluVII, 135
- Dubois, Jesse K.,** letter to...
 II, 296, 354
 — — and others, on appoint-
 ments.....VIII, 286
 — — on Freeman and McCall-
 ister & Stebbin's bonds.....
 VIII, 139
 — telegram to.....
 IX, 19, 25, 119, 133; X, 269
 — — on victory at Antietam..
 VIII, 34
- Duff Green** building appropri-
 ated by the government....
 VIII, 166
- Duffie, Alfred N.,** Brig.-Gen.,
 brave action near Millers-
 burg.....VIII, 330
 — success at Lewisburg.IX,204
- Dummer, Henry E.,** recom-
 mendation to.....II, 278
- Dunbar, Paul Laurence,**
 "Lincoln,".....IV, xvii
- Dunlop, G.W.,** U. S. Rep. from
 Ky., consents to Bayles
 raising regiment....VI, 295

- Du Pont, Sam. F.**, Adm., instructions to, for operations at Charleston. VIII, 246, 248
 — nominated to Senate. VII, 97
 — receives vote of thanks from Congress. VII, 98, 137
- Durant, Thos. J.**, conference with Banks suggested. IX, 58
 — complains of police regulations in La. VII, 295
 — registry of La. voters for constitutional convention. . . IX, 57, 200
 — relations between master and slave. VII, 295
 — telegrams to. . . IX, 172, 176
- Durley, Williamson**, letter to I, 275
- Duties**, proclamation on discriminating IX, 260
- E**
- Early, Jubal A.**, Gen., deadlocked with Sheridan. X, 223
 — efficiency of his army destroyed. X, 251
 — Sheridan's defeat of. . X, 251
- East, L.** underrated by the. . . VII, xvii
- East, E. H.**, letter to. . X, 21
- East, John**, deported. . XI, 33
- Easthouse, —**, death of I, 211
- Eastman, M. E.**. . . . VIII, 219
- Eckert, T. T.**, Maj., Hampton Roads conference. X, 348; XI, 15, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26
 — ordered to report to Seward at Fort Monroe. . . . X, 354
- Ecuador**, adjustment of claims of X, 40
- Edds, Thos.**, alleged desertion of. IX, 117
 — with Burnside on mud march. IX, 119
- Edenton, N. C.**, blockaded. . . XI, 80
- Edgar County, Ill.**, insurrection in. X, 28
- Education**, chief importance of I, 7
 — definition of. V, 254
 — Jefferson's proposed application of Treasury surplus to II, 38
 — combination with labor. . . . V, 251
 — demanded by free labor. . . . V, 252
 — freedom from manual labor by. V, 251
 — plan for, of negro children in La. IX, 56
 — of L. I, xiii; V, x
 — political, executive interference with. VI, 129
- Edwards, B. S.**, Logan's candidacy endorsed by. . XI, 101
 — signer of opinion on challenge to voters. II, 178
- Edwards, Cyrus**, candidate

- for head of land office.... II, 105
- L. pledged to support..... II, 111, 119
- offended because of Land Office appointment...II, 124
- Edwards, Ninian W.**, appointed to Whig State Central Committee.....I, 242
- resolutions of, adopted.... III, 117
- slander of.....I, 16
- Edwards Station**, Grant defeats Loring and Pemberton near.....VIII, 281
- Edwardsville, Ill.**, fragment of speech at.....XI, 106
- “Egypt,”**.....III, 15
- Egypt**, maltreatment of Faris-el-Hakim in.....VII, 175
- relations with U. S..X, 287
- Viceroy of, letter to..VII, 7
- Election**, presidential, Whig principle of.....II, 69
- — of 1852.....IV, 3
- — of 1860, acceptance of nomination.....VI, 13
- — — celebration of L.’s victory at Springfield..... VI, 72
- — — combination to defeat Republican ticket..... VI, 57
- — — danger of local issues in.....V, 131
- — — difficulties of counting votes in.....VI, 91
- Election** (*contd.*)
- — — excitement of..... V, 125, 130, 131, 155
- — — importance of Ill. in V, 257
- — — — Pa. in.....V, 257
- — — nomination of L..... VI, 12
- — of 1864.....X, 164
- — — encouraging results of X, 306
- — — importance of..X, 171
- — — L.’s concern in..... X, 225
- — — L. renominated..... X, 116, 117
- — — necessity of...X, 263
- — — philosophy taught by X, 264
- — — postponement of, a disaster.....X, 263
- — — strain upon Federal government.....X, 263
- Elections**, fraudulent practices at.....I, 152
- free government impossible without.....X, 263
- of 1862, uneasiness indicated by.....IX, 245
- public purposes indicated by X, 304
- Steele instructed to hold in Ark.....IX, 291
- unfairness in.....III, 112
- Whig principle of...II, 69
- Election laws**, opinion on.... V, 86

- Electoral Tickets, Lincoln**
 usually onV, 288
 — votes, Congressional power
 over.....XI, 9
 — — Lincoln's position on de-
 fined.....XI, 9
- Electoral College, number of**
 votes received.....X, 283
 — resolution on State repre-
 sentation in.....XI, 9
 — thanks to committee an-
 nouncing result of count...
 XI, 10
- Electors, presidential, L.'s**
 change of opinion concern-
 ing.....I, 355
- Elizabethtown, Ky., Lincoln**
 family at.....VI, 22
 — marriage of Sally Bush
 Johnston at.....VI, 27
- Elkins, Wm. F., letter to....**
 VIII, 286
- Ellet, A. W., Gen., ordered to**
 report to Rear-Adm. Porter
 VIII, 73
- Ellis, Ab. Y., recommendation**
 of.....II, 109
- Ellsworth, Elmer E., Col., let-
 ter to parents of....VI, 287**
- Ellsworth, Edw., appointment**
 of.....VI, 340
- Ellsworth gun carriage, order**
 for.....VI, 361
- Emancipation, attitude of Lin-
 coln towardV, xvii**
 — besought to proclaim.....
 VIII, 28; XI, xi
- Emancipation (*contd.*)**
 — compensated; *see* Compensated
 Emancipation.
 — fear that friends of, may di-
 vide on.....X, 31
 — Frémont's proclamation.....
 VI, 351
 — — — popular.....VI, 359
 — gradual; *see* Gradual Eman-
 cipation.
 — Hodges' position on..X, 65
 — Hunter's order revoked....
 VII, 170
 — initiation of.....VII, 113
 — means of shortening war...
 VIII, 124; X, 191
 — in Mo.....VII, 123
 — misunderstood in Md.....
 X, 31
 — ordinance of, in Tenn.....
 X, 340
 — possible effect of, on border
 slave States.....VIII, 33
 — question of feeding slaves in
 case of.....VIII, 30
 — reasons for not proclaiming
 VIII, 30
 — schemes of.....II, 207
 — States in control of.....
 VII, 122
 — views of army commanders
 onIX, 99
 — wages of white laborer in-
 creased by.....VIII, 126
See also, Compensated
 Emancipation; Gradual
 Emancipation.

- Emancipation Proclamation,**
 account of related to Car-
 penterX, 1
 — amendment of.....XI, xvi
 — announcement of final.....
 IX, 245
 — comprehensive character of
 X, 353
 — consummation of war.....
 X, 353
 — character of L. related to..
 XI, viii
 — crisis in Civil War marked
 by.....IX, 246
 — decline of stocks after.....
 VIII, 50
 — difficulty of applying to cer-
 tain parts of La. and Va...
 IX, 108
 — draft of, as first submitted
 to Cabinet.....VII, 288
 — — as finally submitted to
 Cabinet.....VIII, 155
 — — final.....VIII, 161
 — effect of, in Ark.....IX, 52
 — — in Mo.....IX, 52
 — — on troops.....VIII, 50
 — England's attitude on.....
 VIII, xxxix
 — gain by.....X, 67, 191
 — hundred-days notice of,
 given.....VIII, 182
 — lithographs of.....IX, 286
 — legality of, questionable....
 X, 353
 — military necessity of.....
 VIII, 182
- Emancipation Proc'n (cont.)**
 — military, revoked by L.....
 XI, xii
 — original draft prepared....
 X, 1
 — — letter transmitting.....
 IX, 181
 — perpetuity of, assured.....
 IX, 57
 — preliminary
 VII, 288; VIII, 36
 — preparation of second draft
 of.....X, 3
 — public discussion of..XI, xi
 — ratification in Md....X, 270
 — recognized in La. constitu-
 tion.....IX, 56
 — reply to serenade upon an-
 nouncement of....VIII, 43
 — retraction of, impossible...
 IX, 249; XI, 30
 — signing of.....
 V, xxi; VIII, 161
 — Thirteenth A m e n d m e n t
 needed to make effective...
 X, 353
- Embree, E.,** letter to..II, 121
Emerson, R. W., opinion of
 Lincoln.....V, xxvi
Employment, indorsement of
 application for.....X, 192
Enabling act, Col.....X, 54
England, see, Great Britain.
English, Wm. H., repudiates
 his own bill..IV, 242; V, 16
English bill, effort to force...
 IV, 242

- English Bill** (*contd.*)
 — nature of.....IV, 239
 — opposed by Douglas.....
 III, 59, 113; IV, 239; V, 14
 — origin of.....III, 166
- Enos, L. A.**,.....II, 50
- Enrollment**, N. Y. districts of
 X, 22
- Epigram**, authorship of.....
 III, 349
- Equality of all nations**.....
 III, 148
 — political, of negroes.....
 II, 207; III, 309; IV, 254;
 XI, 131
- Escambia Bay**, Miss., landing
 at.....X, 259
- Ethridge, E.**, letter to..X, 248
- Euclid**, mastery of.....VI, 28
- Eulogy of Henry Clay**..II, 155
- Europe**, overland telegraph to
 X, 286
 — arbitration by, impossible...
 VI, 254
 — Everett visits.....VIII, 43
 — feeling for L. in..VIII, xlix
 — population of.VIII, 121, 123
- Evans, French S.** appointment
 of.....VI, 266
- Evans, —**, representative from
 Me.....XI, 99
- Evans, E. P.**,.....IX, 213
- Evans, John**, Gov. of Col., in-
 formed of signing of Col.
 enabling act.....X, 54
- Evarts, Wm. M.**, authorized to
 act.....VII, 191
- Everett, —**, importunity of..
 I, 216
- Everett, Edw.**, candidate....
 VI, 13
 — death of.....X, 346
 — letter introducing.....
 VIII, 43
 — letter to.....IX, 210
 — Gettysburg speech...X, 346
 — — orator at.....IX, 211
 — thanks for address..IX, 302
 — visits Europe.....VIII, 43
- Ewell, E. R.**, Lt.-Gen., attacks
 Banks.....VII, 181
 — captured.....XI, 76
 — Frémont attacks...VII, 180
 — joins Jackson.....VII, 198
 — reported at Dalton..IX, 169
 — uncertainty of....VIII, 317
- Ewell, E. R.**, Mrs., amnesty
 for.....XI, 61
- Ewing, Thos.**, Sec. of the Int.
 II, 132
- Ewing, W. L. D.**, Gen., rec-
 ommendations of.....I, 163
 — Sen. from Ill.....I, 252
 — supports Butterfield..II, 118
- Exchange of prisoners**, cor-
 respondence on....IX, 303
- Execution of Indians**; *see* In-
 dians.
- Executive Clemency**; *see*
 Clemency.
- Executive**, distinct from Legis-
 lative.....V, 19; VI, 129
- Excitement**, political, in 1860
 V, 125, 130, 131, 155

- Expediency, right superior to
V, 14
- Experience, constancy of....
I, 112
- Extension of slavery; *see*
Slavery.
- F**
- Fairbanks, Erastus, Gov. of
Vt., telegrams to....VI, 352
- Fairs; *see* Sanitary Fairs.
- Faith, Lincoln's good...X, 191
- Faris-El-Hakim, outraged...
VII, 175
- Farleigh, Wm., graduation...
VI, 22
- Farm work, Lincoln's youth at
V, 288
- Farmer, right to consideration
I, 306
- Farmers, as a class.....
V, 238, 239
- interest of.....V, 239
- L.'s opinion of.....V, 238
- Farmington, —, Lincoln's visit
toI, 177
- Farnsworth, John F., coun-
sellor of L.....III, 305
- opposed to admission of
slave States....IV, 80, 304
- supports L.....IV, 174
- Farragut, Dav. G., Adm.,
takes New Orleans.VII, 294
- Mobile harbor, thanks for
results in.....X, 212
- receives thanks of Congress
VII, 161
- Farragut, Dav. G. (*contd.*)
— telegram to.....X, 314
- Fast Days; *see* National Fast
Days.
- Fathers, framers of Constitu-
tion.....V, 294, 297
- Faucher, attempted seizure of
VIII, 137
- Fayette County, Ky., removal
of Thos. Lincoln to..VI, 57
- Fayetteville, Ark., Curtis en-
gages Price at.....X, 259
- Federal Government, bank
circulation and...VIII, 102
- based on diversities..IV, 21
- best known.....X, 252
- churches and.....
VIII, 169; X, 4, 30
- compensated emancipation
and.....VII, 112
- course of, after war.VI, 323
- currency fluctuations to be
prevented by.....VIII, 101
- Douglas on slavery policy of
IV, 34
- established only for white
race....III, 92; IV, 23, 181
- existence tested.....X, 263
- expenditures of, on African
colonization.....X, 36
- finances.....VIII, 100
- labor and capital in.....
VII, 57
- L.'s assassination a blow at
X, xvii
- — determination to save...
VII, 293; X, 244

Federal Govt. (contd.)

- majority against in Mo....
VII, 76
- necessity of maintenance...
VI, 322
- paralyzed during war.....
VII, 295
- power of, to make internal
improvements....II, 29, 42
- powers of, general,.....
VI, 316
- — use of.....V, 16
- protection of, before L.'s in-
auguration.....VI, 92
- relations of, to Indian tribes
VII, 46
- slaves declared free by.....
VIII, 39
- surrender to pro-slavery ele-
ment urged.....VI, 93
- Federal Union**, anticipated
conditions for preservation
ofVI, 93
- avowal of severance from..
VI, 298, 303
- candidates loyal to...X, 264
- condition of, 1861...VII, 54
- devotion of South to.....
VI, 313
- division of.....
II, 294; VII, 51; VIII, 112
- — in event of Republican
success.....V, 219
- — shallowness of pretext
for.....VI, 94
- Douglas on preservation of
III, 105

Federal Union (contd.)

- foreign enmity to...VI, 311
- history of.....VI, 174
- L.'s love of.....II, 236
- — recognition of danger to
VI, 132
- loyalty of North to..II, 282
- — soldiers and seamen to..
VI, 321
- older than Constitution.....
VI, 174
- — States.....VI, 315
- preservation a world's work
VI, 82, 173; X, 262
- — necessary
VI, 299; VIII, 15; XI, 116
- restoration of...X, 191, 353
- — negro troops necessary to
X, 222
- — no thought of, by Con-
federate leaders....X, 197
- — sole purpose of Civil
War.....X, 191
- safety of.....XI, 110
- secession from.....VI, 175
- slavery only danger to.....
V, 61, 346
- States created by...VI, 315
- — seceded, restoration to..
XI, 131
- voters in La. loyal to.XI, 89
- Fell, J. W.**, autobiography to
V, 286
- Fence rails**, campaign incident
of.....VI, 29
- Fendall, P. R.**, Mrs. acts as
nurse.....IX, 46

- Fenton, Sallie A.**, letter to... VIII, 174
- Ferguson, R. L.**, telegram to X, 332
- Ferguson, "Uncle Ben,"** illness of.....I, 187
- Fernandina, Fla.**, blockade raised.....X, 272, 288
- Fessenden, W. P.**, appointed Sec. of Treas.....X, 140
- cotton transportation, order concerning.....X, 207
- organization of House of Rep.....IX, 191
- Few, Wm.**, vote of.V, 296, 297
- Ficklin, O. B.**, letter to.X, 166
- witness.....IV, 191
- Field, A. P.**, letter to..I, 95
- Field, Chris. F.**, loyalty of... IX, 294
- Field, Dav. Dudley**, Lincoln escorted byV, 293
- Field, Maunsell B.**, appointment of.....X, 137
- Fignaire e Morai, J. C. de**, Com., invitation of...XI, 34
- Filley, O. D.**, interested in McPheeters' case..... VIII, 170; IX, 269; X, 4
- Fillmore, Millard**, Albany speechII, 293
- Finance Committee**, Lincoln member ofI, 92
- See also*, Banks; Currency; Greenbacks; Loans; Money; Protection; Public money; Tariff taxation.
- Finances**, condition of..... VIII, 100
- Fink, W. E.**, letter to...IX, 1
- Findley, Jos. R.**, Capt., supposed skulker.....X, 242
- "Fingal,"** steamer, captured.. IX, 253
- Finney, A. D.**, letter to.VI, 109
- Fish, Dan.**, Judge..... I, vii; XI, 137
- Fishback, W. M.**, letter to.. X, 11
- telegram to.....X, 37
- Fisher, Arch.**, supposed murder of.....I, 168
- Fisher, C. H.**, letter to..VI, 53
- Fisher, Geo. P.**, letter to.... VIII, 12
- Fisheries**, correspondence on.. VI, 330
- Fisk, Clint. B.**, Gen., inefficientXI, 35
- note to.....IX, 188
- Fithian, Wm.**, Dr... VIII, 144
- letters to...II, 129; III, 347
- Fitzgibbon, Jackson**, Chap., appeals for clemency XI, 37
- Fitzsimmons, Thos.**, U. S. Rep. from Pa., reports bill.. V, 297
- Five Forks, Va.**, Sheridan retakesXI, 66
- Flag, raising**, *see* Independence Hall.
- Flags**, captured.....XI, 65
- Flanders, B. F.**, confers with BanksIX, 58

- Flanders, B. F.** (*contd.*)
 — letter to.....IX, 203
 — reports on reconstruction... IX, 200
- Flatboat**, employed on..V, 361
- Fleming, Chas. E.**, Lt., inquiry onVII, 149
- Fleming, J. M.**, letter to..... IX, 63
- Fletcher, —**, Gov. of Mo., letter to.....XI, 38, 42
- Flint, Chas. L.**, letter to.... VII, 170
- Florida**, cost to remove Indians fromVI, 317
 — Du Pont's services on coast of.....VII, 137
 — Hunter's proclamation..... VII, 170
 — insurrection in..I, 129, 130
 — ports blockaded.....X, 14
 — reconstruction in...IX, 283
 — suspension of habeas corpus in.....VI, 271
 "Florida," pirate, captured... X, 261
- Florida War**, cost of...I, 129
- Folancy, —**, appeal for.IX, 104
- Follet, Foster & Co.**, publish L.'s Ohio speeches..V, 289
 — repudiation of "Life" by... VI, 40
- Foote, And. H.**, Adm., commandant Brooklyn Navy YardVI, 233
 — recommended for thanks of Congress.....VII, 253
- Foote, Hen. S.**, attempted escape.....X, 339
- Foot, Sol.**, letter to...VII, 279
- Ford**, "History of Illinois,"... IV, 190
- Ford's Theatre**,.....XI, 94
- Foreign governments**, asked to form conventions..... VIII, 96
 — influence of, on war..... VIII, 195
 — intercourse, expenses of.... VIII, 103
 — relations with.....VIII, 98
 — — responsibilities of.XI, 128
- Foreigners**, rights of..IX, 227
 — naturalization of...IX, 228
See also, German citizens.
- Forgery**, allegation of, against L.IV, 194
- Forney, John W.**, visits WashingtonX, 177
- Forrest, N. B.**, Gen., reports Fort Pillow massacre..X, 78
 — inquiry for headquarters... VIII, 282
- Fort Brown**, erection of I, 327
See also, Mexico; Mexican War.
- Fort Donelson**, letter on.... VII, 105
 — plan for taking....VII, 106
- Fort Gaines**, reduction of.... X, 211, 212
 — salute at.....X, 214
- Fort Hatteras, N. C.**, Federal recruiting at.....VI, 356

- Fort Independence**, commander suspends execution.... IX, 292
- Fort Kearney**, desertions from VI, 65
- Fort McHenry**, Wool at.... VII, 208
- Fort Morgan**, capture of.... X, 206, 211, 212, 214
- Fort Pickens**, re-inforcement ofVI, 301, 302
- Fort Pillow**, Tenn., Davis' services at.....VII, 267
- massacre VII, 267; X, 78, 79, 92
- — Cabinet consulted on.... X, 92
- — exaggerated reports of.. X, 79
- — Forrest's report of.X, 78
- Fort Powell**, reduction of.... X, 211, 212
- salute at.....X, 214
- Fortress Monroe**, Va., Negro troops for.....VIII, 186
- Confederate peace commissioners at.....X, 349
- Dix sent to.....VII, 208
- Eckert ordered to....X, 354
- Grant meets L. at..X, 174
- L. joins Seward at..... X, 351, 355
- — visitsX, 71
- N. Y. Naval Brigade, claim for transporting, to.XI, 131
- orders to Capt. Fox at.... VII, 129
- Forts**, Confederate seizures of VI, 297
- Fort Scott**,.....VII, 56
- Fort Smith**, Ark., in Curtis' departmentIX, 275
- Fort Sumter**, S. C., Anderson in command at.....VI, 188
- armament of.....VI, 298
- assault on..VI, 303; IX, 106
- — situation after...VII, 52
- — war begun by....X, 221
- attempt to provision..... VI, 241, 302
- Du Pont and Hunter cooperate in taking..VIII, 248
- evacuation of.....VI, 301
- fall of, question of date.... XI, 63
- Federal troops in...IX, 106
- opinion of Cabinet on..... VI, 227
- — Fox on....VI, 206, 239
- — Scott onVI, 189
- Fort Trumbull**, offer to garrisonX, 97
- Fort Wagner**, occupied by Federal force.....IX, 106
- Fort Warren**, telegrams to officer in command at..X, 81
- Fort Wayne**, Ind., Cass supt. of Indian agency at..II, 81
- Foster C. W.**, Col., draft corrected by.....XI, 4
- Foster, J. G.**, Gen., Bramlette complain of.....IX, 278
- gallantry of his division.... XI, 70

Foster, J. G. (contd.)

— Grant with.....IX, 286

— Peirpoint confers with.....
IX, 62

— telegrams to.IX, 105, 176, 297

— Wright caseIX, 53, 169

Fourth of July.....II, 280— Vicksburg falls, 1863,.....
IX, 21*See also*, Declaration of Independence.**Fowler, —**, Col., Odell directed to find.....X, 178**Fox, G. V.**, Capt., directions as to "Monitor".....VII, 129

— letters to.....VI, 261

— opinion on Fort Sumter....
VI, 206, 239**Fox, Wm.**, *see* Gustave Blit-
tersdorf.**Fragment**, Chicago banquet
speechII, 308

— Galena speech.....II, 292

— notes for lecture....II, 138

— — law lecture.....II, 140

— — speeches
IV, 88, 200, 201, 202, 203,
212, 225

— on government..II, 182, 186

— sectionalism.....II, 299

— slavery.....II, 183, 184, 186

— suggestions on Taylor's po-
sition.....II, 55**France**, Bennett, Jas. Gordon,
promised ministry to..XI, 38— court of, Americans pre-
sented at.....VII, 98**France (contd.)**— Dayton proposed as minister
to.....VI, 223— exportation of contraband
VIII, 198— fisheries, correspondence on
VI, 330— Fremont proposed as minis-
ter to.....VI, 190

— indemnity to.....I, 131

— — owners of "Jules et
Marie,".....VIII, 132— movement to coerce Euro-
pean opinion.....VI, 280— neutrality vindicated.....
IX, 224— purchase of territory from..
I, 339— understanding with Great
Britain.....VI, 280**Franchise**, elective, caution on
X, 38*See also*, Negro.**Francis, J. M.**, signer of invi-
tation to Henry Clay..I, 232**Francis, Simeon**, fracas with
DouglasI, 149

— pseud. of L.....I, 64

— recommendation of..II, 130

Franklin, Benj., manners of..
III, v— opposed to slavery.....
V, 304; VIII, ix**Franklin, W. B.**, Gen., an-
swers L.'s questions.VII, 265— plan of operations.....
VIII, 150

- Franklin, W. B. (contd.)**
 — relieved from duty. VIII, 204
- Frazer, W. E.**, letter to V, 257
- Frederick, Md.**, Hunter at...
 X, 179
 — Meade at.....X, 263
 — L.'s remarks at...XI, 124
- Fredericksburg, Va.**, defeat at
 VIII, 149
 — evacuation of.....VII, 147
 — force out of position at....
 VII, 234
 — Lee's army near..VIII, 315
 — McCall to withdraw from..
 VII, 206
 — McClellan protects.....
 VII, 213
 — Richmond railroad, condi-
 tion of.....VIII, 270
- Freedmen**, colonization of....
 VII, 50
 — immigration into Ill. pro-
 hibited.....III, 149
 — status of, in Ky....III, 100
 — status of, in Me....III, 99
 See also, Negroes.
- Freedom**; *see*, Liberty.
- Frelinghuysen, —**, Atty. Gen.,
 appeals of.....IX, 125
- Free labor**; *see*, Labor, free.
- Freeman, —**, connected with
 McCallister and Stebbins
 bondsVIII, 139
- Freese, Jac.**, appointment of..
 IX, 206
- Freese, J. R.**, Dr., provost-
 marshalX, 226
- Free soil**, L. a representative
 ofII, 89
 — party, dereliction of...II, 92
 — — effect of..III, 78; IV, 6
- Free State Democratic party**,
 Douglas proposes to form..
 IV, 226
- Free States**, against South...
 IV, 5
 — number of mulattoes in....
 III, 356
 — people of independent.....
 V, 249
 — Washington's hope for.....
 V, 312
- Free Trade**.....VII, 296
- Frémont, John C.**, Gen., at
 Harper's Ferry....VII, 209
 — at Moorefield.....VII, 195
 — Blenker's division ordered to
 VII, 138, 225
 — commands First Corps,
 Army of Va.....VII, 236
 — — negro troops...VIII, 288
 — dissatisfaction with.....
 VI, 361
 — emancipation proclamation
 of.....VI, 350, 358
 — — ordered to modify.....
 VI, 351, 353
 — — popularity of...VI, 359
 — fraternizes with Douglas...
 IV, 229
 — guards against Jackson....
 VII, 223
 — Hamilton's dispatch sent to
 VII, 199

Frémont, John C. (contd.)

- Harrisonburg, movements near VII, 179, 180, 195, 214, 218, 219, 223, 225
- introduces restraint system of trade in Dept. of Mo.... IX, 158
- letter to, on supposed promise of 35,000 men..VII, 224
- — instructions to fall back VII, 218
- — Jackson's position..... VII, 219, 222
- L's confidence in integrity of VI, 354
- — support of,.....II, 290
- Mt. Jackson, Va., position at VII, 215, 227
- movements in West..... VI, 332
- needs assistance....VI, 352
- Ohio River, guards..... VI, 357
- presidential campaign of... II, 292
- — possibility.....X, 116
- proposed as minister to France.....VI, 190
- relieved of command..... VII, 10
- Strasburg, arrives at..... VII, 205
- — ordered to.....VII, 202
- telegram to, authorizing purchase of horses..... VII, 178

Frémont, John C. (contd.)

- — for information on Cairo VI, 339
- — ordering move against enemy.....VII, 165, 200
- protects Shenandoah Valley and Western Va...VII, 225
- seizes railroad in East Tenn. VII, 224
- troops in Mo. unreliable.... VII, 76
- Frémont, John C., Mrs.** letter to.....VI, 354
- French, B. B.**, letter to..X, 56
- French settlements**, slavery inV, 224
- French, W. H.**, Maj.-Gen., report's Lee's retreat..IX, 18
- success on Rappahannock.. IX, 204
- telegram to on destruction of pontoonsIX, 17
- Front Royal, Va.**, Banks ordered to.....VII, 214
- Confederate movements near.....VII, 186, 187
- Federal line broken at..... VII, 186
- Jackson near.....VII, 187
- McDowell ordered to..... VII, 202
- Shields retakes....VII, 207
- Frost, Emily S., Mrs.**, affidavit in Wright case IX, 120
- Fry, James B.**, Asst. Adj.-Gen., orders to Schenck.... VI, 328

- Fry, James B. (contd.)**
 — letter to.....VI, 50
Fry, J. R., letters to.....X, 89
Fugitive negroes; see, Negroes, fugitive.
Fugitive-slave law, constitutionality of...III, 275; V, 69
 — demand for repeal of.....III, 260; IV, 7, 13; V, 136
 — enforcement of..V, 232, 279; VI, 78, 172; VIII, 111
 — L.'s position on.....II, 243
 — — tolerance of.....VI, 103
 — Lovejoy's resolutions for repeal of.....III, 322
 — passage of...II, 203; IV, 62
 — — Southern demand for...II, 202
Fugitive slaves, protection of VIII, 38, 258
 — reclamation of, Constitutional language on.....V, 49
 — surrender of.....VI, 181
Fuller, —, mail-contractor....I, 348
Fulton, —, brings news from the front......VII, 243, 244
"Funayma Solace," Japanese steamer......XI, 133
Furniture, security for......IV, 199

G

- Gage, Geo.**, letter from II, 267
 — pledge of.....II, 272
Gaines, John P., Maj., opinion on Mexican War..II, 87

- Gaines, John P. (contd.)**
 — volunteer of 1812.....II, 13
"Galena," steamer, movements ofVII, 155
Galena, Ill., "Jeffersonian"... II, 271
 — L.'s speech at.....II, 292
Galesburg, Ill., Douglas' rejoinder at......IV, 297
 — L.'s reply at.....IV, 262
 — — speech at.....IV, 237
Galloway, Sam., letter to.....VI, 7, 40, 134
Galveston, Tex., blockaded....XI, 80
 — cotton from.....X, 186
Gamble, Hamilton R., Gov. of Mo., authorizes Moss to arm Clinton and Platte countiesIX, 146
 — Cameron's letter to..VI, 338
 — head of Union party in Mo. VIII, 283
 — letter to, on Mo. difficulties IX, 176
 — — removal of officers.....VIII, 155
 — order approving plan of....VII, 15
 — question of, on status of Mo. troops.....VIII, 90
 — — to concerning maintenance of law by enrolled militia.....VIII, 147, 153
 — — of Unionism of.VIII, 171
"Gangs of hogs," story of....II, 88

- Gantt, —**, instruction to..... IX, 296
- Gardner, Prof.**, letter to VI, 60
- Garfield, Jas., Abram**, failure ofVIII, 273
— "Lincoln and Emancipation" XI, v
- Garrett, J. W.**, telegram to.. X, 142, 154
- Garrison, Wm. Lloyd**, radicalism of.....IV, 347
— thanked.....X, 345
- Gasparin, A. de**, Count, letter toVII, 301
- Gaston, Miss**, refuses to take oathX, 37
- Geary, John W.**, Bvt.-Maj.-Gen., dispatches from..... VII, 194
— reports Jackson's movements.....VII, 178
— reports strength and position of enemy..... VII, 183, 197
- General Government**, see Federal Government.
- General Land Office**, Lincoln proposed for....II, 105, 123
— Shields' incumbency of..... IV, 12
- General Orders**, *see* Orders, general.
- Genius**, aim of.....I, 47
— L.'s.....VIII, 206
- Gentry, M. P.**, Cabinet possibilityVI, 94
— letter to.....X, 38
- Georgetown, S. C.**, blockaded XI, 80
- Georgia**, cedes Miss. and Ala. V, 298
— martial law in.....VII, 170
— Sherman's campaign in.... IX, 254; X, 211, 237
— U. S. troops in, embarrassed by Ky. combinations..... X, 146
- German citizens**, address to.. VI, 119
— opinion of.....VI, 120
- Getty, G. W.**, Gen...VIII, 285
- Gettysburg, Pa.**, Everett's speech atX, 346
— L.'s address at....IX, 209
— — feeling about battle at.. X, 346
— news of battle at....IX, 17
- Gettysburg Address**, literary style of.....I, xxviii
— manuscript of.....IX, 303
— successive versions..IX, 209
- Ghislen, J. D., Jr.**, affidavit in Wright case.....IX, 119
- Gibson, —**, resignation.X, 172
- Giddings, Josh. R.**, abolitionist leader.....IV, 8, 347
— canvass for L..... IV, 76, 77, 174, 176, 347
— letter to.....VI, 13
— supports Wilmot proviso... V, 77
- Gilder, Rich. Watson**, "Lincoln as a Writer"....I, ix
- Gillam, A. C.**, Gen.,....X, 176

- Gillam, A. C.** (*contd.*)
 — appointed.....IX, 87
 — force of.....X, 269
- Gillespie, Jos.**, letters to....
 II, 24, 119, 265, 354, 355;
 III, 52, 192
 — signs Whig circular..I, 166
- Gillespie, W. H.**, letter to....
 VI, 108
- Gillett, —**, refused permission
 to visit army.....VIII, 272
- Gillis, J. P.**, Com., prepares
 vessels for sea.....VII, 190
- Gillmore, Q. A.**, Gen., bom-
 bards Charleston....IX, 106
 — confers with Dahlgren....
 IX, 267
 — independent service for....
 IX, 266, 267
 — occupies Fla.....IX, 283
- Gilman, Nich.**, vote on slavery
 V, 297
- Gilmer, John A.**, L.'s hope of
 VI, 79, 94
 — — anticipated interview
 with.....VI, 91
- Gilmore, —**, Dr., witness....
 I, 172
- Gilmore, —**, L.'s plans to be
 communicated to Greeley by
 XI, 120
- Gilpin, —**, Judge.....VIII, 12
- "Glen,"** schooner, award to...
 IX, 281
- Glenn, —**, Lt.-Col., negroes
 forced into army by...XI, 5
- Globe Tavern, L.** at....I, 268
- Glover, S. T.**, letter to.....
 VIII, 197
 — L.'s friend.....VI, 361
- Goddard, —**, execution sus-
 pendedIX, 278
- Gold, utility of**.....X, 264
 — mines, discovered....X, 300
- Goldsborough, L. M.**, Adm.,
 at capture of Roanoke Is...
 VII, 215
 — order for removal of ves-
 sels countermanded.VII, 215
 — telegram to.....VII, 155
 — thanks of Congress to.....
 VII, 105
- Gonyeag, Mary**, Mother Su-
 perior, telegram to..IX, 259
- Goodman, Edw.**, recommend-
 edVIII, 221
- Goodrich, Grant**, endorses
 L.'s fee-bill.....II, 289
- Goodrich, John Z.**, letter to..
 XI, 53
- Gordon, G. H.**, telegram to...
 XI, 78
- Gordon, Nath.**, respite for...
 VII, 95
- Gordon, W. J.**, letter to..IX, 1
- Gortchacow, Prince**, corre-
 spondence on "Trent" af-
 fair VII, 107
- Goss, G. G.**, Rev.....VII, 60
- Gosport, Va.**, seizure of Navy
 yard atVI, 306
See also, Norfolk, Pa.
- Government**, duty of, to la-
 borerI, 307

Government (*contd.*)

- fragments on...II, 182, 186
- perpetuity a fundamental law of.....VI, 173
- policy of.....II, 37

Government, arms, contract for

- VII, 134
- claims, adjusted with Ecuador.....X, 40
- — means provided for adjustment of.....VII, 42
- — transportation of N. Y. Naval brigade.....XI, 131
- departments, disloyalty in.. VII, 101, 192
- funds, effect of L.'s death upon.....X, xxi

Governments, foreign, see Foreign Governments.**Governors of various States, telegrams to**

- VI, 352; X, 270, 277
- views declared to....VI, 82

Gradual emancipation, appeal for

- VIII, 130
- advantages of..... VIII, 119, 130
- defeat of, in Mo..... V, 334, 354
- — Ky.....II, 279
- favored in D. C....II, 215
- L. favors..... II, 207, 228; VIII, 116, 121; IX, 52; X, 31
- plans for.....II, 252
- protection of Mo. slaveholders after.....VIII, 329

Gradual (*contd.*)

- resolution for....VIII, 117
- *See also*, Emancipation; Emancipation Proclamation.

Granadian Confederacy

- VIII, 189, 190
- Grand Gulf, Miss., capture** .. VIII, 269

Granger, Gordon, Maj.-Gen., thanks to

- X, 212
- Granier, E. D., Dr., affidavit in Wright case**

Grant, U. S., Lt.-Gen., address to

- X, 33
- advances on Lee....XI, 68
- aggressiveness of....IX, 26
- appointed Lt.-Gen..... X, 34, 35
- Ark. in control of.VIII, 200
- asked for news of Foote... X, 340
- — to postpone call..XI, 94
- at Burkesville Station.XI, 75
- at City Point..... X, 156; XI, 50, 59, 61, 65, 69, 73
- Banks and lower flotilla to join.....VIII, 200
- "bull-dog grip" telegram... X, 193
- call for troops suggested... X, 167
- captures near Petersburg... XI, 67, 68, 69
- — White Oak road..XI, 65
- "copious fighter but meagre writer".....IX, 45

Grant, U. S. (contd.)

- command of departments transferred to Halleck....
X, 176
- Confederate Peace commissioners entertained by.X, 350
- — L.'s message to..X, 355
- conference with Lee.....
X, 187; XI, 43
- congratulated.....VIII, 55
- dispatch to Sherman.X, 161
- effect of campaign..X, 164
- election news to.....X, 241
- expedition proposed against Mobile, Ala.....IX, 64
- expels Jews.....VIII, 200
- fighting near Boydton road reported.....XI, 65
- Hampton Roads conference XI, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24
- Hurlbut given command...
IX, 51
- invited to dine.....X, 36
- joins Foster.....IX, 286
- Kinney recommended to...
X, 241
- Laws refused passage of lines.....X, 355
- letter to, with resolutions and medal.....XI, 47
- — on Rich. T. Jacob.X, 331
- — on Singleton and Hughes XI, 49
- L. publishes telegram of....
XI, 6
- — fears great loss of life..
X, 160

Grant, U. S. (contd.)

- — suggests Sheridan's reinforcement.....X, 223
- — visits
X, 134, 174, 177, 178; XI, 59, 61
- L.'s confidence in...X, 90
- — fear for security of Shenandoah.....XI, 40
- — — Sheridan.....X, 236
- — — Washington...X, 156
- Lincoln, Robt. T., with....
X, 343
- Loring driven back.....
VIII, 281
- Maryland soldiers' vote reported.....X, 263
- Milroy given command....
IX, 266
- moves against Johnston...
VIII, 281
- national thanks to...XI, 48
- naval prisoners exchanged
X, 238
- N. Y. "Herald" excluded..
VIII, 230
- N. Y. mass meeting for...
X, 112
- on North Anna.....X, 107
- Pemberton driven back....
VIII, 281
- Petersburg taken.....
XI, 67, 70
- protests against prison recruiting.....X, 228
- Pryor's exchange objected to.....XI, 39

Grant, U. S. (contd.)

- Banks' movements. VIII, 290
- reports Richmond evacuated
XI, 70
- — Sheridan's success.
XI, 65, 66, 76
- — situation of army. XI, 69
- satisfaction with treatment
X, 90
- Seward's accident reported
to. XI, 73
- Sheridan given command of
troops in field. X, 180
- — ordered to press Lee. . .
XI, 77
- Singleton referred to. . XI, 5
- telegram to. IX, 214;
X, 40, 126, 129, 140, 155, 156,
160, 206, 354; XI, 41
- thanks of Congress to. . . .
IX, 264
- — for East Tenn. successes
IX, 253
- value of services. . . IX, 26
- Va. troops captured by.
XI, 93
- Wilmington expedition,
views on. X, 327, 328
- Worthington desires to visit
X, 206
- Gratiott Street Prison.** XI, 39
- Gratz, Benjamin,** telegram to,
VIII, 232
- "Grave of Lincoln," by Maurice
Thompson VII, liii
- Gray, John P., Dr.,** in Wright
case IX, 114, 119

Grayson, P. W., Atty.-Gen.,
Rep. of Tex., signs treaty. . .

I, 347

Great Britain, Adams, Chas.

- Francis, proposed minister
to VI, 223
- African slave-trade sup-
pressed. . . VIII, 95; IX, 225
- attitude to U. S.
VIII, 195; XI, viii
- correspondence on Sioux
Indians. IX, 299
- expected to respect blockade
VI, 281
- explanations of Parliamen-
tary debates. VI, 278
- grants belligerent rights. . .
IX, xxvi
- Gunpowder plot. . . . V, 317
- hostile expeditions held. . . .
IX, 224
- Hudson Bay and Puget
Sound claims paid.
X, 40, 289
- industrial exhibition.
VII, 49, 66, 72
- intervention desired. VI, 282
- letter to London working-
men. VIII, 211
- — to Manchester working-
men. VIII, 194
- L.'s desire to maintain min-
istry. XI, 128
- movement to coerce Euro-
pean opinion. VI, 280
- patron of privateering.
VI, 284

- Great Britain** (*contd.*)
 — relations with United States
 VI, 284; VIII, xxxii;
 XI, viii
 — sentiment of American people to.....VIII, 196
 — slavery forced on Colonies by.....V, 152, 165
 — Stellwagen given sword by
 XI, 9
 — surrender of disputed territory to.....VI, 36; IX, 225
 — telegraphic communication with U. S.....X, 286
“Great Michigander,” Cass so calledII, 75
“Greatness of Lincoln, The,” by Frank S. Black...IV, v
Greeley, Horace, editor N. Y. “Tribune,” letter to, concerning Tex. boundary...II, 53
 — L. escorted by.....V, 293
 — L.’s opinion of.....II, 363
 — — plans given to...XI, 120
 — — reply to “Prayer of Twenty Millions”.....VIII, 15; XI, xii
 — opinion of L....V, vi, xxvi
 — part in peace proposals....X, 154, 159
 — proposed for U. S. Sen....VI, 104
 — publishes correspondence...X, 182, 184
 — telegram to.....X, 183
“Greeley faction,” quarrel withVII, 125
- Green, Duff, Gen.,** letter to.. II, 118
 — L’s statement of position to. VI, 88
Greenbacks, issue of VIII, 192
 See also, Currency.
Greene, Bowling, appointmentI, 55
Greenleaf’s “Evidence”.....XI, 114
Gregg, Dav. L., signs resolutionsII, 136
Gregg, John, Maj.-Gen., woundedIX, 137
Gregory, Dud. S., appointmentX, 138
Grider, H., consents to raising regimentVI, 295
 — petition denied..X, 253, 256
Grimes, J. W., telegram to... IX, 169
Grimes, Wm., letter to..... II, 290, 339
Grimsley, E. J., Mrs., telegram to...VIII, 293; IX, 91
Grimsley, Harrison...II, 50
Grinnell, Moses H., acts for Navy dept.....VII, 191
Grocery-keeper, Lincoln denies having been....III, 230
Grosbeck regiment joins FrémontVI, 344
Grow, Galusha A., difficulty withVI, 330
 — letter to..... VII, 278
 — Speaker of House of Reps. VIII, 215

Abraham Lincoln

- Guerrillas, expelled from Mo. VIII, 274, 300, 304; IX, 2, 121; X, 147.
- — in case before Judge Leavitt.....VIII, 274
- — — of Major Chase..... VII, 87
- — Constitutional provision for..VI, 310; VIII, 302, 304
- — continued throughout war.....IX, 122
- — executive power....IX, 2
- — in Ky.....X, 147
- — L.'s hesitation on..... VIII, 303
- — in Mo.....VII, 26
- — proclaimed VII, 41; IX, 121; X, 144
- — reasons for indicated.... VI, 309
- — Scott makes in Maryland VI, 295
- Vallandigham's appeal to... VIII, 311
- See also*, Martial law; Vallandigham, C. L.
- Hackett, Jas. H.**, letter to... IX, 84, 198
- Hackleman, —**, Gen., death of VIII, 55
- Hagerstown, Md.**, Confederates at.....IX, 18
- Haggard, —**, Col., misunderstanding about....VIII, 279
- telegram to.....VIII, 282
- Hahn, Michael**, Gov. of La., Banks confers with..IX, 58
- letter to.....X, 38
- Guerrillas, expelled from Mo. IX, 149
- — Tenn. and Ky..VIII, 64
- Guest, John**, Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress to.....VII, 162
- Gunboats**, Burnside's dispatch onVII, 215
- improvements in during war X, 62
- McClellan supported by.... VII, 248
- needed to remove loyal refugees.....VIII, 170
- on James River....VII, 259
- on the Rappahannock..... VIII, 89
- report on.....X, 62
- Gun-carriage**, Ellsworth's.... VI, 361
- Gunn, Lewis C.**, appointed collector at Puget Sound... VIII, 273
- Guns**, capture of.....X, 325
- Gunpowder Plot**, failure of.. V, 317
- Gurney, Eliza P.**, letter to... X, 215
- reply to.....VIII, 50
- Gurley, John A.**, musters troopsVI, 292
- letter to.....VI, 344
- Guthrie, Jas.**.....VII, 6
- letter to.....VIII, 276
- H**
- Habeas corpus**, suspension of V, 258, 271; VII, 8, 87;

- Hahn, Michael** (*contd.*)
 — military power conferred upon.....X, 43
- Haldeman, Jac. S.**, proposed minister to Sweden and NorwayVI, 191
- Hale, John P.**, supporter of LincolnIV, 76, 176
 — telegram to.....VIII, 296
- Hale, J. T.**, letter to...VI, 93
- Haley, Jas.**, deserter..IX, 188
- Hall, B. F.**.....IV, 50
- Hall, Curtis H.**.....VII, 131
- Hall, W. A.**, U. S. Rep. from Mo., complaint of....X, 311
 — views on compensated emancipation.....VII, 126
- Halleck, Henry Wager**, Maj.-Gen., advises Burnside VIII, 165, 180
 — antagonism to Hooker..... VIII, 206, 320
 — asked for infantry.VII, 260
 — at St. Louis.....VII, 76
 — at Tuscumbia.....VII, 276
 — Buell to act in concert with VII, 71, 84
 — cannot reinforce McClellan VII, 257
 — conference with Burnside reported to.....VIII, 88
 — Corinth in hands of..... VII, 208, 212
 — departments commanded by VII, 130, 214; X, 176
 — desires to remove Grant.... IX, 26
- Halleck, H. W.** (*contd.*)
 — East Tenn., relief attempted IX, 64
 — Gettysburg, urged to pursue advantage of victory at.... IX, 18
 — ignorant of Buell's intended operations in Mo...VII, 77
 — instructions on commercial intercourse.....VII, 119
 — — guerilla warfare.IX, 297
 — introduces Koerner.VII, 85
 — — Sprague.....VII, 261
 — Johnson confers with on Ky. raid.....VII, 268, 269
 — letter of, to Buell on East Tenn.....VIII, 63
 — — Burnside on movement across Rappahanock..... VIII, 179
 — — Grant.....VIII, 200
 — letter to VII, 71, 85, 105, 139, 228, 261, 277; VIII, 165, 176, 179, 200; IX, 128, 131, 171, 180
 — — on Barrett, Col. Jas. A.. VII, 139
 — — East Tenn. expedition.. VII, 228
 — — Fort Donelson..VII, 105
 — — Lawrence outrage..... IX, 107
 — — Lee's movements..... IX, 171, 180
 — — reserve cavalry corps... VIII, 176
 — — Rosecrans.....IX, 131

- Halleck, H. W. (contd.)**
- — suggested feint against Columbus.....VII, 71
 - levies contributions.IX, 158
 - Magoffin's confinement mitigated.....VII, 144
 - McClellan informs, army cannot subsist at Winchester.....VIII, 57
 - — instructed by...VIII, 53
 - made General-in-Chief.....VII, 266
 - Meade ordered not to engage Lee.....IX, 46
 - — urged to attack Lee....IX, 22
 - ordered to forward troops..VII, 238
 - ordered to Washington....VII, 277
 - opinion of parole..VIII, 53
 - organizes army....VIII, 20
 - Pope ordered not to cross into British territory.....VIII, 244
 - Price operates against in Mo.....VII, 108
 - rejects plan for entering Richmond.....VIII, 88, 89
 - resignation.....VIII, 166
 - Schenck's advice on Milroy IX, 12
 - suspends writ of habeas corpus.....VII, 26
 - telegram to.....VII, 68, 70, 139, 149, 153, 179, 238, 247, 268, 269, 275
- Halleck, H. W. (contd.)**
- — on Chattanooga expedition.....VII, 247
 - — Gen. Denver.....VII, 137, 139
 - — requests for reinforcements.....VII, 179
 - — report of battle at Pittsburg Landing.....VII, 149
 - — Schoefield's command of Dept. of Mo.....VII, 153
 - — "stampede" in Ky.....VII, 275
- Hamburg exposition, report of**IX, 291
- Hamilton, —, Gen., petition of** VII, 174
- relieved from command....VII, 157
 - reports.....VII, 199
- Hamilton, Alex., Sec. of the Treas., opinion on U. S. Bank**II, 60
- opposed to slavery...V, 304
 - stature of.....III, v
- Hamilton, A. J., authorized to transport**X, 186
- telegram to.....IX, 89
- Hamlin, Hannibal, Vice-Pres. of the U. S., asked about troops**VI, 265
- candidacy of, for Vice-PresidentVI, 13
 - letter to.....VI, 44, 55, 68, 72, 75, 86
 - — on emancipation proclamation.....VIII, 50

General Index

243

- Hamlin, Hannibal** (*contd.*)
 — — on organization of House.....IX, 190
 — telegram to.....IX, 117
- Hammond, —**, office for.....
 XI, 32
- Hammond, Hen.**, appointed VIII, 9
- Hammond, Jas. Hen.**, on slaveryV, 335
- Hampton Roads**, naval engagementVIII, 138
- Hampton Roads Conference**, Confederate Peace commissioners at
 XI, 16, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30
 — futility of.....XI, 28, 32
 — held on "River Queen"....
 XI, 30
 — informal nature of.....
 XI, 28
 — L. arrives at.....XI, 24
 — proposals at.....XI, 19, 30
 — report of.....XI, 10
- Hancock County, Ill.**..IV, 68
 — death of Mordecai Lincoln..
 II, 181
 — descendants of Mordecai Lincoln.....VI, 25
 — Lincoln family.....II, 14
 — settlement of Josiah Lincoln VI, 25
 — — Mordecai Lincoln.VI, 25
- Hancock, Winfield Scott**, Gen., telegram to....XI, 60
- Hand Bill**, in "Sangamon Journal"I, 57
- Hanks family** in Ill.....V, 286
 — in Va.....VI, 26
- Hanks, John**, proposed trip..
 VI, 29
 — "rail enterprise" of..VI, 30
 — recollections of L....I, xiv
 — returns from St. Louis....
 VI, 30
 — second cousin of L..VI, 31
- Hanks, Nancy**, marriage of..
 VI, 25
 — mother of L.....VI, 21
 — relatives of, in Ia....VI, 26
- Hanover**, treaty with.VII, 100
- Hanover Court House**, Branch driven from.....
 VII, 195
 — Federals raid.....VIII, 263
- Hanscomb, —**, detective X, 18
- Hanson, Dan.**, arrested.....
 IX, 170
- Harbors**, improvement of.....
 II, 33
- Hardie, —**, Col., prayers for LincolnXI, 92
- Hardiman, B.**, signs treaty...
 I, 347
- Hardin County, Ky.**, Lincoln's birth-place
 V, 286; VI, 24; VIII, xviii
 — Lincoln family in.VI, 22, 24
- Hardin, J. J.**, Brig.-Maj., defeats LincolnI, 262
 — letters to...I, 266, 270, 271
 — order for arms.....I, 9
 — service in Mexican war....
 II, 85

- Hardin, J. J.** (*contd.*)
 — signs Whig circular..I, 166
 — understanding with..VI, 37
 — withdraws.....I, 293
- Harmon's "sandal sock".**X, 140
- Harney, W. S., Gen.,** checks Mo. outrages.....VI, 288
 — relieved from command....
 VI, 275
- Harper's Ferry, Md.,** communication lost...VIII, 316
 — Confederates capture.....
 X, 142
 — enemy pushing on to.....
 VII, 176
 — executions suspended.....
 XI, 37
 — guns sent to.....VII, 185
 — Hunter at.....X, 161
 — Kelley at.....VIII, 317
 — Lee returns toward.....
 VIII, 321
 — military line from.VI, 333
 — Milroy brought from.....
 VIII, 316
 — Republicans not in raid at
 V, 358
 — Saxton at.....VII, 206
 — seizure of arsenal at.....
 VI, 306
 — troops arrive at...VIII, 317
- "Harper's Magazine"** Douglas in.....V, 150, 164, 264
- Harrell, Abram D.,** thanks of Congress to.....VII, 162
- "Harriett Lane,"** vessel, sailing orders.....VI, 226
- Harris, A.,** case of....X, 214
- Harris, Isham G.,** question of, for gov.....IX, 116
- Harris Thos. L.,** Maj., candidate..IV, 171, 278, 279, 336
 — Douglas endorses..IV, 338
 — quotes "Black Republican" resolutions.....III, 307
- Harris, Townsend,** minister to Japan.....VI, 336
- Harrisburg, Pa.,** address at..
 VI, 162
 — invitation to visit..VI, 109
 — question of calling out militia atVIII, 261
 — reply at.....VI, 160
- Harrison County, Ind.,** Lincoln family in.....II, 14
 — residence of Josiah Lincoln
 II, 181
- Harrison, Jas.,** protection for
 X, 324
- Harrison, Napoleon B.,** Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress toVII, 162
- Harrison, Wm. Hen.,** Gen., Pres. candidacy in Ill., I, 147
 — death of.....I, 257
 — election as Pres.....II, 293
 — "Life" of.....I, 146
 — L. on electoral ticket of...
 VI, 34
 — nomination popular..I, 147
- Harrisonburg, Va.,** Frémont near..VII, 214, 218, 225, 227
 — Jackson at.....VII, 179
- Harrison's Landing, Va.,** Lin-

- coln interviews Franklin at VII, 265
 — — Heintzelman at. VII, 263
 — — visits.....VII, 262
Harrow, Wm., Gen., leave forIX, 276
Hart, —, in Fisher murder caseI, 174
Hart, Chas. Hen.....XI, 142
Hartford, Conn., collectorship at.....VIII, 221
 — L.'s speech at.....V, 329
Harvey, Alex. W..... VI, 5, 59, 61
Harvey, J. E., minister, VI, 61
Haskell, —, Col., on Mexican warI, 353; II, 86
Haskin, John B., U. S. Rep. from N. Y., support of.... V, 117
Hassaurek, F., interview.... VI, 191
Hatch, O. M., letters to..... VIII, 286; IX, 119
 — telegram to.....IX, 133
Hatcher's Run, Va.,..XI, 68
Haupt, —, Col., telegram to.. VIII, 18
Havana, Cuba, U. S. award in case of "Jules et Marie" and "San Jacinto," VIII, 132
Hawaii, address to envoy from XI, 132
Hawkes, —, Dr., case of,.... X, 97
Hawkes, Chas. K., appointment of.....IX, 298
Hawkes, Chas. K. (contd.)
 — plan of, to secure cotton... IX, 280
Hawley, Eliphalet, letter to VIII, 286
Hay, John, Maj., administers oath XI, 129
 — carries dispatches..... VIII, 168; X, 159
 — commissioned.....IX, 283
 — indorsement on letter to... X, 113, 114
 — letter to Campbell. VIII, 319
 — — Willing.....X, 173
 — Nicolay's letter to...X, 113
 — telegram to.....X, 159
Haycraft, Sam, letter to..... VI, 21, 39, 51, 52, 69
Hayes, J. S., Comptroller.... IX, 105
Hayner, —, Maj., report.... IX, 111, 124
Hayti, colonization in, VIII, 97
 — policy on.....VII, 33
 — relations with.....X, 285
 — slave revolution in..V, 317
Hazel, Cal., school of, attended by L.,.....VI, 26
Haywood, —, complaint against.....X, 311
Heddon and Hoey, contract ofVII, 134
Heintzelman, S. P., Gen., commands Third corps.... VII, 116
 — memorandum of questions and answers.....VII, 263

- Heintzelman, S. P. (contd.)**
 — watches Vallandigham.....
 X, 132
 — wishes Stahl assigned.....
 VIII, 226
- Helena, Ark., oath administered**IX, 277
- Helm, Ben, first clerk**, VI, 22
- Helm, Ben. Hardin, Brig.-Gen., Confederate officer**...
 IX, 256
 — killed at Chickamauga.....
 IX, 137
 — L.'s relations with...VI, 39
- Helm, Ben Hardin, Mrs.**.....
 IX, 169, 255
- Hempster, C. T., appointment for son of**.....VI, 190
- Henderson, —, case of**, X, 135
- Henderson, J. T., letter to**..
 II, 263, 268
- Henderson, John B., Sen., objects to Pope**....IX, 267
 — participates in Schofield's relief.....IX, 264
- Henning, Fanny, L.'s opinion of**I, 180
- Henry, A. G., Dr., appointment**I, 242
 — letters to..V, 94; VI, 42, 57
 — signs call for Whig State convention.....I, 181
 — — invitation to Clay to visit IllinoisI, 232
 — — Whig circular....I, 145
 — supports L.....XI, 99
 — telegram to.....VIII, 273
- Henry, Alex., telegram to**...
 VIII, 27
- Henry IV, of France, Lincoln likened to**.....IX, lii
- Henry, Ill., Lincoln's speech at**
 IV, 68
- Henry, John, Douglas supporter**IV, 192
- Henry, Pat., quoted**..VIII, 78
 — view on slavery....VIII, ix
- Herara, J. J. de, overthrow of**II, 24
- Hermitage, Lion of Jackson so called**II, 73
- Herndon, Row, letter to**, I, 95
- Herndon, "Uncle Billy," death**I, 187
- Herndon, Wm. H.**.....
 III, 3; VIII, 217
 — character.....II, 57
 — indiscretion of.....V, 290
 — L.'s partner.....II, 57
 — letters to.....
 I, 316, 325, 350, 351, 354;
 II, 1, 49, 56; VI, 62; VII, 94
- Herpert, Wilton M., officer**..
 VIII, 331
- Herran, Pedro Alcantara, Gen., minister from New Granada**VIII, 189
- Herrington, A. M.**....IV, 50
- Herron, F. J., refuses to serve**
 VIII, 277
 — resignation.....VIII, 278
- Hewett, Josephus**....I, 355
- Hicklin and Spratt, proceedings against**.....X, 332

- Hickman, John**, and "irrepressible conflict"....V, 214
 — antislavery zeal.....V, 155
 — L. asks cheers for...V, 155
 — Republican support of.....
 V, 117
- Hicks, —**, Lincoln's autobiographical sketch to..VI, 40
- Hicks, G. Montague**, endorsement on letter of..VII, 175
- Hicks, Thos. S.**, gov. of Md., consultedVI, 252
 — plan of arbitration proposed by.....VI, 253
 — reply to.....VI, 251
- "**Highlander**," vessel, watch to master of.....X, 18
- Hill, J. G.**, witness to epigram III, 349
- Hillhouse, Thos.**, appointment of.....X, 138
- Hilton, Ala.**, captured..X, 259
- Hilton Head, S. C.**, salute at X, 214
- Hise, John**.....IV, 50
- "**History of Illinois**," Ford's IV, 190
- Hodgenville, Ky.**, Lincoln family at.....VI, 22
- Hodges, A. G.**, consultation withX, 276
 — discharge of Price referred to.....X, 256
 — letter to, on slavery..X, 65
 — — on emancipation..X, 65
- Hoffman, Hen. W.**, anxiety ofX, 239
- Hoffman, H. W.** (*contd.*)
 — vote reported to.....X, 262
- Hoffman, Ogden**, letter to... IX, 258
- Hogeboom, Judge**, general appraiserX, 139
- Holbrook, Fred**, gov. of Vt., requests Lincoln to call for volunteersVII, 249
- Holcomb, Jas. B.**, Peace CommissionerX, 160
- Hollander, —**, arrested.....
 VIII, 312
- Hollister, F. Dav.**, tax commissioner.....VIII, 9
- Holman, —**,IX, 124
- Holmes, Wm. J.**, affidavit in Wright case.....IX, 120
- Holt, Jos.**, Sec. of War, candidate for Vice-Pres., X, 115
 — letter to.....VI, 354
 — transmits documents.VI, 188
- Homer, —**, doorkeeper, I, 316
- Homestead law**....VIII, 106
 — enactment of.....IX, 242
 — operation of.....IX, 242
See also, Public Lands.
- Honesty of Lincoln**, VIII, xlv
- Honor, political**, of Lincoln..
 I, 326
- Hood, John B.**, Gen., assistance of hundred-day troops to defeat.....X, 237
 — Davis visits.....X, 235
 — reported wounded..IX, 137
- Hooker, Jos.**, Gen., advice to VIII, 297

Hooker, Jos. (contd.)

- antagonism to Halleck.....
VIII, 320
- asks command of regiment
VI, 293
- commands Army of Potomac.....VIII, 204, 206
- — Porter's corps..VIII, 73
- Dahlgren carries dispatches to.....VIII, 320
- desires presence of Marchant.....VIII, 218
- early movement of, not desirable.....VIII, 275
- — of, suggested..VIII, 264
- at Fairfax Station.....
VIII, 317
- Geary's part in night fight of.....IX, 194
- indorses plan.....VIII, 243
- informed of capture of Grand Gulf.....VIII, 269
- — of news in Richmond papers.....VIII, 263, 264
- inquiry to.....VIII, 284
- letters to.....VII, xxxvi;
VIII, 264, 275, 320
- L. suggests breaking Lee's line.....VIII, 315
- — proposes visit to.....
VIII, 243
- L.'s opinion of...VIII, 206
- Meade proposed for command under.....IX, 44
- Moore assigned to.VIII, 292
- order in Humphrey case...
X, 338

Hooker, Jos. (contd.)

- promotion of...VII, xxxvii
- relations with Slocum.....
IX, 142
- reply to.....VIII, 245
- reported in retreat.....
VIII, 263
- resignation of....VIII, 320
- telegrams to.....
VIII, 218, 243, 145, 249, 261,
263, 264, 265, 269, 273, 292,
314, 315, 324, 328, 331, 333
- under orders to Halleck...
VIII, 323

Hope, —, Dr., question answered.....VI, 23

Hopkins, Hen., Rev., VII, 60

Horse race, Lincoln's participation inIII, 210

Horsman, J.,IV, 51

Hospitals, chaplains for.....
VII, 8, 36, 60

Hough, Lotty, Mrs., recommendation of.....X, 238

Hough, R. M., Col., letter to
XI, 54

Houk, Dav. A., letter to, IX, 1

"House divided".....III, 2

House of Representatives,
U. S., asked to postpone adjournmentVII, 278

— bill to abolish slavery in D. of C.....II, 96

— Cameron censured.VII, 193

— certificates of election to...
IX, 192

— effort to prohibit slavery in

- acquired Mexican territory IV, 293
- first Northern majority in.. V, 28
- Homer doorkeeper in..I, 316
- Ill. land grants.....II, 21
- interrogatories in....I, 338
- Lecompton constitution defeated.....III, 29
- L. elected to..... I, 298; V, 288; VI, 34
- — vetoes bill on internal revenue act.....X, 330
- L.'s speech on admission of Wis.....II, 18
- — — internal improvements.....II, 28
- — — Mexican War.I, 327
- — — proposed land grants II, 101
- — — Judiciary committee's report.....II, 12
- — — Military committee's report.....II, 12
- — — salary of Judge of Western Va.....II, 55
- — — on Taylor and veto power.....II, 59
- — vote on Mexican war... V, 75
- McCormick doorkeeper.I, 316
- message to..... VI, 326, 334, 335, 337; VII, 61, 62, 67, 140, 146, 175, 176, 217, 219, 227, 274; VIII, 173, 212, 215; X, 10, 26, 87, 91, 330, 334
- House Represent's (contd.)**
- — to, on action of Gov. Stanton.....VII, 212
- — affairs in Mexico..... VII, 62, 146, 176; VIII, 212
- — Asiatic coolie trade..... VII, 67
- — Baltimore police commissioners.....VI, 335
- — blockade rights..VII, 61
- — Circuit Court of U. S. for Cal.....VII, 217
- — foreign commerce..... VII, 61
- — foreign relations..... VII, 274
- — Indian outbreak.VIII, 215
- — memorial from N. Y. State.....VII, 219
- — organization of army medical department..... VII, 227
- — outrage to Faris-el-Hakim.....VII, 175
- — Pike's dispatch from the Hague.....VII, 140
- — relations with New Granada.....VIII, 188
- — report of Committee on Post-Office and Post-Roads I, 348; II, 4
- — interview with Confederate Peace Commissioners.. XI, 10
- resolutions in.....I, 318
- Sargent made Sergeant-at-Arms.....I, 316

- House Represent's** (*contd.*)
 — Thirteenth amendment passed.....X, 352
 — treason in.....VII, 101
 — Whig caucus in.....II, 49
 — Winthrop nominated Speaker.....I, 316
- Houston, John B.**, deported
 X, 265
 — discharged.....X, 266
- Hovey, Chas.**, Brig.-Gen., appointmentIX, 40
 — Humphrey's sentence modified by.....X, 338
 — Sherman complains of appointment of.....X, 174
- Howard, —**, agent....VI, 40
- Howard, Jos.**, released, X, 201
- Howard, Mark**, refused collectorshipVIII, 221
- Howard, O. O.**, letter to, on battle of Gettysburg..IX, 39
 — reinforces, Rosecrans.....IX, 142
 — with Sherman.....X, 325
- Hoyne, Thos.**.....IV, 50
- Hoyt, Chas.**, letter to.....II, 146, 262
- Hoyt, Mark**, telegram to....XI, 6
- Hubbard, G. S.**, letter to...V, 283
- Hudgin, Moses**, affidavit of..IX, 119
- "Hudson," news from..IX, 73
- Hudson's Bay Company**, claims adjusted..X, 40, 289
- Hudson, N. Y.**, address at....VI, 144
- Hughes, Archbishop**, letter to VII, 8
- Hughes, —**, Judge, in RichmondXI, 49
- Huidekoper, H. C.**, Col. enlists Confederate prisoners X, 210
- Human nature**, unchanging..X, 263
- Humanity**, common right of..V, 65
 — duty toward negro..III, 218
- Humor of Lincoln**....I, xxiii
 VII, xvii; IX xlii; 119
- Humphreys, And.**, sentence modifiedX, 339
 — reports fight.....XI, 76
 "Hunchback," position of....VII, 215
- Hundred-day troops**, thanks toX, 237
- Hungary**, freedom of, II, 127
- Hunkerism**VIII, 171
- Hunt, —**, Belgian consul, seizure of papers of....X, 124
- Hunt, —**, Mrs., property restored to.....X, 73
- Hunt, Randall**, Cabinet possibilityVI, 94
- Hunt, Ward**, letter to..X, 193
- Hunter, Dav.**, Gen., answer to "ugly letter" of....VII, 68
 — command merged..VII, 130
 — commands Burnside's division.....VIII, 72

- Hunter, Dav. (contd.)**
 — — negro force....VIII, 239
 — co-operates with Wright...
 X, 157, 161
 — deports Frederick citizens..
 X, 179
 — letters to.....
 VI, 65, 86; VII, 97; VIII,
 239, 260; IX, 14
 — misunderstands orders.....
 X, 161
 — order of military emancipa-
 tion revoked.VII, 167, 273
 — ordered to relieve Frémont
 VII, 10
 — orders to, on operations
 about Charleston.VIII, 248
 — proclaims martial law in
 Fla., Ga. and S. Car.VII, 170
 — reinforces McClellan.....
 VII, 257, 259
 — requests service with Fré-
 mont.....VI, 352
 — Schaadt reports to.....
 VIII, 259, 260
 — telegrams to.....
 X, 170, 175, 178
- Hunter, R. M. T.,** Confed-
 erate Peace Commissioner....
 X, 348, 349
 — at Hampton Roads Confer-
 ence
 XI, 16, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30
 — Seward ordered to meet...
 X, 351
See also, Confederate Peace
 Commissioners.
- Hurlbut, S. A.,** Gen., asked to
 reconsider resignation,.....
 IX, 51
 — assigned command by Grant
 IX, 51
 — court of inquiry for..X, 91
 — esteem held in.....IX, 51
 — letter to.....
 II, 58, 364; VI, 65
 — opposition, to new State
 government in La..X, 267
 — receives news of Grant....
 VIII, 281
 — suspends execution of Luck-
 ett.....IX, 263
 — telegrams to..VIII, 232, 281
- Hurd et al.,** against Rock Is-
 land Bridge Co.....II, 340
- Hunt, —,** Democratic partizan
 II, 112
- Hutchins, W. A.,** letter to..
 IX, 1
- I**
- Idaho,** resources of...IX, 230
- Ide, —,** Rev. Dr., letter to...
 X, 109
- Idleness** a pensioner...I, 307
- Illinois,** address to..I, 242, 243
 — admission of.....V, 224
 — appointment of U. S. Mar-
 shal for.....II, 106
 — apportionment of offices....
 IV, 15
 — attempt to abolitionize old
 parties in.....IV, 6
 — bitterness of L. and Douglas
 debate in.....III, 153

- Illinois (*contd.*)
- “Black Republican” convention.....III, 306
 - Butterfield appointed..II, 119
 - circular of Whig State convention.....I, 142
 - claims on public land sales
IX, 91
 - Clay invited to visit..I, 231
 - compact with Trumbull....
IV, 35
 - condition of Whig party in
I, 256
 - constitutional convention of
1847.....V, 76
 - “deep snow” in.....VI, 29
 - Democratic differences in..
III, 198
 - — Congressional convention,
1850.....IV, 47
 - — District convention, Naperville,
1850.....IV, 50
 - — platform of 1851.....
III, 117
 - — State convention, 1858..
IV, 42
 - District conventions in.....
I, 255
 - distinguished sons in Mexican
war.....II, 85
 - doubtful for Taylor..II, 27
 - Douglas campaign scheme
in.....VI, 52
 - — elected U. S. Senator...
V, 277
 - — speaks in.....
II, 315; III, 19, 54, 108, 200,
258, 293; IV, 1, 71, 142, 237,
297, 335; V, 1, 72
 - elections of 1842..I, 253, 254
 - English bill a political test
in.....IV, 242
 - formation of.....II, 193
 - Frémont campaign in.....
II, 292
 - French settlements in.....
V, 224
 - Ewing, W. L. D., Sen. from
I, 252
 - growth of.....II, 341
 - hundred-day troops of.....
X, 237
 - immigration of freedmen
prohibited.....III, 149, 216
 - importance of securing Rep.
Nat. Conv. for.....V, 283
 - inquiries for regiments and
arms in.....VIII, 36
 - interest in Federal appointments.....II, 105
 - — Land Office appointment
II, 114
 - — repeal of Mo. Comp....
II, 190
 - Lincoln family in.....
II, 14, 181; V, 288
 - — removes to.....VI, 28
 - L. “first, last and only
choice”.....IV, 16, 174
 - — moves to.....VIII, xix
 - — opposed by “silk-stock-
ing Whiggery”.....V, 95
 - — re-nominated for Presi-
dent by.....X, 117

Illinois (contd.)

- — supported at Baltimore by.....X, 114
- — — “plain people”..V, 95
- L.’s candidacy for Sen..... III, 1
- — canvass for Taylor..... VI, 37
- — desire to secure delegates to Rep. Nat. Conv. of 1860.....V, 291
- — opinion on election law II, 177
- — speeches in, *see* under names of various places in which they were delivered.
- McCallister and Stebbins bonds, Freeman’s connection with.....VIII, 139
- — L.’s opposition to payment of.....V, 133
- militia offered by.....X, 82
- miscegenation illegal in.... IV, 91
- negro not a citizen of.V, 27
- — status of, in..... III, 218; X, 267
- N. Y. “Tribune” in.II, 363
- office holders threatened in IV, 246
- opposition to Nebraska bill in.....III, 337
- political warfare in..I, 253
- position of, on “popular sovereignty”....III, 63, 115
- Presidential election in, 1864.....X, 306, 307

Illinois (contd.)

- Rep. party, importance of State to, 1860.....V, 257
- — organized in..... III, 273; XI, 103
- — platform, 1854.....IV, 7
- — — 1856.....III, 337
- — prospects for, 1860..... V, 234
- — to be kept intact in.... V, 92
- — vote of, in 1856...V, 92
- Rep. State Cent. committee asks L. to serve....II, 264
- Rep. State convention, 1854 III, 279
- — 1857.....IV, 16
- — 1858.....IV, 43
- Republicans for Douglas in II, 363
- resolutions in Circuit and District Court of, on death of Judge Nath. Pope.II, 135
- Reynolds governor of.I, 252
- Scott campaign a failure in VI, 37
- slavery decreased in.V, 225
- — feeling toward in.II, 91
- — prohibited in....IV, 25
- — tried in.....V, 27
- — unsuited to.....IV, 369
- slaves imported into..... III, 141
- — not freed by residence in V, 32
- Supreme Court packed..... IV, 222

Illinois (contd.)

- territorial history of.....
III, 141
 - Thirteenth amendment ratified by.....X, 353
 - Trumbull's attempt to abolish Democratic party of
IV, 171
 - Whig call for convention in
II, 154
 - — caucus on Clay...V, 76
 - — defeats in.....I, 253
 - — district conventions.....
I, 260
 - Whig party of, abolitionized
IV, 171
 - — dissolves in.....III, 204
 - — plans to organize in....
I, 143
 - — platform of 1851.....
III, 117
 - — recommendations to....
I, 240
 - Whig senators defeated, 1842.....I, 254
 - — State Cent. Com. appointed.....I, 242
 - — victory of 1840....I, 256
 - Whigs bargain for U. S. Sen.....IV, 15
 - — demand election of L...
IV, 15
 - Young, —, Judge, Sen. from
I, 252
- See also, Sangamon County.*
- Illinois legislature, carried by Abolitionists....IV, 170**

Illinois legislature (contd.)

- Comp. of 1850 approved...
IV, 166
- — endorsed by.....II, 203
- extract of L.'s protests in..
I, 166
- disapproves of Abolition societies.....I, 51
- inaction of.....I, 17
- L. and Douglas in..III, 210
- L. a member of.....
II, 269; III, 209; V, 288;
VIII, xx
- L.'s campaign for....VI, 31
- — defeat for Speaker of...
VI, 34
- — election to.....VI, 32
- — protest in.....VI, 33
- — re-elections to....VI, 33
- — refusal of re-election to
VI, 34
- — remarks in.....
I, 92, 153, 154, 156
- — resolution in.....I, 152
- — speech before.....I, 19
- Linder's speech in...II, 132
- Lovejoy's preamble and resolutions.....III, 321
- Neb. bill approved..II, 286
- plan to run Douglas Republicans for.....III, 199
- "popular sovereignty" approved.....III, 204
- refusal to make fair apportionment for Whigs.III, 156
- repeals Wilmot proviso instructions.....III, 117

- Illinois legislature** (*contd.*)
 — vote of L.'s own precinct in race for.....VI, 31
- Illinois and Michigan canal**, benefits of.....II, 35
 — continuance of.....I, 157
 — enlargement of....VIII, 109
 — L.'s vote on.....II, 270
- Illinois Central R R. Co.**, L.'s bill to.....II, 288
 — suit for taxes.....II, 179
- Illinois State Bank**, charter ofI, 21, 22, 33
 — commissioners for....I, 30
 — connection of.....I, 24
 — constitutionality of....I, 21
 — L.'s speech on.....I, 19
 — proposal to revise charter of
 I, 21
 — secrecy of employes...I, 25
 — stockholders quarrel...I, 23
 — suspension of specie payments by.....I, 28
 — usury charged of.....I, 27
See also, National Banks; State Banks; U. S. Bank.
- Illinois Supreme Court**, decision on power of Gov. to remove Sec. of State.....
 III, 254
 — election laws decision.V, 86
 — L. practises in.....XI, 98
 — packing of.....IV, 222
 — proposed re-organization of
 I, 161
 — prostitution of to political endsIV, 377
- Illinois "State Journal"** Cabinet article in.....II, 100
 — L.'s editorial in.....VI, 78
 — — speech in.....III, 188
- Illinois "State Register"**....
 II, 50, 360; III, 308; IV, 278
 — Douglas organ.....IV, 281
 — opposes Lecompton constitution.....IV, 225
- Imboden, John D.**, Brig-Gen., retreats.....IX, 180
- Immigration**, act to encourageIX, 291; X, 290
 — advantages of.....X, 291
- Imposts**, *see* Tariff.
- Improvements**, Internal, *see* Internal Improvements.
- Inaugural address**, First....
 VI, 169
 — — care given to....XI, 118
 — — conditions at time of...
 VI, 169
 — Second.....XI, 44
- Inaugural addresses**, style of
 I, xxvi
- Indemnity, French**, payment ofI, 131
 — recommended to owners of "Jules et Marie"..VIII, 132
- Independence**, how lost.....
 XI, 110
 — love of liberty bulwark of..
 XI, 110
 — war in defense of...VI, 284
- Independence, Declaration of**, *see* Declaration of Independence.

- Independence Hall**, address
 in . . . VI, 156; VIII, xxiii
 — — on raising a flag over . . .
 VI, 159, 163
 — — first entrance into
 VI, 163
 — L.'s speech in XI, x
 — reply to Mayor of Philadel-
 phia in VI, 155
- Indian massacre in Minn.** . . .
 VIII, 140
 — reserves, treason in . VII, 101
 — system, necessity of re-
 modeling
 VIII, 108; IX, 243
 — — Congress remodels
 X, 300
 — tribes subordinate . VIII, 107
 — — outbreak of, in North-
 west VIII, 215
- Indian affairs**, Department of,
see Department of Indian
 affairs.
 — government hindered in ad-
 ministering VII, 46
- Indian Territory**, Confederate
 control of VII, 46
 — rebellion in VIII, 107
- Indiana**, Clay, C. M., can-
 vasses for L. in VI, 44
 — — Henry, petitioned to lib-
 erate slaves on visit to
 IV, 382; V, 39
 — County elections, 1863
 IX, 169
 — Douglas' campaign scheme
 in VI, 52
- Indiana** (*contd.*)
 — elections of 1864 X, 241
 — Hundred-day troops of
 X, 237
 — L.'s campaign work for
 Clay in I, 290
 — — early life in IV, 81
 — — poetry of early life in
 I, 291
 — — removal to VI, 27
 — Lincoln family in
 II, 14, 181; V, 287
 — — removes from VI, 28
 — petitions Congress to hold
 slaves V, 170, 223
 — political importance of, in
 1860 VI, 47
 — — in 1864 X, 226
 — regiment, address to . XI, 55
 — regiments ordered to be re-
 ceived XI, 120
 — troops offered to govern-
 ment X, 82
 — invitation to visit . . . VI, 99
- Indiana legislature**, address
 to VI, 113
- Indianapolis**, Ind., address at
 VI, 111
 — invitation to visit . . . VI, 100
- Indians**, Cherokee, loyalty of
 VIII, 44
 — cost of removing, 1838
 I, 130
 — disbursements for, 1863
 X, 292
 — killing of L.'s grand-father
 by VI, 25

Indians (*contd.*)

- outbreak of.....VIII, 108
- possessory rights of.IX, 243
- proclamation concerning...
X, 57
- removal of west of Missis-
sippiIX, 243
- sentence of.....VIII, 73, 92
- Sioux attack Minn. settle-
ments.....VIII, 107, 133
- — executed.....VIII, 134
- — pursuit of, into Hudson's
Bay territory.....IX, 299
- — record of trial of.....
VIII, 140
- supply of arms to, prohib-
ited.....XI, 57
- wish protection of Federal
troops.....VII, 46

Industrial interests of United States, represented in Great BritainVII, 49

"Influence of Lincoln, The,"
by R. G. Ingersoll...VII, v

Ingalls, Rufus, Col., dispatch fromVII, 244

- telegrams to.....VIII, 264

Institutions, perpetuity of...
II, 235

Insurgents claim Northern supportVII, 52

Insurrection, consequences of
VII, 41

- depressing influences of....
VII, 44

- existence of, declared.....
VII, 51

Insurrection (*contd.*)

- policy for suppression of..
VII, 51

- slave, impossibility of.....
V, 316

- Southampton, 1832..V, 316

- war on people.....VII, 56

Insurrectionary States, pur-
chase of products of, X, 230

Intelligence, general, plea for
I, 50

Intemperance, in the army..
IX, 144

- in early settlements..I, 199

- evils of.....IX, 145

- L. charged with....III, 209

- L.'s tolerance of.....
I, 193, 201

See also Temperance.

Interest on State debt, I, 154

Interior, Dept. of, *see* Depart-
ment of the Interior.

Internal improvements, ap-
propriations for...II, 33, 39

- Cass party opposed to.II, 66

- Cass' position on.....II, 67

- compared to protection of
commerce on high seas....
II, 34

- Congressional grants for...
II, 20, 22, 101

- constitutionality of...II, 38

- cost of, under J. Q. Adams
II, 33

- Democratic theory of.II, 29

- interest of government in..
II, 22

Internal Improv'ts (*contd.*)

- L.'s method of appropriating for.....II, 47
- L.'s speech on....II, 28, 53
- power to execute.....II, 29
- public utility of.....I, 1
- Taylor's position on..II, 63
- tonnage duties for....II, 41
- See also* Canal; Illinois and Michigan Canal; Railroad; River; Road.

International Postal ConferenceIX, 240

- Interrogatories**, Lincoln's to DouglasIV, 64
- Douglas answers....IV, 83

Interstate Slave-trade, Campbell's reply on.....IV, 45

- L.'s position on.....VI, 80
- Rep. pledge to prohibit....IV, 336

Invasion, meaning of..VI, 113

- Iowa**, admission of.....II, 195, 196, 208, 219; IV, 38, 39

- Hanks family in....VI, 26
- Hundred-day troops.X, 237
- endorsement as to allotment commissioners for..VII, 74
- L.'s lands in.....VI, 31
- opposed to Clay.....II, 17
- Presidential election, 1864..X, 306
- troops offered by.....X, 82
- — to serve in Missouri....VI, 288
- U. P. railroad in....X, 33

- Iron** for completion of U. P. R. R.X, 36

Iron-clad steamers, number of, 1863.....IX, 236

- "Irrepressible conflict,"** authorship of phrase..V, 215
- use of phrase by Seward..VI, 3

Irwin, Jas. S., letter to, XI, 98

- Irwin, Robt.**, signers invitationI, 232
- witness.....I, 63

Island of Vache, transport ordered to.....IX, 301**Italy** arbitrates collision.....VIII, 132

- King of, and "Trent" affair VII, 111

- relations with.....VIII, 98; X, 169

- reply to envoy from.X, 169

Iverson, Alfred, speech of...II, 70**J****Jackson, —**, execution suspendedXI, 37**Jackson, And.**, cost of administrationI, 126

- degree for.....IV, 82
- elected President....II, 293
- fined for contempt.VIII, 312
- letter to Coleman....I, 245
- L. in role of.....IV, 93
- popularity of.....II, 73
- position on habeas corpus..VIII, 311

- Jackson, And. (contd.)**
 — — internal improvements.. II, 68
 — — National bank....I, 122
 — — Supreme Court.III, 180
 — — “shelter under coat-tails” of.....II, 72
Jackson, J. S., U. S. Rep.
 from Ky., consent of.VI, 295
Jackson, Thos. J., Gen., at
 HarrisburgVII, 179
 — at Winchester.....VII, 198
 — crosses Potomac..VIII, 317
 — Frémont defeats....VII, 219
 — moves toward Centreville.. VII, 178
 — near Front Royal..VII, 187
 — position on Shenandoah VII, 220
 — prepares to attack Banks.. VII, 198
 — reinforced.....VII, 228
 — reported wounded.VIII, 263
Jackson, W. M.,.....IV, 50
Jacksonville, Fla., negro
 troops at.....VIII, 239
 — Hunter at.....VIII, 239
 — port closed.....X, 14
Jacksonville, Ill., railroad
 throughI, 2
Jacob, Rich. T., Lt. Gov. of
 Ky., invited to Washington X, 331
 — ordered out of State.X, 331
 — permitted to return..X, 341
 — “stationary” attitude of.... X, 276
- James, B. F., letters to.....**
 I, 278, 282, 285, 286
 — position on Mexican war... I, 353
James River, gunboats on....
 VII, 259
 — McClellan’s movements on VII, 239, 259
 — O. National guard on..... X, 219
Jameson, E. H., telegram to.
 IX, 207
Jaquess, J. F., Rev. Dr., mis-
 sion for.....VIII, 285
Japan, detention of vessel built
 forXI, 33
 — Tycoon of, opposes U. S... IX, 229
“Jargen Lorentzen”.VII, 134
Jay, John, letter of Washing-
 ton to.....IX, x
 — opposes slavery.....V, 358
Jayne, Julia M., letter to
 Springfield “Journal”.I, 221
Jayne, Wm., Herndon’s indis-
 cretion with.....V, 290
 — letter to.....X, 21
 — Territorial gov.....VI, 231
Jealousy, folly of.....II, 57
Jefferson, Thos., Pres., de-
 feated opponents of..V, 218
 — devotion of, to abstract truth.....V, 127
 — letter to Benj. Austin.I, 244
 — L. denies depreciating.... VI, 60
 — La. purchased by...VII, 50

Jefferson, Thos. (contd.)

- Northwest Territory, author of ordinance for government of.....V, 167
- on judicial authority.....
III, 179
- owns slaves.....IV, 255
- position on internal improvements.....II, 38
- — National bank....II, 60
- principles of, axioms of free society.....V, 126
- slavery, opinion on.....
II, 195; IV, 264; V, 318,
358; VIII, x
- — recognizes danger in...
V, 159
- veto power, interpretation of
II, 61
- view on admission of Mo..
II, 169
- — public improvements....
II, 38

Jews, expulsion of...VIII, 200

Johnson, —, State Sen. of Ky.,
letter to.....VI, 266

Johnson, And., gov. of Tenn.,
advice to, on State governmentIX, 116, 127; X, 8

— asked to suggest successor..
X, 340

— concerned about Schurz...
X, 176

— confers with Halleck.....
VII, 268

— information about Lincoln
family in Tenn.....II, 182

Johnson, And. (contd.)

- letters to.....
VIII, 137; IX, 126
- opinion on operations about
Murfreesboro
VIII, 183, 185
- proclaims election.....
X, 21, 248
- proposes to raise negro
troops.....VIII, 233
- reports on emancipation or-
dinance.....X, 341
- requests return of troops..
VIII, 76
- request to send Getty to
Burnside.....VIII, 285
- telegram on Gillam.X, 179
- — Heiskell.....X, 179
- telegrams to.....
VII, 150, 212, 215; VIII, 71,
183; IX, 87, 113, 165, 186;
X, 62, 105, 278
- time to reach Washington..
X, 345

Johnson, Bradish, letter to...
VIII, 327

Johnson, Herschel V., for
Vice-Pres.VI, 12

Johnson, John O., assistance
forXI, 103

— Republican organizer.....
XI, 103

Johnson, Reverdy, letter to..
VI, 254

— — on feeling in Louisiana..
VII, 292

— report of.....VIII, 151

- Johnson, Rich. M.**, advocate of negro equality....IV, 90
- Johnson, Wm. S.**, vote of against slaveryV, 297
- Johnson's Island, O.**, parole for Stephens at.....X, 356
- prisoners released at.X, 279
- Johnsonville, Tenn.**, gunboat destroyed atX, 259
- Johnston, —**, letter to.....
I, 289, 294, 298
- Johnston, John D.**, letters to II, 135, 144, 147, 149, 150, 152
- letters to, literary style of..
I, xviii
- proposed flatboat trip of...
VI, 29
- returns to family from St. LouisVI, 31
- Johnston, Jos. E.**, Gen., defeat ofX, 237
- news from.....VIII, 281
- treason of.....VIII, 305
- Johnston, Sally Bush**, marriage ofVI, 27
- step-mother of Pres..VI, 21
- Johnston, W. H.**, threatens VicksburgIX, 66
- Joint Debates**, *see* Debates with Douglas.
- Joliet, Ill.**, Dem. Cong. convention, 1850.....IV, 47
- Douglas' speech at..IV, 66
- Jonas, A.**, letter to.....VI, 45
- Jones, Alb.**,.....IX, 125
- Jones, Thos. D.**, recommended XI, 47
- Jones, Wm., Sir.**, quotation fromIX, xxix
- Jonesboro, Ill.**, debate at....
IV, 1, 71
- Jordan, Warren**, letter of....
X, 17
- telegram to.....X, 17
- "Journal," Sangamon**, *see* Sangamon Journal.
- Judd, —**,II, 275, 290
- Judd, Frank R.**, execution suspended.....X, 329
- Judd, Norman B.**, arranges joint debates with Douglas.
III, 189
- confidence of L. in..V, 284
- endorses L.'s bill....II, 289
- letters to.....
V, 91, 93, 281, 282, 290, 291
- Judgment**, against Thos. LincolnII, 96
- Judicial authority**, loyalty to..
III, 178
- system, reorganization of, in Ill.....I, 160; VII, 38
- Judiciary**, decisions of, final..
IV, 85
- provisional, in La.....
VIII, 64
- — Peabody, Chas. A., judge in La.....VIII, 65
- "Jules et Marie,"** indemnification for.....VIII, 132
- Justice**, L.'s sense of.....
I, 57; V, 289
- Justice of the Peace**, L.'s opinion on.....XI, 102

K

- Kane County, Ill.**, K convention inIII, 281
- Kankakee County, Ill.**..II, 275
- Kansas**, admission of.....
III, 353; IV, 75, 240; V, 10
- — Douglas on.....III, 295
- bill to form.....II, 204
- Blunt encourages "Judge Lynch" in.....IX, 88
- constitution of, defeated....
III, 353
- — detested by citizens of..
III, 353
- — forced upon.....
IV, 94, 96, 198
- Democrats "won't stand,"
"Black Republican" president.....XI, 115
- Dred Scott in.....IV, 205
- election in.....III, 353
- enabling act.....IV, 98
- — Douglas on.....IV, 147
- Gov. empowered to give commissions and fill vacancies.....IX, 34
- Lane adjusts matters in....
VIII, 256
- Lecompton constitution in..
III, 109
- L's reply to Douglas on....
II, 315
- — speeches in.....V, 260
- — subscription for..VI, 64
- negroes held in.....IV, 205
- outrage at Lawrence.....
IX, 107

Kansas (*contd.*)

- removal from Blunt's department.....IX, 35
- right of, on slavery..V, 11
- Schofield, removal of.....
IX, 104
- squatter sovereignty in....
V, 132
- troops in, question of raising.....X, 100
- — of, captured.....IX, 282
- vote on Lecompton constitution in.....IV, 29
- Kansas City, Mo.**, outbreak nearIX, 297
- Kansas-Nebraska bill**..V, 21
- introduction of.....III, 352
- principle of.....VI, 25
- Kapp, Fred.**, telegram to, about troops from N. Y....
VIII, 322
- Kaskaskia, Ill.**, slavery in....
II, 251; V, 224
- "**Kearsarge**," destroys "Alabama"X, 280
- Keenan, —, Mrs.**, pass for...
X, 73
- Kelley, B. F.**, Gen., telegram toVIII, 317
- Kelley, W. D.**, Judge, opposition to.....X, 132, 181
- raises negro troops.VIII, 331
- suspicion of.....VI, 59
- Kellogg, —**, introduces LincolnII, 89
- Kellogg, Wm.**, letter to.....
VI, 77; IX, 10

Kellogg, Wm. (contd.)

- note to Chase on..VIII, 333
- visit to L.....VI, 102
- Kelly, —,**IV, 50
- Kelly, Moses, Register of Wills**VII, 8
- Kelly's Ford, Va., Meade's success at.....**IX, 204

Kennedy, —, apprehensions of

VIII, 79

Kent, Jas., Chancellor, ambition of.....II, 41

- "Commentaries" of, on Am. law
- L.'s opinion of.....II, 41
- methods of.....II, 41
- summary on appropriations. II, 39

Kentuckians, remarks to....

V, 195

Kentucky, arming of VIII, 175

- arrests.....VII, 6
- — letter to Seward on.... VII, 6
- assessments for rebel depre- dations.....X, 253, 255
- bravery of.....VIII, 176
- Buckner, statement to..... VI, 325
- Buell menaces Bowling Green.....VII, 84
- citizens disturb public peace X, 146
- contested election cases in.. I, 258
- delegation of, letter to..... VI, 294

Kentucky (contd.)

- difficulty about land titles in VI, 26
- Douglas campaign scheme in.....VI, 51
- election, difficulties in..... X, 266
- — strongly Republican.... IX, 62
- emigration of grandfather of Pres. to.....VI, 24
- gradual emancipation in... II, 279
- L. born in.....VIII, xviii
- Lincoln family in..... II, 181; V, 287; VI, 24, 25
- martial law established in.. X, 147
- military force, remonstrance at presence of.....VI, 349
- pacification of.....X, 276
- raid in.....VII, 268, 269
- removal of Josiah Lincoln from.....II, 15
- — Mordecai Lincoln from II, 181; VI, 25
- — President's grandfather to.....V, 286
- — Thos. Lincoln to..... II, 15; VI, 24, 25
- slavery in.....VI, 26
- slaves, liberated...VII, 282
- — number of, in 1860..... VII, 133
- "stampede" in.....VII, 275
- status of negroes in..... III, 100; IV, 25

- Kentucky** (*contd.*)
- suspension of habeas corpus in.....X, 147
 - Thirteenth amendment, rejected.....X, 352
 - troops, negro.....X, 61
 - — quotas adjusted....X, 60
 - Union in, fair prospects for VI, 351
 - — feeling in.....VII, 53
 - — men in, misunderstanding among.....X, 342
 - value of, to Union cause... VI, 360
 - Western, raid in....X, 252
 - Kentucky legislature**, resents Fremont's proclamation.... VI, 359
 - Ketchum**, —, Gen., telegram to.....VIII, 36
 - Key**, John J., Maj., dismissal ofVIII, 46
 - Key**, Thos. M., Col., with Cobb, interview with.X, 335
 - Keyes**, E. D., Lt.-Col. commands Fourth Corps..... VII, 116
 - order to.....VI, 239
 - memorandum of questions and answers between..... VII, 264
 - Key West**, Fla., Bingham appointed judge at.....IX, 53
 - blockade.....XI, 80
 - port opened.....XI, 81
 - Kimball**, —, Gen., dispatches ofIX, 277
 - Kimball**, Lee.....II, 50
 - King**, —, Gen., reports Jackson reinforcedVII, 199
 - King**, Sen., difficulty with.... VI, 330
 - King**, Rufus, Constitutional FatherV, 300
 - vote on slavery.....V, 297
 - King**, Turner R., opposition toII, 116
 - recommendation for..... II, 108, 113, 115
 - King**, Wm. R., acting Vice-Pres.II, 293
 - death of.....II, 302
 - Kings**, divine right of..... II, 253; V, 65
 - Kingsbury**, —, Capt., approves Ellsworth gun carriageVI, 361
 - Kingston**, Tenn., Burnside takesIX, 111
 - Rosecrans holds road to.... IX, 167
 - Kinney**, —,II, 273
 - Kinney**, —, Capt., introduced to GrantX, 62
 - Kinney**, Alex. B., release for X, 278
 - Kirby**, Spencer, letter to.... IX, 215
 - Kirkland**, C. P., letter to.... VIII, 136
 - telegram to.....IX, 217
 - Klein**, Joseph, affidavit of.I, 72
 - Knob Creek**, Ky., Lincoln's house onVI, 26

Knob Creek (contd.)

— — remembrance of..VI, 39

Know-nothings, compact to elect Lincoln.....IV, 14

See also American party.

Knox County, Ill., Douglas in IV, 237

Knox, T. W., "N. Y. Herald" correspondent, court-martialedVIII, 230

Knoxville, Tenn., Burnside takesIX, 111

— and Cincinnati R. R..X, 86

— Grant and Foster at..... IX, 286

— — position at.....IX, 253

— scheme for cutting railroad near.....VII, 106

Koerner, G., Gov. of Ill., introduced to Halleck.VII, 85

Koppel, Herman, breach of blockade by.....VIII, 202

Kuhn, —, appeal for mercy.. IX, 104

L

Labor and capital, equality of X, 51

— question of.....VII, 56

— relation between....V, 230

Labor, basis of all government VI, 119

— a commodity.....VIII, 126

— capital dependent upon.... V, 247

— cessation of, effect of.... I, 314

Labor (contd.)

— combination with education V, 251

— conflict of free, with slave-labor.....V, 214

— demand for, increases price of.....VIII, 127

— education demanded by free V, 252

— effect of protection upon... I, 307

— — slave-labor on free..... V, 204; VIII, 126

— essential to enjoyment.... I, 307

— free, nature of..... V, 250; X, 51

— independent of capital.... V, 248

— injured by U. S. notes.... VIII, 192

— L.'s views on..X, 51, 52, 53

— meritoriousness of...I, 307

— "mud-sill" theory of..... V, 248, 251

— negro, in U. S. Army..... IX, 247

— products of, property of laborer.....I, 307

— relation of capital to.V, 248

— source of all supply..V, 247

— strikes possible by American system of.....V, 336

— transportation a loss of... VI, 128

— true standard of value.... VI, 128

Labor (*contd.*)

- useless, a burden upon useful.....I, 309
 - — forms of.....I, 301, 308
 - — produces same effect as idleness.....I, 314
 - — robber of useful..I, 307
- See also*, Capital; Wealth.

Laborer, fatality of situation of
V, 248

- L. hired as.....V, 361
- L.'s views on hired..VII, 58

Laborers, education of.V, 251

- extract on, from annual message of 1861.....X, 51
- scarcity of.....IX, 231
- slaves employed as.....

VII, 284, 285

Lafayette, boast of....IX, vii

- Washington's letter to.....

V, 312

Lafourche Parish, La., exemptedVIII, 163

La Harpe, Ill., residence of Lincoln's cousins.....II, 14

Lai, —, appeal.....IX, 104

Laidley, —, Major, projectile tested by.....IX, 283

"La Manche," claim of..X, 10

Lambert, Wm. H., Maj.,....

I, vii; XI, 142

Lamborn, —, on administrationI, 125

- prosecutes murder trial....

I, 171

Lamon, Ward H., letter to..

II, 365

Lamon, Ward H. (*contd.*)

- passed to Richmond..XI, 78
- reference to.....II, 290
- Springfield farewell scene described by.....VI, 110

Land bill, Clay's.....I, 248

Land resolutions.....I, 140

- titles, difficult in Ky.VI, 26

Lands, public; *see*, Public lands.

Lander, F., Brig.-Gen., division ofVII, 117

Lane, —, Col., reports Owensboro, Ky., in possession of ConfederatesVI, 357

Lane, Geo. W., detained at NorfolkXI, 59, 78

Lane, J. H., Gen., assigned commandVII, 90, 99

- assistance in Kan.....

VIII, 256

- empowered to raise regiments.....VI, 294

- letter to, answering inquiries

IX, 34

- — on Gen. Hunter.....

VII, 99

- L. appoints.....VI, 339

- operations in Mo...VII, 76

- Senate inquiry on appointment.....VI, 337

- Schofield's removal demanded by.....IX, 104

Lane, Jos., candidate for Vice-Pres.VI, 13

Lane, S. H., Sen., introduces WinstonX, 102

- Langdon, John**, Constitutional FatherV, 299
 — vote of, on slavery..V, 297
- Langford, —**, in Fisher murder caseI, 174
- Lanphier, Chas. H.**, editor of "State Register"..... III, 308; IV, 279, 336
 — endorsement of....IV, 338
- Lardner, John L.**, Capt., receives thanks of Congress.. VIII, 267
- Larned, —**, Maj., appointment ofVIII, 227
- La Rue County, Ky.**, formation ofVI, 24
- La Salle County, Ill.**.. II, 272
- La Salle, Tex.**, blockade..... XI, 80
- Last public address**...XI, 84
- Latin**, knowledge of....V, 287
- Lavelly, —**, paid by L...I, 317
- Law**, advice on study of..... VI, 59
 — — to student of....XI, 114
 — distinction of.....V, 320
 — Kent's "Commentaries" on American.....II, 39
 — L. a student of....V, 288
 — — admitted to practice of. VIII, xx
 — — resumes practice of.... VI, 37
 — L.'s absorption in practice of.....VI, 37
 — — division of attention to VI, 38
- Law (contd.)**
 — — license to practice..... VI, 33
 — notes of argument in case at II, 366
 — notes for lecture on..II, 140
- Law**, fugitive slave; *see* Fugitive slave law.
 — martial; *see*, Martial law.
 — sedition, Douglas'....V, 325
- Lawlessness**, denunciation of. I, 33
 — growth of.....I, 37
See also, Lynching.
- Lawmakers**, respect for...I, 8
- Law of nations**, on blockade. VII, 249
 — privateers.....VII, 281
See also, Great Britain.
- Lawrence, —**, the Rev., supports LincolnII, 272
- Lawrence, Kan.**, massacre at IX, 107, 161
- Lawrenceburg, Ind.**, troops forVII, 2
- Laws, —**, Grant stops at lines X, 354
- Laws, bad**, to be obeyed..I, 44
 — class of, to distribute burdens and benefits....IX, 81
 — enforcement of..... VI, 180; VII, 111
 — failure of.....I, 44
 — reverence for....I, 43, 50
 — support of.....I, 43
- Laws, U. S. Statute**, condition of.....VII, 39

- Laws, U. S. Statute** (*contd.*)
 — Congress asked to consider plan to revise and rewrite.. VII, 41
- Lawyers, Kent one of most learned**II, 41
 — popular belief in dishonesty of.....II, 143
- Leavenworth, Kan., complaints from**.....VIII, 256
 — predicted growth of..VI, 6
 — speech at.....XI, 115
- Leavitt, —, Judge, case before** VIII, 274
- Le Blond, F. C., letter to**.... IX, 1
- Lecture, "Discoveries, Inventions and Improvements"**.. V, 99
 — notes for, on Niagara Falls II, 138
- Lecompton Constitution, acceptance of**IV, 232, 233
 — attempt to force...III, 109
 — defeat of.....IV, 29
 — — Douglas approves.III, 166
 — — — claims credit of..... III, 27
 — Democratic party, condemned for action on..... VI, 16
 — — splits on.....IV, 276
 — Douglas' disagreement on.. IV, 187; V, 46
 — — opposition to..... III, 56; IV, 28, 225, 238; V, 12
- Lecompton Const'n** (*contd.*)
 — failure of.....V, 329, 341
 — framers of, promote slavery III, 250
 — L.'s position on..... III, 163, 165; IV, 229
 — opponents of supported.V, 17
 — provision for amendment of III, 246
 — re-introduced as English bill V, 14, 15
 — rejected by Kan..... IV, 244, 245
 — slavery provided for in.... III, 291
 — Trumbull opposes..III, 168
 — vote on.....III, 165
- Lee, —, Judge-Advocate, instructed to revise proceedings**VIII, 187
 — letter to, from Nicolay.... VII, 211
 — — on sentences of Indians VIII, 92
- Lee, Custus, Gen., captured**.. XI, 76
- Lee, J. C., letter to**VI, 64
- Lee, Sam. Phillips, Rear-Adm., draft of telegram to**.. IX, 15
 — recommended for thanks of Congress.....VII, 161
 — telegram to.....IX, 16
- Lee, Robt. E., Gen., conference with Grant**....X, 187
 — Hooker defeated by..... VIII, 263, 264

- Lee, Robt. E. (contd.)**
 — L.'s mortification at escape of.....IX, 39
 — Longstreet withdrawn from IX, 171
 — losses of his army..... IX, 70, 71
 — McClellan's lost chance to defeat.....VIII, 321
 — magnitude of his escape... IX, 29
 — Meade avoids.....IX, 171
 — — pursuesIX, 22
 — movements of..IX, 171, 180
 — re-inforces Early....X, 236
 — retreats across Potomac.... VIII, 22, 29, 39
 — returns toward Harper's Ferry.....VIII, 321
 — Russell letter returned by.. XI, 62
 — situation of, in front of Burnside.....VIII, 88
 — strength of army of, before Richmond.....IX, 129
 — — in October 1863..IX, 171
 — surrender of.....XI, 84
 — treason of.....VIII, 305
- Legal abilities of Lincoln....**
 II, 140
 — fees, importance of..... II, 142
 — opinion, on Cong. land act V, 97
 — profession, need of..II, 142
- Legislative elections, Whig principle ofII, 69**
- Legislative, freedom of..V, 19**
Legislative, duty of....IV, 61
Lellyett, John, letter to.....
 X, 248
- Lennon, John, execution suspendedX, 329**
Lester, John H., confiscation of money of.....X, 236
Letcher, R. P., contested election case of.....I, 258
Letter, circular, to Governors of various States..VII, 256
Letters. For letters to and from Abraham Lincoln, see the names of their respective writers and recipients.
Letters, form of reply to....
 VI, 22
- Letters of Lincoln, literary style ofI, xvii**
Lewis, Alph., encourages cultivation of Arkansas plantationsIX, 293
 — introduced to Thomas.... X, 27
- Lewis, Jas. T., Gov. of Wis., offers troops.....X, 83**
Lewis, Thos., on committee of Hungarian freedom..II, 127
Lewisburg, Va., success of Averill and Duffie at.....
 IX, 204
- Lexington, Ky., Burbridge at X, 125, 214, 234**
 — early home of Mary Todd Lincoln.....II, 181
 — forces near.....VI, 4, 5

Lexington (contd.)

- Johnston's camp near..... VIII, 281
- L.'s trip to.....I, 185
- proposed railroad connections with.....VI, 31
- residence of Thos. Lincoln near.....II, 15
- Libby Prison**, exchange of Rogers from.....X, 54
- Libel**; *see*, Slander.
- Liberia**, commercial treaty withVIII, 98
- colonization in..VIII, 5, 97
- independence of.....VI, 33
- L. favors negro colonization in.....II, 209
- official correspondence with X, 285
- policy on.....VII, 33
- proposal to furnish gunboat to.....X, 285
- Liberty**, bulwark of...XI, 110
- civil and religious..VII, 154
- — cause of, not to be surrendered.....V, 94
- — desire for.....VI, 120
- — L.'s opinion of his own efforts for.....V, 95
- Clay's love of..II, 164, 171
- definitions of.....X, 77
- Hungarian, sympathy with II, 127
- of the press..... VIII, 302; X, 108
- of speech.....VIII, 302
- preservation of.....II, 235

Library of Congress, publications presented to.VIII, 146

License, to pass blockade.... X, 14

— of commercial intercourse VIII, 238

"Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln," by Geo. BancroftVIII, v

"Life of Washington," WeemsVI, 151

Lima, Peru, joint commission atIX, 226

"Lincoln," by Paul Laurence DunbarIV, xvii

"Lincoln," by S. Weir MitchellII, xv

Lincoln, Abraham. For incidents of his life, transactions, correspondence, etc., *see* the various subject-entries throughout this Index.

Lincoln, Abraham, cousin of PresidentII, 14

Lincoln, Abraham, grandfather of the President.... II, 11, 180; V, 286; VI, 24, 56.

— family of.....II, 181

— killed by Indians..... V, 286; VI, 24, 57

— removed to Ky.....VI, 57

— surviving family of..VI, 25

Lincoln, Abraham, Mrs., birth and rearing of.....II, 181

— Grant and Meade invited to dine by.....X, 36

- Lincoln, A. Mrs. (contd.)**
 — letters to.....IX, 61, 130
 — result at Chickamauga telegraphed to.....IX, 137
 — situation at Fort Sumter and Fort Wagner telegraphed to IX, 106
 — telegrams to..VIII, 148, 296, 317, 322; IX, 46, 110, 112, 130, 134, 216; X, 89, 131, 134, 140, 206, 219, 220; XI, 66
- Lincoln and Douglas debates; see, Douglas, debates with.**
- “Lincoln and Emancipation,”** by Jas. A. Garfield.. XI, v
- “Lincoln and the Race Problem,”** by Theo. Roosevelt.. II, v
- “Lincoln as a Writer,”** by Rich. Watson Gilder..I, ix
- “Lincoln Bibliography,”** compiled by Dan. Fish XI, 137
- Lincoln, Dav.,** first cousin of President’s father....II, 14
 — letters to....II, 11, 14, 181
- Lincoln, Edw. Baker,** death ofII, 135
- Lincoln, Isaac,** great-uncle of President II, 15, 180; VI, 24, 57
 — descendants of.....VI, 24
- Lincoln, Jacob,** great-uncle of President..II, 16; VI, 24, 57
 — descendants of.....VI, 24
- Lincoln, Jesse,** letter to..... II, 180
- Lincoln, John,** great-uncle of President..II, 15; VI, 24, 57
 — descendants of.....VI, 24
- Lincoln, Josiah,** last knowledge of.....II, 14
 — uncle of Pres..... II, 14, 180; VI, 25
- “Lincoln Literature,”** XI, 137
- “Lincoln, the Man of the People,”** by Edwin MarkhamIII, xlvii
- Lincoln, Mary,** great-aunt of President..II, 14, 180; VI, 25
 — descendants of.....VI, 25
- Lincoln, Mordecai,** cousin of PresidentII, 14
- Lincoln, Mordecai,** uncle of President II, 14, 190; VI, 25
 — death of.....II, 180
 — legend of.....II, 180
 — settlement of.....II, 14
- Lincoln, Nancy,** great-aunt of Pres.VI, 25
- Lincoln, Robt. T.,** assigned to Grant’s staff.....X, 343
 — at Harvard.....VI, 43
 — letter of, to Nicolay..I, v
 — telegrams to..... IX, 15, 24, 30, 281, 286; X, 241; XI, 60
- Lincoln, Sally Bush Johnston,** step-mother of President, affection for Lincoln.. II, 44, 153
 — Lincoln’s loyalty to..II, 144

- Lincoln, Thos.**, cousin of President.....II, 14
- Lincoln, Thos.**, father of President
- II, 14, 180; VI, 21, 24
- death of.....II, 181
- illiteracy of.....VI, 25
- employment of.....VI, 25
- letter to.....II, 96
- removal of, from Ky.V, 287
- — to Coles County, Ill.....
- VI, 31
- — to Ky.....VI, 57
- Virginia birth of...VI, 57
- Lincoln, Thos.**, great-uncle of President..II, 15; VI, 24, 57
- Lincoln-Trumbull bargain**;
see Matheny, Jas. H.
- Linder, Dan.**, discharge of... IX, 275
- sent to L.....IX, 272
- Linder, U. F.**, letter to..II, 3
- reply to.....I, 19
- speech of.....II, 131
- telegram to.....IX, 275
- Literary style of Lincoln, R.**
W. Gilder.....I, ix
- Litigation**, discouragement of.
II, 142
- enormity of instigating.....
II, 142
- Little, S.**, request for draft..
IV, 199
- Little, S. H.**, signs Whig circularI, 166; II, 272
- "Little Hickory,"** Polk known asII, 73
- Little Rock, Ark.**, oath of allegiance in.....IX, 277
- reconstruction in.....X, 11
- Lloyd, Robt.**, bill for services as axeman.....I, 13
- Loans**, money raised on.....
VIII, 193
- national, legislation on.....
IX, 233
- receipts from, 1861-62.....
VIII, 103; X, 292
- refunding of.....X, 102
- Loans of U. S. Treasury**; *see*
Treasury, U. S.
- Local issues**, dangers of V, 131
- Locke, Erie**, letter to..VI, 100
- Locofoco party**, effect of Taylor's nomination on...II, 27
- exultation of.....II, 273
- opposition to.....I, 352
- position on Mexican war..
I, 352
- Logan, Chris.**.....II, 50
- Logan, John A.**, Gen., at Carbondale, Ill.....X, 266
- extended leave for.....
IX, 71; X, 266
- invited to capitol...X, 266
- Logan, Step. T.**, appointment of.....I, 242
- assists L....;.....II, 140
- candidacy of.....XI, 101
- draws resolutions on death of Judge Nath. Pope.....
II, 136
- opinion on Ill. election law
II, 178

- Logan, Step. T.** (*contd.*)
 — practices law with L.....
 I, 189; XI, 98
 — signs Whig circular..I, 259
- Logue, Felix,** affidavit in
 Wright case.....IX, 119
- London, Eng.,** Confederate
 representatives in...VI, 278
 — industrial exhibition at...
 VI, 329
 — letter to working-men of..
 VIII, 211
- London and Hampshire rail-
 road,** troops ordered over..
 VI, 327
- "London Times,"** estimate of
 Second Inaugural....XI, 44
- Long, Alex.,** letter to....IX, 1
- "Long John,"** defense of....
 XI, 103
- Longstreet, Jas.,** Lt.-Gen., in-
 quiry on position of. VII, 204
 — marching toward Richmond
 VIII, 269
 — movement to Tenn...IX, 135
 — reported battle with Hooker
 VIII, 263
 — rumors of movement toward
 Washington.....X, 157
 — uncertainty of his move-
 ments.....VIII, 316
 — withdrawal from Lee's army
 IX, 171
- Loomis, Dwight,** recommends
 GoodmanVIII, 221
- Loomis, F. B.,** offers garrison
 X, 97
- Loring, W. W.,** defeated by
 GrantVIII, 281
 — driven back.....VIII, 281
- "Loss of Lincoln, The,"** by
 Henry Ward Beecher..X, v
- "Lost Townships,"** letter
 fromI, 221
- Louaillier, —,** denounces Jack-
 son's martial law..VIII, 311
- Louden, Robt.,** sentenced....
 X, 93
- Loudon, Va.,** Burnside drives
 Confederate force from...
 IX, 111
- Louisiana,** admission of II, 196
 — arrangement for freedmen of
 IX, 202
 — banks prevented from loan-
 ing money.....X, 268
 — Banks' ability for work in
 X, 277
 — — confers with citizens of
 IX, 56
 — — paper relating to..X, 333
 — blockade of ports of.....
 VI, 248, 257; X, 14; XI, 81
 — Butler recommends repeal
 of ordinance of secession
 IX, 203
 — — requested to aid election
 plans.....VIII, 61
 — candidacy of Federal officers
 VIII, 79
 — civil government to be sup-
 ported in.....X, 269
 — — support promised to.....
 X, 267

Louisiana (contd.)

- constitutional convention meets.....X, 268
- — military insult to.....VIII, 327
- — status of negro in.....X, 267
- court officers' salaries, provision for.....VIII, 66
- destitution in.....X, 227
- election in.....XI, 89
- — negotiations for.....VIII, 61
- — proclamation declaring..X, 38
- — day for.....VIII, 81
- — promised.....VIII, 328
- — CongressionalVIII, 79, 80
- — — letters to Shepley on VIII, 79, 80
- emancipation in.....IX, 56, 108; XI, 86
- Federal Union, relation to XI, 90
- Free-State constitution adopted in.....XI, 89
- Hahn elected Governor....X, 38, 39
- — invested with full powers in.....X, 42
- letter to Trumbull on affairs in.....X, 333
- loyal voters in number of,..XI, 89
- military protection assured to.....VII, 297

Louisiana (contd.)

- — supremacy assured to Hurlbut.....X, 269
- negro franchise authorized XI, 89
- — — L.'s position on.....XI, 89
- — — withheld in...XI, 89
- — schools established.XI, 89
- negroes in convention, question of.....X, 39
- — organized in..VIII, 175
- new Constitution adopted..IX, 203; X, 185; XI, 85, 86
- — — establishedVIII, 79, 80
- — — reception of..X, 186
- — — supported.....X, 267
- organization of.....V, 299
- Phelps' influence in.....VII, 292
- police regulations in.....VII, 295
- provisional court established in.....VIII, 64
- — — Peabody made judge of.....VIII, 65
- purchase of.....II, 195; V, 299; VII, 50
- rebellion declared in.....VIII, 163
- reconstruction in.....IX, 273; XI, 89
- — Banks reports on.....IX, 282
- — Flanders reports on....IX, 200

Louisiana (contd.)

- — inaugurated...VIII, 80
- — L.'s plan for, frustrated
VIII, 80
- — Slidell's pleasure in failure of.....X, 267
- re-establishment of relations with U. S.....X, 313, 334
- restoration to Union.....
VII, 299
- salaries of public officers scaled.....X, 268
- Shepley, instructed in affairs in.....IX, 201
- situation in.....VII, 297
- slavery in, regulated by act of Congress.....V, 299, 300
- starvation in.....X, 227
- State constitution amended
VIII, 327
- — government, correspondence on.....XI, 87
- — — Federal support necessary to.....XI, 91
- — — Hurlbut's opposition to.....X, 267
- — — in conformity with Constitution urged.....
VII, 297
- — — military hostility to..
X, 268
- — — number of constituents.....XI, 89
- — — organized.....XI, 89
- — — part taken by L. in
XI, 85
- — — status of.....X, 267

Louisiana (contd.)

- Thirteenth Amendment ratified.....XI, 89
- — — supported in..XI, 91
- Louisville, Ky., Anderson at..**
VII, 5
- appeals from, against withdrawal of troops from....
VIII, 26
- Boyle at...VIII, 20, 21, 26
- — questioned about situation at.....VIII, 26
- Buell at.....
VII, 70, 73, 74, 98, 118
- Churchill banished to.....
XI, 48
- Harris arrested at...X, 214
- L.'s proposed visit to.....
I. 175
- Meade discharged at.....
X, 234
- negroes sold at..VIII, 257
- Palmer at.....XI, 40
- situation of.....VII, 2
- Thomas at..X, 24, 26, 125
- Wright responsible for.....
VIII, 26
- — withdraws troops from
VIII, 26
- Louisville "Journal," attitude of**VI, 67
- Lovejoy, Elijah, killing of...**
I, 51
- Lovejoy, Owen, abolition radicalism of.....**IV, 347
- candidate for Congress....
IV, 179

- Lovejoy, Owen** (*contd.*)
 — canvass for L.....
 IV, 76, 77, 80
 — catechism of.....III, 217
 — character of.....X, 111
 — complaint against L.....
 III, 287
 — counsellor of L....III, 305
 — erection of monument to..
 X, 110
 — fear of, by friends of L....
 IV, 174
 — L. supported by.....
 IV, 174, 176
 — acquaintance with..X, 111
 — negro equality.....V, 3
 — nomination of.....
 II, 290, 365
 — opposes admission of slave
 States.....IV, 80, 304
 — — Douglas.....IV, 8
 — pre-ambule and resolutions of
 III, 320; IV, 12
 — share in Republican party
 III, 224
- Lowe, F. F.**, letter to on "New
 Almaden" mine.....IX, 85
 — — act of Congress..IX, 190
 — telegram to.....IX, 24
- Lowe, J. G.**, letter to..VI, 108
- Lowell, Jas. Russell**, author..
 IX, 284
 — opinion of L.....V, xxvi
- Lower California**, proposed
 seizure of.....I, 342
- "Loyal Brigade of the North,"**
 offer of.....VIII, 323
- Lucas, J. M.**, letter to.....
 II, 114, 358
- Luckett, Hen, F.**, execution
 suspendedIX, 263
- Ludlow, —**, Col., telegrams to
 VIII, 290
- Lusk, Edward**, letter to V, 90
- Luther, Martin**, quotation
 fromIX, xx
- Lutherans**, response to.....
 VII, 153
- Lyman, —**, Dr.,.....II, 272
- "Lynch, Judge,"** Blunt en-
 couragesIX, 88
- Lynchburg, Va**, raid near....
 IX, 181
- Lynching**, denunciation of....
 I, 38
- See also*, Lawlessness.
- Lyon, Nath.**, Brig.-Gen., gal-
 lantry of.....VI, 356
- Lyons, Lord**, correspondence
 on African slave-trade....
 VII, 216
 — — "Trent" affair..VII, 91
 — gratitude of.....X, 84
 — proposed as mediator.....
 VI, 252

M

- McCall, G. A.**, Gen., at Fred-
 ericksburgVII, 206, 208
- McCallister and Stebbins**
 bonds, *see* Illinois.
- McCallum, —**, Gen., Sullivan's
 sentence suspended by.....
 IX, 139

- McClaran, Chas.**, assessed... XI, 35
- McClellan, Geo. Brinton**,
 Gen., advised to break enemy's line.....VII, 140
- aloofness of.....VII, 157
- Antietam, battle of..... VIII, 34
- appointed general-in-chief.. VII, 13
- Aquia Creek R. R. broken VII, 195
- army re-organized..VII, 156
- asks reinforcements..... VII, 253, 254
- Blenker's division detached from.....VII, 225
- Burnside reinforces..... VII, 257
- censured for relieving Hamilton.....VII, 157
- commands Dept. of Potomac VIII, 72
- commands West Va. forces VI, 332
- communication with White House cut off.....VII, 242
- complains of support..... VII, 141; VIII, 57
- congratulated VII, 202, 261; VIII, 34
- consulted on appointment.. VII, 151
- Corinth army opposed to... VII, 260
- Democratic candidate..... X, 116
- McClellan, Geo. B. (contd.)**
- disposition of force..... VII, 242
- Dix assigned to...VII, 221
- evacuation of Fredericksburg reported to..VII, 147
- fears enemy in force..... VII, 235
- Halleck cannot reinforce... VII, 257
- — repeats order to move... VIII, 66
- illness of.....VII, 71
- informed of enemy's movements.....VII, 207
- informed of Jackson's reinforcement.....VII, 228
- Lee attacks.....VII, 239
- letter to..... VII, 24, 61, 93, 94, 138, 157; VIII, 25, 57, 59; IX, 13
- — on Hamilton's reinstatement.....VII, 174
- L.'s course in event of election of.....X, 204
- Malvern Hill, battle of.... VII, 239
- moves his army...VIII, 70
- Noggle case referred to.... VII, 308
- James River, falls back from VII, 259
- Lane expedition placed under.....VII, 90
- McDowell placed under.... VII, 174
- — cooperates with.VII, 169

McClellan, Geo. B. (contd.)

- memorandum of questions and answers.....VII, 262
- mounts reported sick.....VIII, 67
- — supplied to.....VIII, 69
- ordered to move....VIII, 54
- — to suspend habeas corpus.....VII, 89
- overcautiousness of.....VIII, 57
- plans movement....VII, 93
- opens communication with Pope.....VIII, 19
- Porter ordered to..VIII, 25
- Potomac, crosses.....VIII, 53, 54, 59, 68
- Rawley case referred to..VII, 308
- recruits with drafted men..VIII, 69
- relieved from command....VIII, 72
- restoration to command difficult.....IX, 13
- Richmond, campaign against VII, 141, 183
- — fails to take....VII, 198
- — retreat from...VII, 239
- — suffers reverse before...VII, 238
- — urged to attack..VIII, 58
- Sharpsburg, meets enemy at VIII, 35
- size of force.....VII, 142
- Stanton, quarrel with.....VII, 304, 305

McClellan, Geo. B. (contd.)

- strength on Peninsula.....VII, 274
 - subsistence threatened.....VIII, 57
 - support promised..VII, 163
 - supported by gunboats.....VII, 248
 - takes field.....VII, 129
 - telegram to.....VII, 140, 147, 151, 152, 163, 176, 183, 188, 198, 207, 208, 210, 277, 286; VIII, 23, 25, 28, 54, 66, 67, 68, 69.
 - — reviewing situation.....VII, 186
 - urged to attack.....VII, 143; VIII, 67
 - views desired.....VII, 230
 - war, plan to end...X, 189
 - Washington, plan to defend VII, 254
 - Winchester, urged to attack VIII, 57
 - Wool's command attached to VII, 143
 - — department merged with VII, 208
 - Young case.....VII, 61
- McClelland, John A., Brig.-Gen.,.....II, 354, 355**
- charges against.....IX, 68
 - leave extended.....X, 178
 - letter from Stanton..IX, 120
 - letters to.....VI, 286; VII, 18; VIII, 181, 201

- McClernand, J. A.** (*contd.*)
 — relieved.....VII, 18
 — seeks release of prisoners..
 X, 324
- McClure, A. K.**, Col., inter-
 view on Cameron....VI, 92
 — L.'s personal appearance des-
 cribed byIII, x
 — telegram to.....IX, 14
- McCook, —**, Col., at Vienna,
 Va.VI, 328
- McCullom, —**, letter to.....
 VIII, 286
- McCullough, Fanny**, letter to
 VIII, 153
- McCurdy, Robt. H.**, letter to
 VII, 278
- McDonough Co.**, Ill...IV, 68
- McDowell, Chas.**, delegate...
 IV, 50
- McDowell, Irwin**, Maj.-Gen.,
 at Front Royal....VII, 202
 — commands Dept. of Rappa-
 hannock.....VII, 169
 — — First Corps....VII, 116
 — — Third Corps....VII, 236
 — Frémont's telegram sent to
 VII, 205
 — informed of Jackson's force
 VII, 204
 — McCall detached from.....
 VII, 212
 — occupies Rappahannock....
 VII, 147
 — opposed by Anderson.....
 VII, 177
 — reports whereabouts of
 Shields and Jackson.....
 VII, 211
- Saxton's dispatch sent to...
 VII, 206
- telegram to, to move to the
 Shenandoah.....VII, 180
 — — on force at Fredericks-
 burg.....VII, 181
 — — suggesting movement...
 VII, 194
 — urged to attack....VII, 198
 — Washington, detained to de-
 fend.....VII, 239
 — West Point, supplied from..
 VII, 169
- McDowell, Jas.**, Gov...II, 15
 "Macedonian," claim of, paid
 X, 285
- McElrath, —**, Mrs., deporta-
 tionX, 224
- McGaughey, —**, candidate...
 II, 105
- McGuire, Geo. W.**, sentenced
 IX, 84
- McHenry, Jas.**, favors slavery
 V, 296
- Mack, Dav.**, paper by..II, 117
- Mackay, Alf.**, telegram to....
 X, 105
- McKee, —**, proceedings against
 IX, 37
- Mackinaw trout**, gift of.X, 355
- McKinley, Wm.**, on "Abra-
 ham Lincoln, the Great Re-
 publican"V, v
- McKinney, J. F.**, letter to....
 IX, 1

- Maclean, John, Dr.**, degree for
X, 326
— Dred Scott decision..II, 320
— judicial career....VII, 38
— letters to...II, 266; X, 326
— Presidential possibility....
II, 16
- Macomb, Ill.**.....IV, 68
- Macon Co., Ill.**, Hanks family
inV, 286
— Lincoln family in.....
VI, 29, 288
- McLean Co., Ill.**, delegates of
II, 365
— Douglas' early home.....
III, 106
— — gratitude to...III, 106
— — speech in.....III, 54
— sues for taxes.....II, 179
- McLellan, C. W.**.....I, vii
- McMichael, Mort.**, letter to..
X, 181
- McNeil, C. F.**, letter to..VI, 8
- McPheeters, Sam S.**, Rev.
Dr., case of.....
VIII, 168; IX, 269
— — indorsement on..IX, 271
- McPherson, Jas. B.**, Gen., as-
signed command.....X, 41
- McVeigh, Wayne**, telegrams
toIX, 168
- Madison Co. Ill.**,.....II, 275
- Madison, Jas.**, Pres., course
toward defeated opponents.
V, 218
— opposed to U. S. Bank....
II, 60
- Madison, Jas.** (*contd.*)
— position on slavery.....
V, 297; VIII, xi
- Magnanimity of Lincoln**....
X, 228, 264
- Magoffin, Beriah**, Gov. of Ky.
VII, 144, 349
- Magrath, F. M.**, Gen., treason
of.....VIII, 305
- Magruder, John B.**, Gen.,
treason of.....VIII, 305
- Mail contract**, Lincoln's
brother bids on.....II, 135
- Mail matter**, free appropria-
tion for.....VII, 43
- Mails, U. S.**, detention of....
I, 323
— continuance of.....VI, 299
— government rights in.....
VIII, 252
— inviolability of...VIII, 252
— remuneration for carrying
I, 324
- Maine**, boundary question....
I, 135
— Butler proposes to raise
troops in.....VI, 353
— compared to So. Car..II, 233
— liquor laws of.....III, 129
— negro franchise in.....
III, 143
— — status in.....
III, 99; IV, 26
- Majority**, rights of.....
V, 7; I, 339
- Malhiot, E. E.**, on committee
VIII, 327

- Malhiot, E. E.** (*contd.*)
 — letter to.....VIII, 326
- Mallory, Jas.**, case of..X, 324
- Mallory, R.**, consents to raising regiment in Ky..VI, 295
 — at slave State conference..VII, 128
- Maltby, Harrison**, letter to...II, 297
- Malvern Hill**, battle of.....VII, 239
- Manassas Junction, Va.**, left unprotected...VII, 141, 142
 — military line from..VI, 332
 — Ricketts ordered to.....VII, 195
- Manchester, Eng.**, letter to workingmen of...VIII, 194
- Mangum, W. P.**, Vice-Pres. ofII, 302
- Manierre, Benj. F.**, letter to. IX, 215
- Manifest destiny**, reference to V, 101
- Mankind**, duty to.....VI, 120
- Manly, Miss**, refuses allegiance X, 37
- Mann, Horace, Mrs.**, letter to X, 68
- Mansfield, J. K. F.**, Gen., advice asked.....VI, 293
- Manufactures**, Calhoun's views in regard to.....I, 245
 — importance of.....I, 244
 — protection of.....II, 40
- Marchant, Hen. A.**, Capt., leave for.....VIII, 222
- Marchant, H. A.** (*contd.*)
 — ordered to Washington...VIII, 218
- Marcy, R. R.**, Gen., telegram toVII, 200
- Marine**, *see* Commercial Marine.
- Markham, Edwin**...III, xlvii
- Marsh, —**, letter to...VI, 99
- Marsh, Geo. P.**, proposed ministerVI, 223
- Marshall, —**, services of II, 85
- Marshall Co.**, Ill., Lincoln speaks inIV, 68
- Marston, —**, Gen....VIII, 167
 — proclamation of...XI, 129
- Martel, Charles**...IX, xxxii
- Martial law**.....VIII, 42
 — Hunter proclaims..VII, 170
 — in Ky.....X, 147
See also, Habeas Corpus.
- Martin, Wes.**, deported XI, 33
- Martin, Wm.**, appointed collectorVIII, 13
- Martinsburg, Va.**, Banks at..VII, 187
 — besieged.....VIII, 317
 — re-captured.....X, 142
 — Tyler at.....VIII, 315
- Maryland**, call for militia...VIII, 318
 — constitution adopted.....X, 243, 270
 — — ratified.....X, 239
 — election of 1864 in..X, 271
 — — violence of.....IX, 185, 196

Maryland (*contd.*)

- emancipation in.....X, 30
- — misunderstood.....X, 31
- — plans inIX, 247
- — hopes for.....X, 43
- invadedX, 142
- L.'s canvass in.....VI, 37
- — majority in.....X, 271
- — views on.....VII, 125
- loyalty of.....X, 243
- — dependent on Ky.....
VI, 360
- negroes in.....VIII, 127
- — recruited in.....IX, 150
- protection for voters.....
IX, 196
- reorganized.....X, 303
- slavery in.....VII, 124
- slaves in.....VII, 132
- soldiers' vote.....X, 262
- Union Committee, reply to
X, 270
- — feeling in.....
VII, 293; X, 270
- — sustained by.....VII, 53
- voting test in.....IX, 197

Maryland legislature, anticipates arming people VI, 255

Mason and Dixon's line, insurgent support north of...
VII, 52

Mason, Jas. M., on Constitutional FathersV, 335
— homespun suit..V, 337, 363

Massachusetts, Butler's proposal to raise troops in.....
VI, 352

Massachusetts (*contd.*)

- delegation, reply to..XI, 118
- L.'s canvass in.....VI, 37
- movement against foreigners in.....V, 131
- slavery, view of, in..II, 91

Massachusetts legislature, invitation declined...VI, 10

"Massachusetts," detains "Perthshire"VII, 32

Massacre, *see* Fort Pillow.

Mass-meeting, to honor Grant
X, 112

Matheny, C. W...I, 63; II, 50

Matheny, Jas. H., appointed
I, 242

— candidate.....IV, 14

— friend of L.....IV, 171

— L. and Trumbull bargain..
III, 204; IV, 14, 36, 77, 171

— Trumbull attacked by.....
III, 212; IV, 15

Mathers, John, letter to.....
III, 188

Matteson, Joel A......IV, 50

— defeats L.....II, 274

— letter to.....VI, 96

Matthews, Jas. L., exiled....
VIII, 172

May, W. L., signs call..I, 181

Maynard, Hor., telegram to..
X, 7

Mayo, Z. B., legislative candidateIV, 50, 51

Meade, Geo. G., Gen., advised on advance.....IX, 128

— asks to be relieved..IX, 28

Meade, Geo. G. (contd.)

- Collins' sentence suspended by.....X, 72
- confidence in.....IX, 39
- Dawson case referred to... X, 85
- demands inquiry.....X, 61
- dissatisfaction with..... IX, 28
- Edds' desertion..... IX, 117, 119
- Ewell's movements reported to.....IX, 167
- gratitude to.....IX, 28
- Halleck reports fall of Vicksburg to.....IX, 22
- — urges against Lee.IX, 22
- Harrow granted leave by.. IX, 276
- Hooker asked to take command under.....IX, 44
- King's sentence suspended by.....IX, 212
- Lee, engagement with, not desired for.....IX, 46
- letter to.....IX, 104
- L. advises attack..... IX, 123, 171
- L.'s views on movements of, after Gettysburg....IX, 39
- Maryland soldiers' vote reported by.....X, 263
- Murphy pardoned..IX, 166
- pardons various prisoners.. IX, 170
- Rappahannock Station captured.....IX, 204

Meade, Geo. G. (contd.)

- strength of....IX, 128, 129
- Sullivan's sentence suspended.....IX, 139
- sword to.....IX, 106
- telegrams to..... IX, 89, 113, 117, 119, 123, 125, 139, 166, 170, 188, 192, 199, 204; X, 34, 72, 75, 85, 89, 107
- Wellers' sentence suspended IX, 199
- Wheaton granted leave.... IX, 113
- Meade, R. K.**.....II, 43
- Meagher, T. F., Gen.,** raises corps.....VIII, 322
- Meconkey, S. B., Mrs.,** letter to.....X, 96
- Medical dept.** of army reorganized.....VII, 227
- Medill, Jos.**....II, 361; VI, 56
- Meeker, Geo. W.,** signer of resolutions on death of Judge Nath. Pope....II, 136
- Meigs, M. C., Gen.,** instructions indorsed.....VII, 166
- Quarter-master Gen..... VI, 290
- Seward advises calling.... VI, 227
- Memorandum** on Amsterdam projectileX, 35
- on Andrews.....VIII, 323
- on Cabinet officers..X, 158
- on Carter's appointment... IX, 164

Memorandum (contd.)

- on churches.....X, 30
- on co-operation with successor.....X, 203
- on draft.....IX, 194
- on Dresser.....I, 269
- on Fugitive-slave law.....
 - XI, 115
- on Mrs. Hunt.....X, 72
- on instructions to McDowell
 - VII, 166
- on interview with Phila. P. M.....X, 132
- on Koppell.....VIII, 202
- on Merryman.....VIII, 273
- on questions and answers..
 - VII, 262
- on release of prisoners....
 - X, 279
- on restoration of peace....
 - XI, 71
- on Sands case.....IX, 68
- on Smith, Gen. W. F.....
 - VIII, 223
- on Weigand appointment...
 - VIII, 231
- Memphis, Tenn., Davis' services at.....VII, 267**
- Douglas' speech at.....
 - V, 121, 199
- joint movement on..VI, 333
- indorsement on church at..
 - X, 99, 148
- U. S. purchasing agency...
 - X, 230
- Menard Co., Ill., see Sangamon Co.**
- Menzies, John W., defeated..**
 - IX, 62
- at White House..VII, 124
- Mercer, Sam., Capt. order to..**
 - VI, 238
- Mercier, Henri, at Richmond.**
 - VIII, 214
- Meredosia, Ill., Lincoln at.V, 90**
- "Merrimac" engages "Cumberland".....VII, 155**
- Merryman, E. H., instructions to**
 - I, 236
- charges against...VIII, 273
- "Merey," assisted.....XI, 9**
- Messages, see Congress, House of Representatives, Senate.**
- Methodist conference, Lincoln's reply to.....VII, 163**
- Methodist church, division of**
 - III, 355; IV, 233; V, 55
- given to Ames.....X, 5
- modifying order on...X, 7
- Methodist delegation, Lincoln's reply to.....X, 99**
- Mexican war, appropriation for**
 - V, 74
- Ashmun amendment on....
 - IV, 192
- burden of.....II, 30
- call for troops.....V, 74
- effect of acquisition of territory by.....IV, 40, 186
- L. on unconstitutionality of
 - V, 73; VI, 35
- L.'s position on.....
 - III, 210, 230; VI, 35

- Mexican war** (*contd.*)
 — — speech on.....I, 327
 — — support of, confirmed....
 IV, 191
 — — vote on.....V, 75
 — origin of.....I, 327
 — — justified.....II, 23
 — Taylor's suggested position
 on.....II, 56
 — vote on.....I, 327
 — Whig party on.....II, 84
 See also, Mexican War.
- Mexico**, alleged interference
 withVIII, 173
 — American army in..VI, 35
 — Ashmun's resolution sent to
 V, 75
 — boundary claim of....I, 333
 — condition of.....VII, 146
 — Corwin's speech sent to....
 V, 75
 — possible invasion of..IV, 292
 — race equality in.....III, 92
 — record of Congressional vote
 sent to.....V, 75
 — resolutions concerning.....
 I, 318
 — revolution of Texans against
 II, 197
 — Shields in.....IV, 12
 — slavery in territory acquired
 from.....IV, 271, 293
 — Texas affected by events in
 IX, 56, 64
 — treaty with.....II, 200
 — troops invade.....VI, 35
 — Wilmot proviso and..IV, 12
- “Miami,” gunboat....VII, 155
Michigan, invited to visit....
 VI, 100
 — signature of papers for....
 VII, 306
Middleburg, Va., firing near..
 VIII, 328
Middle Dept., transferred to
 HalleckX, 176
Middleport “Press,” article
 fromVI, 8
Middleton, —, appeals for
 AbramsIX, 125
Mifflin, Thos., vote on slavery
 V, 296
Milderborger, John, tele-
 gram to.....IX, 206
Miles, Dixon S., Col., case of
 VII, 66
 — movements of.....XI, 67
 — telegram to.....VII, 178
Military academy, U. S.,
 prejudice against....IX, 12
Military arrests, constitution-
 al rights in.....
 VIII, 306, 307, 309
 — — policy pursued in.....
 VIII, 290
 — duty, evasion of....IX, 227
 — emancipation, *see* Emanci-
 pation
 — glory.....I, 341
 — officers, *see* Army and Navy
 officers
 — seizure, rule for....IX, 288
Militia, call for 42,034..VI, 263
 — — of 75,000.....VI, 246

- Militia** (*contd.*)
- — 100,000.....VIII, 318
 - discharge of three-months forces.....VI, 332
 - Mo., enrollment in.....IX, 149, 163, 165
 - — Gamble's plans for raising.....VII, 15
 - organization of.....VII, 36
 - Pa., called.....VIII, 23
 - response to call for.VI, 305
 - Tenn. refuses quota.....VI, 259
 - Washington guarded by....VII, 187
- “Milk-and-water Lincoln resolutions”X, 113
- Miller, Anson**, appointed....X, 183
- Miller, J. W.**, Sen., on Cass..II, 76
- Miller, Jas.**, Treas. of Ill., letter to.....V, 133
- Millersburg, Va.**, action near VIII, 330
- “Milliken's Bend”....IX, 183
- Kirby's movements near....VIII, 332
- Mills, John T.**, interview....X, 189
- Milroy, Robt. H.**, Maj.-Gen., arrest of.....IX, 184
- character of.....IX, 266
 - command under Grant.....IX, 266
 - court of inquiry...IX, 184
 - disobedience of.....IX, 184
- Milroy, Robt. H.** (*contd.*)
- exonerated.....IX, 184
 - fears for.....IX, 184
 - L.'s rebuke to.....IX, 11
 - — opinion on loss of division.....IX, 183
 - reports Lee's losses.....VIII, 270
 - surrounded.....VIII, 315
- Milton, John**, quoted..IX, xxvi
- Milwaukee, Wis.**, address at..V, 236
- Miner, Edw. G.**, letter to....II, 355
- Ministers**, *see* Chaplains.
- Minnesota**, enabling act for..III, 115
- Indian outbreakVIII, 108, 139
 - Indians sentenced..VIII, 92
 - invitation to visit....V, 138
 - rule on admission of..IV, 29
 - Sioux Indian massacre....VIII, 107, 133
- Minnick, John R.**, execution stayedVIII, 245
- Minority**, rights of.....V, 7; VI, 318
- — to rebel.....I, 339
- Mississippi**, ceded.....V, 298
- free-labor in.....X, 27
 - lynching in.....I, 38
 - negroes organized in.....VIII, 175
 - organizedV, 299
 - prohibits African slave-trade.....II, 245

Mississippi (contd.)

- Thirteenth amendment ratified.....X, 352
- Mississippi, Dept. of, see** Dept. of the Mississippi.
- Mississippi River, communication with Atlantic.**IX, 245
- “goes unvexed”...IX, 101
- negro troops recruited on.. IX, 37, 65
- opening of.....IX, 246
- — Bank’s part in..IX, 56
- Thomas directs operations on.....X, 24
- Missouri, admission of.....** II, 169; V, 224
- affairs in.....XI, 38
- arrests in.....VIII, 171
- assassinations in.....X, 64
- assessments in....VIII, 171
- brigadiers assigned to, unfit VII, 77
- Cameron’s letter on..... VI, 338
- civil authority in..VIII, 146
- negro troops in..... VIII, 191; IX, 148
- distress in.....VIII, 197
- election of 1864...X, 234
- emancipation plans of..... IX, 52, 246
- — gradual, defeated..... IV, 332, 354; V, 63, 334
- — letter to Schofield on.... VIII, 329
- enrolled militia, Schofield on IX, 148

Missouri (contd.)

- factions in..VIII, 276, 282
- Frémont in.....VI, 332
- French settlements in..... V, 224
- law-test for voters..IX, 197
- Lincoln family in..... II, 181; VI, 24
- L.’s position on.....II, 243
- loyal voters in.....IX, 198
- loyalty dependent on Ky.. VI, 360
- majority against Govt..... VII, 76
- military discipline in..... IX, 147
- militia law, question of..... VIII, 147, 153
- Moss’ depredations..IX, 146
- outbreak in.....IX, 297
- party violence in...IX, 178
- peace in.....X, 340
- preservation of order in.... IX, 149
- Price invades..... VII, 76; X, 341
- property destruction in.... XI, 38
- provisional government in.. IX, 176
- provost-marshals, abuses of XI, 33, 35
- — orders to.....VIII, 187
- question of.....II, 169
- — raising troops in..... VI, 339; VII, 15
- Rosecrans in.....X, 63

- Missouri** (*contd.*)
- slavery contested....II, 196
 - — increasedV, 225
 - — not permanent.....VII, 123
 - slaves, number of, 1860.....VII, 133
 - — trouble with..VIII, 184
 - troops, status of...VIII, 90
 - — German, trouble with...VII, 85
 - Union men banished from..IX, 146
 - voting in.....IX, 149
 - See also*, Dept. of the Missouri
 - Missouri Compromise**, destruction of.....II, 283
 - disregarded.....IV, 205
 - Douglas' position on.....VIII, 293
 - — reversal on.....V, 210
 - history of.....II, 192
 - hope of Clay in...III, 104
 - repeal of.....II, 190; IV, 8, 37, 38, 187; VI, 37
 - — arguments for...II, 208
 - — arouses L.....III, 174; V, 288
 - — opposition to...II, 305
 - — Chicago papers on.....VIII, 293
 - Robertson's part in..II, 279
 - See also*, Compromise
 - Missouri "Democrat,"** editorial in.....VI, 83
 - Missouri legislature**, interference with.....IX, 264
 - Missouri "Republican,"** Lincoln-Crittenden correspondence in.....V, 90
 - Douglas' speech in..IV, 66
 - Mitchell, —**, Gen., nomination VIII, 232
 - Mitchell, J.**, Rev., CommissionerVIII, 1
 - Mitchell, S. Weir**, "Lincoln" II, 15
 - Mobile, Ala.**, blockaded.....XI, 80
 - Naval victory.....X, 211
 - salute ordered.....X, 214
 - Mobile Bay, Ala.**, orders to officer in command...X, 260
 - Mob law**, horrors of.....I, 39
 - Modesty of Lincoln**,.....I, ix; V, 95, 138, 286; VI, 122, 128, 133, 135, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 153, 154, 162; VIII, xxi; XI, 117
 - Mohammed Pacha**, letter to..VII, 7
 - Molina, Don Luis**, minister..IX, 261
 - Molonoy, R. S.**,.....IV, 78
 - candidate.....IV, 47
 - Monarchy**, ulterior aim of Confederate leadersVII, 56; X, 51
 - Money**, constant circulation of I, 103
 - people withheld from use of I, 102

- Money** (*contd.*)
 — reduction of quantity..I, 103
 — valuable only in circulation
 I, 102
See also Banks, Finance,
 Greenbacks, Loans, Money,
 Public Money, Treasury.
- Money lending** at exorbitant
 ratesI, 6
- Monocacy**, inquiry on..X, 154
 — Wallace defeated at..X, 156
- Monroe Co.**, Ill., fear of Re-
 publican party to use name
 inIV, 10
 — “Free Democracy of”.....
 IV, 10, 171
 — Trumbull in.....IV, 176
- Monroe, Jas.**, Pres., opposed
 to slavery.....V, 358
- Montgomery, Wm.**, bill of..
 V, 118
- Moody, S. B.**, appointment of
 VIII, 12
- Moore, C. H.**, introduces Lin-
 colnIII, 350
- Moore, Thos. P.**, case of....
 I, 258
- Moore, Treadwell, Capt.**,....
 VIII, 292
- Moorefield, Va.**, Fremont at..
 VII, 195
 — — waits orders at..VII, 196
- Moorhead, J. K.**, telegram to
 VIII, 325
- Morality**, plea for.....I, 50
- Moreau, A. B.**,.....XI, 100
- Morehead, —**,.....VII, 6
- Morgan, E. D.**, Gov. of N.
 Y., letter to.....VI, 101
 — position on Asst. Treas....
 X, 138
 — reply to.....VI, 138
 — requested to see Pres.....
 VI, 286
 — requests L. to call for vol-
 unteers.....VII, 249
 — telegram to.....VII, 254
- Morgan, Geo. D.**, acts for
 Navy Dept.,.....VII, 191
- Morgan, Geo. W.**, Brig-
 Gen., moves command.....
 VIII, 55, 71
- Morgan, R. P.**, letter to.....
 II, 289
- “Morning Light,”** vessel....
 VII, 134
- Morrill bill**, *see* Tariff.
- Morril, L. M.**, on House re-
 organizationIX, 191
- Morris, E. Joy**, proposed min-
 isterVI, 267
- Morris, Geo. U.**, thanks to...
 VIII, 138
- Morris, Gouveneur**, opposes
 slaveryV, 304
- Morris, Hen. M.**, Capt., thanks
 toVI, 161
- Morris, I. N.**, letter to.....
 VI, 87; IX, 94, 125
- Morris Island, S. C.**, batter-
 ies on.....VIII, 246, 248
 — DuPont at.....VIII, 246
- Morris, Jas. R.**, letter to....
 IX, 1

- Morris, Martin M.**, letter to.. I, 262, 265
- Morris, Robt.**, vote on slavery V, 297
- Morris, W. M.**, letter to V, 124
— invites L.....V, 124
- Morrison, J. L. D.**, Col., candidate.....II, 105, 111
— deserts L.....II, 275
— services in Mexican war... II, 85
- Morrison, W. R.**, Col., letter toVIII, 72
- Morrow, R.**, letter to..IX, 63
- Morse, John T.**, opinion.... I, xxii
- Morton, Mary E.**, confiscation of property...IX, 287
- Morton, O. P.** Gov. of Ind., demands seizure of Owensboro, Ky.....VI, 357
— desires soldiers to remain for November elections..X, 242
— letter to on defense of Indiana.....VII, 1
— offers cavalry regiment... VI, 292
— ordered to forward regiments.....VI, 343
— requests L. to call for volunteers.....VII, 250; X, 83
— telegrams to VII, 242; VIII, 35, 210; IX, 35; X, 106
- Moss, —**, Col., depredations of IX, 146
- Mott, Gresham**, Maj.-Gen., brevettedX, 187
- Moulton, —**, complaint againstIX, 49
- Mountain Department**, *see* Department of the Mountain.
- Mount Jackson, Va.**, Fremont at.....VII, 24, 27
— preference for....VII, 216
- “Mud march”**.....VIII, 177
- “Mud-sill theory”** of labor, *see* Labor.
- Mulattos**, number in 1850.... III, 355
— — in free and slave States II, 335; III, 356
— — in N. H.....III, 355
— — in Va.....III, 356
— slavery cause of...II, 336
- Muller, Jas. N.**, candidate.... VI, 269
- Murfreesboro, Tenn.**, operations near....VIII, 183, 185
— Rosecrans at....VIII, 173
- Murillo, Manuel**, recognition ofVIII, 188
- Murphy, Isaac**, Gov. of Ark., congratulatedX, 85
— Steele cooperates with.... IX, 304
— telegrams to....X, 37, 43, 49
- Murphy, John**, pardoned.... IX, 166
- Murray, Bronson**....VII, 290
- Murray, Thos. K.**, affidavit in Wright case.....IX, 120
- Myers, Clemence J.**, clerkship forX, 178

N

- Naper, —, Capt.,.....IV, 50
- Naperville, Dem. Dist. conv.,
1850IV, 50
- Naples, Ill. Lincoln at..VI, 46
- Napoleon, Lafayette's boast
toIX, vii
- compared to L.....I, x
- Nashville, Tenn., Buell's move-
ment toward.....VII, 73
- — position on ...VII, 106
- citizens of Tenn. made to
move north of.....X, 93
- Confederate defense of....
VII, 106
- Grant at.....X, 41
- police corps at...VIII, 255
- railroad to Louisville in
Federal hands.....VII, 4
- report of finding of Todd's
body.....VIII, 183
- strategical importance of...
VII, 73
- surrounded by disloyal peo-
ple.....VII, 73
- Thomas at.....X, 251, 315
- U. S. purchasing agency at
X, 230
- Nashville "Press,".....X, 21
- Natchez, Miss., blockade.....
XI, 80
- National banks, circulation of
VIII, 193
- influence of.....I, 25
- number organized...X, 294
- proposed system of.....
II, 264, 301; X, 294

National (contd.)

- public credit supported by..
IX, 233
- See also*, Banks; State
Banks; United States Bank.
- National census, population
shown by.....VII, 59
- National debt, increase in....
I, 248
- incurred by Civil War.....
X, 127
- part of, due to Texas debts
VI, 317
- seceding States obligated in
VI, 317
- suggested position of Taylor
on.....II, 55
- See also*, Public debt.
- "National debt," Lincoln's
ownI, 316
- National Democracy, Doug-
las repudiates.....IV, 265
- National Democrats, conven-
tion of.....IV, 42
- National Fast Day, proclama-
tions appointing.....
VI, 341; VIII, 235
- National government, duty
on currency.....VII, 232
- "National Intelligencer," sale
of negroes in.....VIII, 257
- National Union League, re-
ply to.....X, 122
- Nationalization of slavery.
See Slavery.
- Native Americans, support of
II, 27

- Naturalization, abuse of.** . . . IX, 228
- laws, Republican position on VI, 19
- L.'s views of Mass. law on V, 129
- proof of to be required on demand IX, 228
- proposed plan to register. . . IX, 228
- Naval Academy, U. S., ap-**
pointment to. IX, 91
- officers; *see*, Army and Navy
- services of. IX, 239
- Navy, U. S., act to further ef-**
ficiency of. VII, 104
- Army to co-operate with. . . VII, 118
- Cushing, Lt. Wm. B., thanks
of Congress to. X, 281
- Dahlgren, John A., Com.
thanks of Congress to. VII, 267
- Davis, Capt. Chas. Hen.,
thanks of Congress to. VII, 267
- destruction of "Alabama". . . X, 280
- efficiency of. X, 296
- Foote, Capt. Andrew H.,
thanks of Congress to. VII, 253
- general exhibit of, 1864. . . . X, 296
- increase of. VI, 264; IX, 238; X, 290,
296
- Navy, U. S. (*contd.*)**
- introduction of additional
grades in. VII, 37
- Lardner, Capt. John L.,
thanks of Congress to. VII, 267
- message on payment of. . . . VIII, 192
- number of vessels, 1863. . . . IX, 236
- observance of Sunday in. . . VIII, 77
- pensioners of. X, 301
- Porter, Com. David D.,
thanks of Congress to. VII, 267; VIII, 208
- rank of Vice-Adm. created
X, 297
- report of Sec. of. X, 296
- registration of Southern offi-
cers. VI, 321
- Rowan, Com. Stephen C.,
thanks of Congress to. VII, 267
- scattered at beginning of
war. VI, 298
- Stringham, Capt. Silas H.,
thanks of Congress to. VII, 268
- "Uncle Sam's web-feet". . . . IX, 101
- Winslow, Capt. John A.,
thanks of Congress to. X, 280
- See also*, Commercial ma-
rine; Navy Department;
Welles, Gideon.

- Navy Department, U. S.**, directions to.....VII, 190
 — disbursements of.....
 VIII, 103; X, 292, 297
 — Evarts, Wm. M., empowered to act for.....VII, 191
 — N. Y. Naval Brigade at Fortress Monroe..XI, 131
 — Welles' conduct of..XI, 128
Navy yards, changes in.....
 IX, 237
Nebraska, admission of.....
 II, 236; IV, 75; V, 10
 — application of Mo. Comp. to
 II, 203, 204
 — Democratic need of Sen. from.....II, 268
 — Douglas' bill to organize...
 III, 203
 — L.'s interest in.....XI, 100
 — "popular sovereignty" in...
 XI, 106
 — Republican plans for.....
 III, 206
 — slavery in.....II, 195, 204
 — Territorial government.....
 II, 204
 — veto of act prohibiting slavery in, condemned.....
 VI, 18
 — violence in.....II, 239
See also, Douglas, S. A.; Kansas-Nebraska Bill; Le-compton Constitution; Nebraska bill.
Nebraska bill, agitation caused byIV, 232
Nebraska bill (contd.)
 — appropriation of.....V, 231
 — Chase's amendment to.....
 III, 267, 285
 — conspiracy in.....
 III, 8, 264, 265, 284; IV, 219
 — Crittenden on.....V, 45
 — Douglas instructed to introduce.....III, 42
 — — introduces
 III, 55, 203; IV, 187
 — — — to "settle slavery question forever"
 IV, 187, 188
 — — orders Ill. legislature to approve.....II, 286
 — effect of.....
 III, 337; IV, 213, 231
 — — on slavery in Territories
 IV, 220
 — excitement caused by..IV, 5
 — L.'s anxiety for defeat of..
 II, 187
 — — position on.....II, 283
 — not modeled on New Mexico and Utah bills.....IV, 273
 — origin of.....
 III, 236; IV, 231; VI, 105
 — pro-slavery measure..II, 316
 — provision of, as to slavery..
 III, 299; IV, 217
 — reasons for Douglas' vote against.....III, 267
 — source of strength of, in Ill.
 II, 306
 — structure of.....II, 238

Nebraska bill (contd.)

- test of party fidelity..II, 188
- unrest caused by..III, 174
- Violence of.....II, 283
- See also*, Douglas, S. A.;
- Kansas-Nebraska bill; Le-
- compton Constitution.

Nebraskatism, definition of...
IV, 231

Negro, betterment of.....

- XI, 130, 131
- Cameron advises arming of
X, 66
- camps for.....IX, 301
- Confederates arm.....
XI, 55, 56
- children, education of.....
IX, 56
- citizenship of.....IV, 256
- — Douglas opposed to.....
III, 216
- — L. charged with advocat-
ing.....III, 93
- — — disapproves of.....
IV, 184
- colonization of.....
II, 206, 337; V, 11, 117; VII,
50; VIII, 1, 97; X, 36
- dehumanized
V, 42, 187, 350, 352; XI, 110
- Douglas disclaims kinship
with.....III, 147
- — for, "as against croco-
dile".....V, 204
- — objects to citizenship for
IV, 22, 181
- Douglas' estimate of..V, 273

Negro (contd.)

- enslavement of, effect upon
whitesIV, 224
- employed in Federal army..
VIII, 186
- equality, basis of reconstruc-
tion.....XI, 131
- — Douglas on.....IV, 254
- — universal feeling on....
II, 207
- franchise, conditional, in La.
XI, 89
- — — Me.....III, 143
- freed by emancipation proc-
lamation.....VIII, 155
- freedom of, impossible un-
der Dred Scott decision...
V, 177
- fugitives cared for.....
VII, 258
- — Phelps report on.....
VII, 258
- happiness of.....I, 179
- how reckoned in represen-
tation.....V, 48
- human rights of...II, 259
- illegal reasons for increase
of.....II, 222, 223
- imported, Supreme Court on
IV, 181
- impressment of.....
X, 125; XI, 5
- incapable of self-govern-
ment.....IV, 23, 181
- induced to assist Union....
X, 195
- inferiority of.....III, 217

Negro (contd.)

- laborers in U. S. service... IX, 247
- — competition of..... VIII, 126
- liberality in La. to..X, 268
- L.'s address on colonization of.....VIII, 1
- L. attacked by.....VI, 28
- — on equality of..... II, 229; III, 355; IV, 89; V, 3, 87
- miscegenation with, in Ill... IV, 91
- number of free, in U. S.... II, 225
- — U. S. Army..... IX, 246; X, 190
- order of retaliation to protect.....IX, 48
- physical difference of..... IV, 90
- position of parties on.... II, 338
- power to make citizen of... IV, 185
- proportion of....VIII, 127
- problem of.....II, 207
- re-enslavement of..... X, 191, 195
- relations of whites with... III, 187; V, 351; VIII, 127
- rights of.....III, 186
- share in Dec. of Ind..... V, 187, 201, 270
- Sickles investigates condition of.....X, 9

Negro (contd.)

- slavery of, in Kansas.IV, 205
 - — an evil.....XI, 108
 - — not necessary condition of.....IV, 24
 - soldiers, duty to...XI, 130
 - — question of pay, clothing and bounty to.....X, 133
 - status of, in Ill.....IV, 25
 - — under Dred Scott decision II, 319; III, 6, 7; IV, 232, 233; V, 2, 3
 - — in Ky.....IV, 25
 - — La.....X, 267
 - — Me.....IV, 26
 - — N. Y.....IV, 25
 - suffrage, opposed by Douglas.....IV, 26
 - — — L.....V, 145
 - Supreme Court of Va. denies freedom to....III, 175
 - troops; *see*, Troops, U. S.; Negro.
 - unwilling to emigrate.... VIII, 98
- See also*, Colonization; Freedmen; Inter-State slave trade; Slavery; Slaves, etc.
- Negro-worshippers**, Republicans so called.....V, 186
 - Nelson, Dav.**, seeks office.... VIII, 71
 - Nelson, Thos. A. R.**, answer toX, 248
 - Nelson, Wm., Gen.**, inquiry to VIII, 20

- Netherlands, King of the, ar-**
bitratorVI, 221
- Neutrality, violation of.....**
XI, 127
- — to be avoided....XI, 127
- Nevada, admission of.....**
VII, 48; X, 257, 298
- commended.....VII, 138
- mineral resources in.....
IX, 230
- “New Almaden” mine, case**
of.....IX, 85, 86
- Newbern, N. C., blockade of..**
XI, 80
- difficulties of Westcott at..
VIII, 234
- salute ordered at....X, 214
- Newell, W. A., Gov., appeal**
ofIX, 125
- letter to.....VIII, 258
- New England, blamed..V, 319**
- Butler proposes to raise
troops in.....VI, 352
- L.’s canvass in.....II, 89
- the Lincolns of.....V, 287
- loss of trade to.....V, 363
- poor soil of.....V, 361
- search for Cabinet member
from.....VI, 86
- share of, in opening Missis-
sippiIX, 398
- wealth of.....V, 361
- New Granada, constitution of**
VIII, 189
- convention with..VIII, 189
- revolutionary war in.....
VIII, 190
- New Granada (contd.)**
— treaty with U. S..VIII, 188
- New Hampshire, abolition in**
V, 8
- Butler proposes to raise
troops in.....VI, 352
- draft of.....XI, 7
- free-negro vote in...II, 326
- governor of, requests L. to
call for volunteers.VII, 249
- movement against fugitive-
slave law in.....V, 131
- mulattos in.....III, 355
- papers of, signed by L.....
VII, 306
- Presidential election in....
X, 306
- S. C. contrasted with.....
III, 214
- New Haven, Conn., speech at**
V, 339
- New Jersey, abolition in..V, 8**
- college of, confers degree..
X, 326
- contested election in..I, 258
- free-negro vote in...II, 326
- governor of, requests L. to
call for volunteers.VII, 249
- opposition in.....VI, 153
- Parker, gov. of.....IX, 35
- Presidential election in....
X, 306
- proposed new regiments
from.....IX, 48
- share in opening Mississippi
IX, 398
- tax commissions for.VIII, 10

New Jersey (contd.)

- troops accepted from.....
VI, 333
- — backwardness in raising
IX, 35
- — quota of.....IX, 36
- — raised in.....IX, 42
- trouble with provost-mar-
shal in.....VIII, 258

- New Jersey Legislature**, ad-
dress to.....VI, 150, 152
- invitation to.....VI, 106

- Newland, —**, contested elec-
tion case.....I, 258

- New Mexico**, admission of...
IV, 75; V, 11

- Barrett ordered to.VII, 139
- compromise on.....IV, 271
- Indian disturbances in.....
IX, 231

- mineral resources of.....
IX, 230
- proposed slavery in.....
II, 93; VI, 104

- route to, endangered.....
IX, 297
- Scates, Chief Justice of....
XI, 60

- New Orleans, La.**, Banks or-
dered to.....X, 279
- blockade raised.....
VII, 158; XI, 79

- Bouligny surveyor for.....
VII, 278
- Bullitt collector of.....
VIII, 152

- Butler ordered to.VIII, 203

New Orleans (contd.)

- Canby at.....X, 186
- capture of....VII, 161, 245

- Constitutional convention at
X, 268

- Dennison collector of.....
IX, 283

- — excepted from declaration
of rebellion..VIII, 156, 241

- first flat-boat trip to.VI, 28
- military supremacy in.....
X, 268

- Porter's services at.....
VII, 267

- salute ordered at....X, 214
- second flat-boat trip to.....
VI, 30

- taken by Farragut and But-
ler.....VII, 294

- Twiggs' sword sent from...
VII, 142

- U. S. purchasing agency at
X, 230

- New Orleans "Picayune"...**
VIII, 73

- Newport, Ky.**, salute ordered
at.....X, 214

- Newport News**, Burnside at..
VII, 277

- Newport, Vt.**, port of entry...
X, 198

- New Salem, Ill.**, Lincoln's ar-
rival at.....V, 288

- — concern in mill at...I, 4
- — employment in...VI, 30

- — postmastership at.VI, 32
- — residence at.....VI, 32

- Newspaper**, recommendation ofX, 131
- New York City**, address at... VI, 145
- Asst. Treas. appointed at... X, 137
- Barney's removal....X, 139
- Chase, letter to, on Custom House at.....X, 6
- Cooper Institute address... V, 293
- Dennison special naval officer at.....VI, 274
- Dix for Mayor of..IX, 202
- Douglas in.III, 159; IV, 215
- draft riots in....VIII, 266
- Freedman's Aid Society in IX, 263
- Hillhouse, Thos., appointment of.....X, 138
- Hogeboom, Judge, general appraiser at.....X, 139
- Irish troops raised in..... VIII, 322
- mass-meetings at..... VII, 278; X, 112
- Mayor of, reply to..... VI, 149
- opposition of Sen. Morgan to appointment of Field at X, 137
- recruiting in.....VII, 298
- reduction of quotas in.X, 23
- reply to Workingmen's Association of.....X, 50
- revision of enrollments in.. X, 22
- New York City** (*contd.*)
- salute ordered at...X, 214
- Seward at.....VII, 243
- spurious proclamation circulated in.....X, 103
- sub-treasury proposed at... I, 116
- Vanderbilt presents ocean steamer.....VII, 279
- Webb proposed for appraiser at.....VI, 273
- New York "Day Book,"** issue revealed by....IV, 200
- New York "Evening Post,"** complaint of.....X, 136
- speech to Ind. regiment from.....VII, 164
- New York "Herald,"** canard inVI, 51, 53
- correspondent of, excluded VIII, 230
- exhibition in.....VI, 9
- New York "Journal of Commerce,"** imprisonment of publisher of.....X, 103
- New York legislature**, address to.....VI, 139
- invitation to.....VI, 105
- New York Naval Brigade**, transportation of..... VI, 289; XI, 131
- New York Navy Yard**, arms steamersVII, 190
- New York Regiment**, 189th, address to.....X, 252
- New York State**, abolition of slavery in.....V, 8

- New York State** (*contd.*)
- call for 12,000 militia..... X, 143
 - canals in, enlarged..... VIII, 109
 - Democratic divisions in.... II, 88
 - — victory in.....I, 256
 - Douglas' campaign tactics in VI, 51
 - — strength in.....VI, 52
 - drafting in.....IX, 92
 - effort to carry.....VI, 52
 - free-negro vote in...II, 326
 - German troops of..VI, 273
 - governor of, requests L. to call for volunteers.VII, 249
 - Hunt movement in....VI, 52
 - locks of canals in, to be enlarged.....VII, 219
 - negro suffrage in...III, 220
 - Presidential election in.... X, 306
 - reduction of quotas for draft in.....X, 23
 - Republican convention of 1854 in.....IV, 5
 - revision of enrollments in.. X, 22
 - Seymour, Gov., asks suspension of draft in.....IX, 52
 - share in opening of Mississippi.....IX, 398
 - status of negro in..... III, 99; IV, 25
- New York "Times,"** Douglas' speech in.....V, 293
- New York "Times" (*contd.*)**
- Lincoln's gratitude to..... VII, 119
- New York "Tribune,"** correspondents of, detained..... VIII, 290
- error of in regard to Texas boundaryII, 53
 - on Douglas and Republicans III, 120
 - "The Prayer of Twenty Millions" in.....VIII, 15
 - question of gradual emancipation in.....VII, 123
 - vote of Republican Congressmen explained by..... III, 62; V, 119
- New York "World,"** imprisonment of publisher..X, 103
- Niagara Falls,** notes for lecture on.....II, 138
- Niagara Falls, N. Y.,** Confederate commissioners at.... X, 170
- Nicaragua,** difficulties with... IX, 227
- reply to minister from..... VI, 222
- Nicolay, John G.,** letter of, to HayX, 113
- — Judge Lee.....VII, 211
 - on L.'s literary style.I, xiv
 - private secretary to L..... VII, 211
 - telegram to.....X, 247
- Nichols and Crosby,** letter to IX, 284

- Nichols, Edw. T.** Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress. VII, 162
- Nicholson letter**, writer of.. II, 77; XI, 106
- "Niles Register,"** Nicholson letter in.....II, 77
- L. refers to.....I, 334
- Noble, Warren P.**, letter to.. IX, 1
- Noell, —**, of Mo., on emancipationVII, 123
- Noggle, Chas. L.**, cashiered.. VII, 308
- Nolin Creek, Ky.**, Lincoln born on.....VI, 39
- Norfolk, Va.**, blockade raised.. X, 272
- capture of.....VII, 245
- Crumpton executed at..... X, 74
- destitution in.....IX, 62
- military occupation of..... X, 322
- "Monitor's" passage to.... VII, 129
- order concerning blockade at.....VIII, 74
- re-opening of port of..... X, 288
- seizure of Navy Yard at.. VI, 306
- Sigel in command at..... VII, 209
- U. S. purchasing agency at X, 230
- Wright, Dr., tried at..... IX, 114
- North**, arrayed against South.. III, 222
- divided sentiment in..VI, 213
- electoral strength of...V, 7
- L. underrated by..VII, xvii
- moral principle in...II, 303
- negro troops raised in..... VIII, 288
- new hope in.....VII, 89
- numerical superiority of... V, 220
- responsibility of for slavery VIII, 120
- position on slave trade..... III, 226
- Presidential greed in..... II, 306
- reason for negro immigration to.....VIII, 128
- sectionalism alleged of..... II, 306
- slavery question in..VII, 127
- Southern opinion of..VI, 216
- "North American Review,"** article in.....IX, 284
- North Anna**, Grant on..X, 107
- North Carolina**, acts of rebellion in.....VI, 257
- cession of Tenn..... II, 193; V, 298
- contested election case in.. I, 258
- declared in insurrection.... VI, 346; VII, 251; VIII, 156, 161, 240, 241
- Federal recruiting in..... VI, 356

- North Carolina** (*contd.*)
 — — sentiment in....VII, 54
 — free-negro vote in...II, 326
 — Lincoln family in.....
 II, 180; VI, 24
 — N. Y. meeting for..VII, 20
 — order to employ contrabands
 in.....VII, 287
 — ports of, blockaded.....
 VI, 257; IX, 135
 — re-construction in..IX, 222
 — Rowan's services in.....
 VII, 267
 — Stanley gov. of...VII, 212
 — Union sentiment in.....
 VI, 195, 305
- Northampton County, Va.**,
 paroles in.....IX, 90
 — lays down arms...VII, 54
See also, Accomac County,
 Va.
- Northwest Territory**, ac-
 quirement of.....V, 223
 — Jefferson on government in
 V, 167, 168
 — Indian outbreak in.....
 VIII, 215
 — slavery in.....II, 194
 — — prohibited in...XI, 109
 — States formed from..II, 193
 — Va. original owner of.....
 V, 224
- Norton, —**, fraud upon.....
 II, 272; III, 308; IV, 280,
 385.
- Norton, J. O.**, signs call for
 Whig convention....II, 154
- Norton, Milt. D.**, discharge..
 X, 257
- Norway**; *see* Sweden and Nor-
 way.
- Norwich, Conn.**, Lincoln at..
 VI, 1
- Nueces Desert**, property of
 MexicoVI, 36
 — Taylor's march across.....
 II, 24
- Nueces River**, boundary ques-
 tion of.....I, 331
- Nullification question**, Clay's
 part in.....II, 170, 171
 — disturbing element...V, 78
 — slavery at bottom of..V, 54
 — Whigs aid in suppression of
 V, 20
- Nullification rebellion**, how
 checkedVI, 215
- O**
- "O Captain, My Captain"**
 by Walt Whitman...IX, lxxv
- Oaks, —**, Col., reports riots...
 X, 168
- Oath of allegiance**, adminis-
 tration of...IX, 303; X, 333
 — prisoners take.....X, 44
- Occoquan River**, movement
 onVII, 94
- O'Conner, Hen.**, letter to....
 II, 299
- Ocracoke, N. C.**, blockaded..
 XI, 80
- Odell, M.**, finds Fowler.....
 X, 178

- Officers;** *See* Army and Navy officers.
- Official duty,** view of. VIII, 16
- Offutt, Denton,** contract of.. VI, 30
- employs L.....VI, 29
- failure of.....VI, 31
- Oglesby, R. I., Gen.,** inquiries aboutVIII, 56
- Ohio,** Democrats defeated.... V, 335
- — Douglas aids....V, 140
- election, 1863.....IX, 169
- — 1864.....X, 241
- invitation to.....V, 138
- movement to repeal fugitive-slave law.....V, 132
- national guard, services of X, 220
- Republican party, L. called to aid.....V, 140
- — State convention, 1859, platform of.....V, 136
- troops, call for 30,000..... VIII, 318
- — offers 30,000 infantry... X, 82
- — hundred-day, thanks to X, 219
- Vallandigham's arrest..... VIII, 278
- Ohio delegation,** reply to.... X, 121
- Ohio legislature,** address to.. VI, 121
- invitation of to make address toVI, 107
- Ohio regiment,** remarks to... X, 123
- 12th, pardon for soldiers of X, 70
- 148th, address to....X, 208
- 164th, address to....X, 199
- 166th, address to....X, 202
- Ohio river,** Morgan's defense ofVIII, 55
- Ohio "Statesman,"** attacks L.,V, 141
- Okolona,** enemy in...VII, 205
- "Old horse** turned out to root,"II, 70
- "Old horses and military coat-tails"**II, 70
- "Old Rough-and-Ready,"**... II, 26
- Old Sangamon,** flatboat on... VI, 30
- See also* Sangamon river.
- Old Whig party,**.....V, 95
- "Old Zach,"** L.'s interest in.. II, 50
- speeches on.....II, 50
- Olden, Chas. S.,** Gov. of N. J. letter to.....VI, 106
- requests L. to call for volunteers.....VII, 249
- Olustee, Fla.,** negro troops at X, 191
- O'Neill, —,** Capt.,.....X, 75
- O'Neill, John,** letter to..IX, 1
- Opdyke, Geo.** letter to..... IX, 215
- money advanced by..... VII, 192

- Opdyke, Geo. (contd.)**
 — recommends Dennison..... VI, 274
- Oquawka, Ill., Lincoln at...**
 V, 94
- Oporto, Portugal, exhibition at** XI, 34
- Oratory of Lincoln,.....**
 I, xv, xvii
- Ord, E. O. C., Gen., breaks Confederate lines....** XI, 68
 — dispatches messenger, X, 348
 — engagement of..... XI, 67
 — Hampton Roads conference XI, 13, 14, 15
 — Stanley's execution suspended..... X, 344
 — telegram to..... XI, 59
- Ordinance of '87.....**
 II, 194; III, 141; V, 167; XI, 109.
 — adoption of..... V, 209, 296
 — how lost..... V, 168
 — slavery prevented in Northwest Territory by... II, 250
 — — resisted by..... V, 184
 — — spread by..... V, 263
 — States admitted under..... V, 169
 — violation of..... V, 170
- Ordinance of secession, in Louisiana** VII, 294
 — — proposed repeal of..... IX, 203
- Oregon, admission of..** III, 295
 — vote of Trumbull on..... III, 294
- Oregon (contd.)**
 — boundary question of. VI, 36
 — commission as Sec. of, declined by L..... II, 130
 — division of..... II, 257
 — governorship of, offered L. II, 129
 — political situation of. VI, 57
- Orr, Jas. L., Speaker of House**
 IV, 359
 — on Kan.-Neb. bill.... VI, 24
 — on slave code..... IV, 359
- Orsini, attempted assassination of.....** V, 319
- Orth, G. S., telegram to X,** 241
- Osgood, —, deserts L..** II, 275
- Osterhaus, P. J., objection to**
 X, 174
- Ottawa, Ill., debate with Douglas at.....** III, 200
- "Our Heroic Themes," by Geo. Hen. Boker..** VIII, liii
- Owen, Robt. Dale, introduced**
 XI, 116
 — presents cavalry.... VI, 292
- Owen, —, dismissed.....** X, 45
- Owens, Mary, letter to,.....**
 I, 17, 52, 55
- Owens, Sam. A. release of...**
 X, 278
- Owensboro, Ky., seizure of...**
 VI, 357
- P**
- Pacific Railroad; see Union Pacific Railroad.**
- Paddock, Orville, indorsement of.....** II, 115

- Paducah, Ky.**, gunboat ordered from.....VI, 357
- Paine, E. A.**, recommended by LincolnV, 94
- Palmer, —**,.....II, 275
- Palmer, John M.**, Gen.,.....
IV, 16
- letter to...II, 187; III, 199
- telegram to for exact copy of order.....XI, 40
- Palmerston, H. J.**, Temple, Viscount, Prime Minister of Eng., L. compared with....
VIII, xlviii
- Pamunkey River**, troops on..
VII, 177
- Panizzi, Ant.**, librarian.....
VIII, 146
- Paraguay**, relations with.....
X, 285
- Pardon**, to deserters....XI, 51
See also, Amnesty; Clemency; Prisoners.
- Paredes, Mariano**, in Mexican war.....II, 24
- Paredes, Victariano de Diego**, charge d' affaires.....
VIII, 189
- Paris, Ill.**, fragments of speech at on Nebraska bill..XI, 105
- Parke, John G.**, Gen., breaks Confederate lines....XI, 68
- Hampton Roads conference
XI, 13
- Parker, Joel**, Gov. of N. J., appeal of.....IX, 125
- letter to.....IX, 13
- — on draft.....IX, 42
- Parker, Joel** (*contd.*)
- N. J., letter on raising troops in.....IX, 35
- Parks, —**, Judge.....II, 272
- Parole of prisoners**; *See* Prisoners.
- Parrott, —**, friendship of....
VI, 7
- Parrott gun**, letter to Hooker onVIII, 296
- Parsons, Geo. M.**, interested in publishing Ohio speeches
V, 289
- letter to.....V, 285
- Partizanship**, complaint of...
I, 176
- Party exigency**, requirements ofII, 79
- Paschall, N. P.**, letter to.....
VI, 70
- Passage of lines**, for Southern productsXI, 37
- Patent**, application of Lincoln forII, 120
- office, decline in receipts of
VII, 45
- Paterson, Wm.**, vote on slaveryV, 297
- Patrick, —**, Gen., Baldwin referred to.....X, 201
- Patriotism of Lincoln** praised
VII, 127
- Patriots**, value of.....X, 264
- Patten, Geo.**.....VIII, 146
- Patten, Geo. Evans**, letter to
XI, 119
- Patterson, Robt.**, Maj.-Gen., force strengthened..VI, 332

- Patuxent River landings, negro troops at.....IX, 179
- “Pawnee,” steamer....VI, 226
- Paxton, E. F., Gen., death reportedVIII, 263
- Paymasters, temptations of...
VIII, 227
- Paymaster-General, letter to
X, 134
- Pay-system in the Army.....
VIII, 227
- Peabody, Chas. A., Judge in La.VIII, 65
- Peace, announcement on terms ofX, 161
- desire for.....
VI, 161, 164; IX, 101
- L.’s terms of.....XI, 31
- memoranda on.....XI, 71
- proposals for.....X, 204
- prospect of.....X, 159
- secured by gradual emancipation.....VIII, 124, 129
- Pearce, J. A., Sen., appeal of
VII, 237
- “Pearl,” British vessel...X, 18
- Pearl River, Miss., blockade..
XI, 80
- Peay, —, Mrs., message to....
I, 180
- Peck, —,.....II, 291
- Peck, —, Gen., telegram to...
VIII, 333
- Peck, J. M., Rev., letter to....
II, 23
- Peekskill, N. Y., address at..
VI, 145
- Peirpoint, F. H., Gov. of Va., called to Washington.XI, 78
- confidence in.....
IX, 63; X, 321
- conference with Foster....
IX, 62
- letter to.....IX, 131
- requests L. to call for volunteers.....VII, 250
- telegrams to.....
VIII, 26; X, 182
- Pemberton, John C., Gen., defeated.....VIII, 281
- Pendleton, Edw., on slave tradeVIII, x
- Pendleton, Geo. H., letter to
IX, 1
- Pennsylvania, abolition in....
V, 8
- delegation, reply to.XI, 116
- Democratic defeat in.V, 335
- election 1863.....IX, 169
- — 1864.....X, 241
- factions in.....VI, 54
- guarded.....VIII, 261
- invasion of.....
VIII, 25; XI, 40
- legislature, address to....
VI, 162
- — invitation to....VI, 109
- Lincoln family in.....
II, 15; V, 287; VI, 24, 57
- militia called out.....
VIII, 23, 318
- — loyalty of.....VI, 99
- private messengers pass through.....VII, 192

- Pennsylvania** (*contd.*)
- raid in.....VIII, 261, 322
 - Republicans, importance of, to.....V, 257
 - Reserve Corps presents Meade with sword..IX, 106
 - telegram to Curtin on safety of.....VIII, 257
 - troops, Curtin asks for....VIII, 25
- Pensacola, Fla., blockaded....**
X, 272
- re-opening of.....X, 288
 - salute ordered.....X, 214
 - U. S. purchasing agency at X, 230
- Pension office, demands on, increased**VII, 45
- rolls, additions to...X, 301
- Pensions, disbursements, 1862**
X, 292
- soldiers and sailors, payment of.....X, 301
 - suspension of.....VII, 45
- People, authority of....**V, 279
- faith in.....V, v
 - rights of.....X, 50, 51
- Peoria, Ill., speech at.....**
II, 191; III, 225
- Perkins, Geo. F., sentenced..**
IX, 189
- "Perry," position of..**VII, 215
- Perrymans, John D., letter to**
X, 248
- Person of Lincoln, Sumner's description of....**IX, xxxix
- "Perthshire," case of..**VII, 32
- Peru, claims of.....**IX, 272
- efforts for peace....X, 285
 - joint commission with....IX, 226
 - relations with U. S..X, 284
- Petersburg, Va., action near..**
XI, 64
- blockade of.....XI, 80
 - evacuation of....XI, 70, 84
 - Grant at.....XI, 67, 68
 - L. visits.....XI, 70
- Pettit, John., Sen., declarations of.....**IV, 200
- Dec. of Ind. declared a lie V, 37
- Peyton, Bailie, letter to.....**
X, 248
- Pharasaism, warning against.**
XI, 117
- Phelps, —, case of.....**I, 153
- Phelps, John S., U. S. Rep., raises troops.....**VI, 339
- Phelps, J. W., Gen., removal from La.....**VII, 292
- report on fugitive negroes VII, 258
- Philadelphia, Pa., address at..**
VI, 159
- — in Independence Hall..VI, 156
 - anxiety on situation in....VIII, 22
 - Brooks, Phillips, sermon on L. at.....VI, v
 - Lee's desire to capture....IX, 28
 - L. at.....XI, x

Philadelphia (*contd.*)

- Navy Yard to arm steamers to defend.....VII, 190
- negro troops raised in.....VIII, 331
- nomination of Taylor at....II, 26
- partizanship of postmaster at.....X, 132
- reply to Mayor of...VI, 154
- Republican party, first national convention at.....IV, 311
- Sanitary Fair.....X, 109
- — L.'s speech at.....X, 127
- salute ordered.....X, 214
- Whig convention, 1847....V, 76
- Phillips, Wendell**, abolition radicalIV, 347
- Phillips, John**, letter to.X, 276
- Phillips, Dr.**, nomination of..IX, 44
- Phillips, J. A.**, letter to.....VI,, 108
- Piatt, John Jas.**, consulate for XI, 47
- "Sonnet in 1862"..V, xxxiii
- "**Picayune**," *see* New Orleans.
- Pickering, W.**, Gov. of Wy., telegram to.....X, 219
- Pickett, Geo. E.**, letter to....I, 191
- Pickett, Thos. J.**, proposes Lincoln for presidency.....V, 127
- suspended.....VIII, 251

Pickett, Thos. J. (*contd.*)

- testimony against....X, 80
- Pickett's brigade**, moving toward Tenn.....IX, 135
- Pierce, Franklin**, Pres. of the U. S.....II, 293
- Democratic nomination for Pres.....IV, 166
- high character of..III, 331
- Pierce, H. L.**, invites L. to BostonV, 124
- Pierrepont, Edwards**, Hon., commissioner.....VII, 109
- Pike, J. S.**, U. S. minister to HagueVII, 140
- Pinckney, —**, Prof.....II, 272
- Pinckney, Chas.**, Constitutional Father.....V, 300
- Piqua, O.**, Indian agency at...II, 81
- Piracy**, slave-trade so declared II, 246
- See also*, Privateers.
- Pirates**, capture of.....VII, 33
- Pitts, —**, Judge, of Eastern Va.X, 20
- Pittsburg, Pa.**, address at...VI, 124
- salute ordered.....X, 214
- Platforms**; *see* Political platforms.
- Platt, P. W.**,.....IV, 51
- Pleasanton, —**, Gen., dispatch fromIX, 18
- Plymouth Church**, Brooklyn, N. Y., Beecher's sermon on LincolnX, v

- Plymouth church (*contd.*)
 — L. invited to speak in.....
 V. 293; VI. 8
- Plymouth, N. C., blockade of.
 XI. 80
 — evacuation of.....X, 260
- "Pocahontas," steamer, under
 sailing orders.....VI, 226
- Poetry, difference between
 feeling and expression.....
 I. 291
 — of L., estimate of...I. xvii
 — on Matthew Gentry...I. 295
 — on early Indiana life...I. 291
- Point Lookout, Md. Com. of.
 sends prisoner to L.....
 IX. 272, 274
 — discharge of prisoners at..
 VIII. 167; XI. 129
- Police Regulations in La....
 VII. 295
- Policy; *see* Expediency.
- Political creeds, Douglas on..
 IV. 11
 — — must be uniform...V. 4
 — education.....VI. 129
 — equality,
 II. 207; III. 309; IV. 254;
 XI. 131
 — excitement, 1860.....
 VI. 125, 130, 131, 155
 — freedom.....VI, 120
 — platform.....V, 276
 — system, L. on.....V, 276
 — powers, how derived.....
 VIII. 157
 — principle.....V, 115
- Political (*contd.*)
 — sagacity of L.....
 VII, xvii, xxvi
 — sentiments.....VI, 157
 — toasts to L.....I, 14
 — views of L.....I, 14
- Politicians, character of...I. 27
- Polk, Jas. K., Pres., attitude
 on Mexican War, etc.....
 I. 318, 327, 328, 330, 336,
 338, 341, 342, 344
 — comparison with Kent.....
 II, 41
 — internal improvement bills,
 objection to.....II. 68
 — — position on.....II, 30
 — — quotation on.....II, 38
 — veto of.....II. 38, 67
 — message May 11, 1846.....
 I. 318
 — — Dec. 8, 1846.....I. 330
 — nicknames of.....II. 73
 See also, Mexico; Mexican
 War.
- Pollock, Jas., letter to..VI, 344
- Pomeroy, S. C., Sen., circular
 by,
 X, 19, 29
 — committee of.....X, 25
 — complaints of,
 IX, 40
 — letter to.....X, 98
- Pope, John, Maj.-Gen.,
 achievements of...VII, 145
 — British territory, instructed
 not to cross.....VIII, 244
 — Bull Run disaster.....X, 3
 — deportations of.....XI. 33
 — Fisk investigated....XI, 35

Pope, John (*contd.*)

- in charge of Capital.....
VII, 235
- McClellan's position, views
onVII, 235
- provost-marshal system, in-
vestigatesXI, 35
- — ordered to correct abuses
ofXI, 33
- St. Louis, assessments in..
XI, 48
- — society opposed to.....
IX, 267
- telegram to, approving Mo.
planXI, 59
- — on conviction of Indians
VIII, 73
- Whiting, release of..XI, 39
- Pope, Nath., Judge, letter to..**
II, 124
- resolutions on death..II, 135
- Popular government, strength
of**X, 264
- Popular sovereignty..III, 23**
- African slave trade revived
byV, 137
- danger to Republican party
inV, 137
- definition of.....
III, 161; V, 149
- destruction of.....III, 138
- domestic matters not re-
lated to.....III, 161
- Douglas on...III, 160, 162
- exercise of, in Ill..III, 141
- ill-feeling caused by.....
III, 352

Popular sover'ty (*contd.*)

- L.'s contempt for..III, 184
- meaning of.....XI, 105
- plausibility ofVI, 4
- Quixotism of.....III, 161
- real and false..V, 149, 261
- relation to slavery..III, 161
- slavery kept out of Kan. by
III, 89
- — nationalized by...V, 137
- Population of U. S..VIII, 121**
- anticipated
VI, 160; VII, 59, 60
- from first to last census....
VII, 59
- in 1861.....VIII, 121
- increase rapid and inevita-
ble.....V, 254
- increase of, to share burden
of emancipation..VIII, 121
- ratio of increase by decades
VIII, 122, 123
- slave, in 1850.....II, 220
- Porter, —, in Fisher murder
case**:I, 174
- letter to.....II, 278
- Porter, D. D., Adm., confiden-
tial instructions to..VI, 232**
- Ellet reports to....VIII, 73
- order to.....VI, 232
- thanks of Congress to.....
VII, 162, 268; VIII, 208
- under orders of Navy Dept.
VI, 272
- Porter, Fitz-John, Gen.,.....**
VII, 157
- court-martialed...VIII, 186

- Porter, Fitz-John** (*contd.*)
 — defeats Branch....VII, 195
 — indorsement on sentence of
 VIII, 199
 — questions and answers....
 VII, 265
 — relieved.....VIII, 73
- Port Hudson, La., Bank's**
 operations at..VIII, 291, 292
 — negro troops at.....X, 191
- Port Royal, N. C., purchasing**
 agency at.....X, 230
- Portsmouth, Va., destitution**
 inIX, 62
- Portugal, Barney, minister to**
 X, 6
 — cultivation of cotton.VII, 110
 — Harvey, J. E., U. S. minister to.....V, 61
 — invitation to Oporto exhibition.....XI, 34
- Postal service, efficiency of...**
 VIII, 105
 — legislation for benefit of...
 VIII, 106
 — treason in.....VII, 101
- Postmaster-General, dismissal**
 from Cabinet.....X, 157
 — letter to.....II, 109
 — — on post-master at Tiffin,
 O.....VII, 151
 — report of, 1861.....VII, 43
 — views of.....X, 297
See also, Blair, Montgomery.
- Postmasterships, distribution**
 ofIX, 42
- Post Office Dept., conduct of**
 commendedX, 229
 — extravagance of.....I, 133
 — improvement in...VIII, 104
 — increasing business..IX, 239
 — resignation of Blair.X, 228
 — statistics of, 1861.....
 VIII, 104, 105
 — — 1863.....IX, 240
 — subscriptions through.....
 II, 4, 5
 — summary of condition of..
 VII, 43
- Potomac Campaign, inquiries**
 aboutVII, 24
- Potomac River, Confederates**
 crossIX, 22
 — Jackson crosses.....
 VIII, 27, 28
 — Lee's escape across.IX, 39
 — McClellan begins to cross..
 VIII, 68
See also, Army of the Potomac.
- Potter, Howard, letter to....**
 XI, 42
- Poughkeepsie, N. Y., address**
 atVI, 142
 — Douglass at.....IV, 169
- Poverty of Lincoln.....**
 I, 268; III, 209; IV, viii; V,
 x, 93, 138; VI, 32.
- Powell, E. N., signs resolutions**
 on death of Judge
 Nath. Pope.....II, 137
- Powell, Lazarus W., Sen.,...**
 VIII, 210, 211

- Price, Winifred E., Mrs.**, remains in Mo.....X, 345
- Prices**, effect of duties upon...
I, 301
- Prickett, —**, execution suspendedIX, 278
- Priest, —**, paid by L....I, 317
- Principle**, political, necessity of uniting upon.....V, 115
- Prison depots**, recruiting in..
X, 228
- Prisoners**, political, amnesty toVII, 100
- excluded from amnesty may apply for clemency...X, 59
- Order No 2, on....VII, 108
- released on parole.VII, 103
- Prisoners of war** from Corinth army.....VII, 260
- discharge of.VIII, 167; X, 44
- — in Tenn...VII, 212, 213
- — on representations.....
XI, 50
- — taking oath.....XI, 50
- Halleck on parole of.....
VIII, 53
- L.'s sympathy for..X, 40-48
- Privateers**, Confederate use of
VI, 308
- treatment of.....VI, 283
See also, Blockade; Piracy; Prizes.
- Prize courts**, standing of.....
IX, 225
- Prize property**, sale of.X, 296
- Prizes**, detention of crews of..
XI, 128
- Prizes** (*contd.*)
- number of.....IX, 236
- recapture of.....VII, 33
- value of.....IX, 236
- Proclamation**, admission of Nev., Oct. 31, 1864..X, 257
- — W. Va., Apr. 20, 1863..
VIII, 250
- on rebellion, July 25, 1861..
VII, 291
- aliens, May 8, 1863.VIII, 266
- amnesty, Mar. 26, 1864....
X, 58
- — and reconstruction, Dec. 8, 1863.....IX, 218
- — to soldiers, Mar. 10, 1863
VIII, 224
- blockade, Apr. 19, 1861....
VI, 248
- — Apr. 27, 1861....VI, 256
- — Feb. 18, 1864....X, 14
- — Nov. 19, 1864....X, 272
- — Apr. 11, 1865....XI, 79
- by Gen. Hunter, May 17, 1862.....VII, 167
- — Gov. Johnson, Jan. 28, 1864.....X, 21
- call for 75,000 militia, Apr. 15, 1861.....VI, 246
- — volunteers, May 3, 1861
VI, 263
- — 300,000 volunteers, Oct. 17, 1863.....IX, 172
- — 500,000 volunteers, July 18, 1864.....X, 164
- — 300,000 volunteers, Dec. 19, 1864.....X, 316

Proclamation (contd.)

- commerce, Jan. 10, 1865....
X, 336
- commercial intercourse,
Apr. 2, 1863.....VIII, 240
- — regulations, Aug. 18,
1864.....X, 197
- convening Senate, Feb. 28,
1863.....VIII, 219
- — Feb. 17, 1865....XI, 35
- on discriminating duties,
Dec. 16, 1863.....IX, 260
- emancipation; *see* Emanci-
pation Proclamation.
- Indiana, Mar. 17, 1865.....
XI, 57
- intercourse with rebel
States, Aug. 16, 1861.....
VI, 345
- military emancipation re-
voked, May 19, 1862.....
VII, 170
- national day of prayer, July
7, 1864.....X, 149
- — fast day, Apr. 12, 1861..
VI, 341
- — — Mar. 30, 1863.....
VIII, 235
- — Thanksgiving day, July
15, 1863.....IX, 32
- — — Oct. 3, 1863..IX, 151
- — — Sept. 3, 1864..X, 211
- — — Oct. 20, 1864..X, 245
- opening of ports, Apr. 11,
1865.....XI, 82, 83
- — port of Alexandria, Va.,
Sept. 24, 1863.....IX, 135

Proclamation (contd.)

- — — Key West, Fla., Apr.
11, 1865.....XI, 81
- pardon to deserters, Mar.
11, 1865.....XI, 51
- raising blockade, May 12,
1862.....VII, 158
- reconstruction, July 8, 1864
X, 152
- suspending writ of habeas
corpus, Sept. 24, 1862.....
VIII, 41
- — Sept. 15, 1863...IX, 121
- — July 5, 1864.....X, 144
- — in Fla., May 10, 1861...
VI, 271
- taxes in southern States,
July 1, 1862.....VII, 251
- thanksgiving for victories,
Apr. 10, 1862.....VII, 144
- U. S. vessels of war in for-
eign ports, Apr. 11, 1865...
XI, 82, 83
- Washington's birthday, Feb.
19, 1862.....VII, 107
- Products** of insurrectionary
StatesX, 230
- Property**, freedom to acquire..
V, 361
- public opinion based on....
V, 330
- rights of.....VII, 285, 288
- — respected.....X, 54
See also, Confiscation of
property.
- Prosperity**, diffusion of..I, 245
- Protection**, discussion of..I, 300

- Protection** (*contd.*)
 — suggested position of Taylor on.....II, 56
 — supposed cases of....I, 302
 — Whig views on.....I, 244
- Protective War Claim Association**, of the Sanitary CommissionXI, 42
- Protest against slavery**, resolutionsVI, 33
- Providence**, Lincoln's belief in
 I, 219; X, 280
 — — trust in.....
 VI, 110, 119, 121, 123, 133, 151, 160, 183, 184; IX, xviii; X, 215; XI, 10
- "Providencia," bark**...VII, 88
- Provost-marshal**, abuses of,..
 XI, 35
 — control of churches by..X, 4
 — outrages of.....XI, 33
 — report of, on draft..IX, 103
 — selection of, in O.VIII, 223
 — trouble with N. J..VIII, 258
- Prussian vessels**, duties on...
 IX, 260
- Pryor, Rog. A.**,....V, 272, 358
 — authorship of.....V, 215
 — brought to Washington....
 V, 215
 — objections to exchange of..
 XI, 39
 — — re-imprisonment..XI, 40
- Public address**, Lincoln's last, Apr. 11, 1865.....XI, 84
- Public credit**, support of.....
 IX, 233
- Public debt**, in 1861,..VII, 34
 — 1863.....X, 293 294
 — interest on.....VIII, 103
 — time as a reducer of.....
 VIII, 124
- Public defense**, organization ofVII, 190
- Public discussion**, rights of..
 VIII, 309
- Public domain**, right to.....
 II, 104
- Public dues**; *see* Currency.
- Public improvements**, advantage of.....II, 35
 — inequality of.....II, 37
 — Jefferson on.....II, 38
- Public lands**, Collamer on reserved sections of.....II, 18
 — enhancement in value.....
 I, 109; II, 19
 — grant of, to States..II, 101
 — L.'s remarks on..II, 18, 101
 — principle of disposal of...
 IX, 241
 — receipts from, 1861-1862...
 VIII, 103
 — — 1863.....X, 292
 — report of Secy. of Int.....
 VIII, 106
 — — on purchase of.....I, 92
 — sale of.....
 I, 15; VII, 45; VIII, 87;
 IX, 241; X, 299
 — small parcels favored.....
 VI, 120
- Public money**, application of..
 II, 38, 39

Public money (contd.)

- expense of handling..I, 111
- L.'s plan to apportion.II, 47
- method of handling..I, 105
- profit of handling....I, 109
- See also*, Banks; Currency;
 Finance; Greenbacks; Loans;
 Money.

Public officers, benefit of.....

- I, 105
- defalcations of.....I, 113

Public opinion, authority of..

- II, 310
- debauchery of..V, 189, 350
- dissatisfaction at loss of life
 in 1864.....X, 164
- during election of 1864....
 X, 117
- government rests upon.....
 II, 310
- policy founded upon.V, 331
- property basis of....V, 330
- questions settled by..V, 331
- supreme force of...III, 252;
 IV, 222, 224; V, 188

Public order, maintenance of.

- VI, 92

Public property, in Confeder-

- ate States.....VI, 299

Publicity, justice of.....I, 16

Puget Sound Company,

- claims of.....X, 40, 289
- Gunn appointed at.....
 VIII, 273
- Smith removed at.VIII, 270

Purnell, W. H., telegram to..

- X, 269

Purple, Norman H., election

- case of.....I, 153
- endorses L.'s bill....II, 289
- signs resolutions on death
 of Judge Nath. Pope.....
 II, 136

Q

Quaker ancestry, Lincoln's....

- II, 15; V, 286; VI, 24

Queen, Walt. W., Lt.-Com.,

- thanks of Congress to.....
 VII, 162

Quincy, Ill., Douglas' reply at

- IV, 335
- L. at.....VI, 45
- L.'s rejoinder at....IV, 373

Quincy, Josiah, letter to.....

- IX, 118

Quito, Ecuador, convention

- signed at.....X, 40

Quoits, Lincoln's skill at....

- III, 209

R

Race amalgamation, Douglas

- onIII, 92

Radford, Reub., affidavit of..

- I, 67

Raids, Confederate..VIII, 216

Railroad, to Washington, con-

- struction of.....VIII, 198
- to Springfield, expediency of
 I, 2
- near Knoxville, scheme to
 cut.....VII, 106
- military, possession of.....
 VII, 184

- Railroad** (*contd.*)
 — between Richmond and Frederick, condition of.... VIII, 270
 — speech on grants to..II, 101
- Rails**, Lincoln mauls...V, 361
- Ramsey**, —, Maj., note to.... XI, 120
- Ramsey**, Alex., Gov. of Minn., letter to.....VIII, 18
 — requests L. to call for volunteers.....VII, 250
- Randall**, —, execution suspendedXI, 37
- Randall**, A. W., Gov., suggests vacation for Lincoln.. X, 189
 — transmits Robinson's letter to.....X, 193
- Randolph**, —, pardoned..X, 49
- Randolph**, Edm., Atty.-Gen., on U. S. Bank.....II, 60
- Randolph**, Geo. W., member of committee from Va. State conventionVI, 243
- Randolph**, John, reports violation of Ordinance of '87.. V, 170
- Randolph**, W. M., pardoned.. X, 29
- Rankin**, Dav., transfer of.... I, 10
- Ranney**, Nat., in McPheeters caseIX, 269
- Ransom**, Geo. D., Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress to..... VII, 162
- Rapides Parish**, La., destitution in.....X, 227
- Rappahannock**, advice to Hooker on.....VIII, 292
 — Burnside's plan for crossing VIII, 165
 — gunboats on.....VIII, 89
 — Hooker's retreat across.... VIII, 263
 — McDowell on.....VII, 147
 — transportation provided on. VII, 213
 — troops on.....VIII, 213
- Rappahannock Station**, Va., Meade's success at..IX, 204
- Ravillac**, fate of.....IX, lvi
- Rawley**, Geo. A., cashiered... VII, 308
- Ray**, C. H., Dr.,.....II, 357
 — electedII, 271
 — letter to.....XI, 111
 — reports debates....XI, 112
- Raymond**, Hen. J., letter to.. VI, 74
 — explanation of Greeley correspondence.....X, 192
 — letter to.....VI, 83
 — peace mission of....X, 204
- Read**, Geo., Constitutional FatherV, 299
 — vote on slavery.....V, 297
- Read**, Thos. Buchanan, "Sheridan's Ride"....X, 251
- "Rebecca"**, Lincoln's pseudonymI, 231
- Rebel depredations**, assessments for.....X, 253, 255

- Rebel depredations** (*contd.*)
 — prisoners, *see* Prisoners of war.
 — States, forbidding intercourse with forbidden. VI, 345
- Rebellion**, difference from secession VI, 312
 — “sugar coated”..... VI, 313
- Reciprocity**, with Can.. X, 290
 — with Sandwich Islands.... IX, 304
See also, Treaties.
- Recommendation**, for office.. II, 106, 123
 — letter of L. asking.. II, 123
- Reconstruction**, Cabinet approves plan of..... XI, 86
 — differences on..... XI, 85
 — difficulties of..... IX, 248
 — in Arkansas..... X, 11
 — in La..... IX, 282; XI, 91
 — in Tennessee..... IX, 116
 — policy of..... VIII, 80
 — proclamation on.... X, 152
 — Sickles makes tour on. X, 9
- Rectortown, Va.**, McDowell at VII, 204
- Reddick, Wm.**,..... IV, 50
- Red River, Banks’ expedition** on X, 227
- Reed, Alex.**, Rev., letter to... VIII, 217
- Reed, J. H.**, letter to... VI, 60
- Reeder, A. H.**, deception of.. II, 284
- Reeside, Jas.**, mail contractor I, 133, 348
- Refugees**, to be protected..... VIII, 170
- Regulations**; *see*, Commercial regulations.
- Religious denominations**, reply to..... VIII, 28
- Religious feeling**, of Lincoln VIII, 235; X, 270
- Religious freedom**, accompanies prosperity.. VIII, xxxvi
- Remann, —**, recommendation of II, 122
- Renshaw, J. M.**, restraint of.. X, 78
- Renshaw, Wm. B.**, Com. thanks of Congress to..... VII, 162
- Renwick, G. W.**,..... IV, 50
- Representation**, slave basis of V, 48
 — increased by slave population..... II, 233
- Representatives, U. S.**, House of, *see* House of Representatives, U. S.
- “Republican,”** offense of..... VIII, 255
- “Republican, Abraham Lincoln, the Great,”** by Wm. McKinley V, v
- Republican banquet**, L.’s speech at..... II, 308
- Republican Club**, address at, by Frank S. Black... IV, v
 — — Theodore Roosevelt II, v
- Republican institutions**, sustenance of..... II, 5

Repub'n institut'ns (contd.)

— vindication of.....X, xxi

Republican National convention, 1856.....IV, 311

— 1860.....VI, 12

— — Southern representation at.....VI, 43

— — nomination accepted....
VI, 14

Republican party, anti-slavery sentiments of.....VI, 59

— attempts to disrupt..V, 319

— Clay, C. M., canvasses Ill. for.....VI, 47

— conservatism of.....V, 148

— creed of.....V, 1

— Democratic party, difference from.....XI, 107

— determination to win.V, 217

— disadvantages of....III, 155

— divisions in.....V, 131

— Douglas and.....
II, 363; IV, 227, 273

— — anticipates compromise with.....V, 277

— — draws support from....
V, 216

— — endangers success of...
V, 268

— — endeavors to attach....
III, 347

— — influence on..V, 122, 148

— earnestness of.....V, 274

— effort to defeat.....VI, 57

— fear of, to use name.IV, 177

— formation of.....
II, 308; III, 272, 314

Republican party (contd.)

— fugitive-slave law, repeal demanded.....III, 261

— fusion favored by L.....
V, 130, 233

— hostility to South.IV, 7, 12

— Ill., formation in.....
III, 204; XI, 103

— — L. "first, last and only choice"

III, 212; IV, 16, 174

— — prospects in....III, 155

— — represented in legisla-
ture.....III, 156; IV, 11

— — standard bearer in.....
III, 158

— — State Central committee
formed.....II, 264

— L.'s part in campaign of
1854.....III, 225

— — prophecy fulfilled.....
VI, 117

— — zeal to preserve..V, 128

— numbers in 1856.....III, 15

— principles of.....
IV, 328; V, 117, 125, 147

— protests admission of slave
States.....IV, 73

— purpose of.....V, 260, 267

— — danger to.....V, 260

— representatives of, vote for
Crittenden-Montgomery bill

V, 119, 278

— revolutionary ideas denied..
V, 313

— sectionalism of.....
IV, 4, 246, 269, 349; V, 28

- Republican party** (*contd.*)
- — denied V, 310
 - slavery, opposes extension of.....III, 63
 - — — in D. of C..... III, 63, 262
 - — — paramount issue in..... V, 339
 - — position, on..... V, 119; XI, 107
 - — purpose to prevent..... V, 181
 - Southern apprehension of.. IV, 2; VI, 170
 - — man desired on national ticket.....V, 234, 273
 - struggle against Lecompton constitution.....III, 62, 163
 - success of, course in event of.....V, 218
 - — disunion threatened by.. V, 219
 - — L. enlisted for....V, 257
 - temper of.....V, 268
- Republican platform, 1854...**
- III, 205; IV, 336
 - — Lincoln denies part in.. III, 224
 - 1856.....III, 337
 - 1860.....VI, 15
- Republican position, Whig adherence to.....II, 69**
- Republican State Central committeeII, 264**
- Republican State convention, Ill., 1854.....III, 279**
- 1856..III, 1; IV, 16, 43, 311
- Repub'n state conv'n** (*cont.*)
- 1858, L. appeals to.III, 133
- Retaliation, order of...IX, 48**
- Revenue, collection and disbursement of.....I, 102**
- deficiency in.....I, 245
 - internal, receipts from, 1863 X, 292
 - postal, receipts from, 1864.. X, 297
 - proposal to collect in specie I, 103
 - service, treason in,VII, 101
 - Whig position on....I, 245
- See also, Treasury U. S.*
- Revolution of 1775, see, American Revolution.**
- Revolution, right of....I, 339**
- effect of.....I, 339
- Reynolds, John, Gov. of Ill.,...**
- I, 252
 - acts in Morton case..... IX, 287
 - delegate.....IV, 42
 - opposes Douglas..... IV, 169, 170
 - supports Trumbull....IV, 9
- Rhode Island, abolition of slavery in.....V, 8**
- Butler's proposal to raise troops in.....VI, 352
 - signature to papers of..... VII, 306
 - Sprague, governor of..... VII, 261
- Rice, A. H., presents ox..... X, 261**

- Rice, Elliott W.**, Col..XI, 133
- Richardson, —**, charges L. with Know-nothingism.....
VI, 46
- Richardson, —**, detained at RichmondVIII, 290
- Richardson, Wm. A.**, on Mexican war.....I, 329
- Richmond, Va.**, advice on investment of.....VIII, 297
- Blair's mission to...XI, 11
- blockaded.....XI, 80
- Brooks a prisoner in.....
X, 41, 49
- Burnside's plan for entering VIII, 88, 89
- Campbell in.....XI, 73
- Confederate capitol.....
VI, 306
- evacuation of....XI, 70, 84
- Foote attempts escape from
X, 339
- Frémont urged to move on
VII, 165
- Hooker's plan against.....
VIII, 243
- L.'s plan against..VIII, 263
- — visit to.....
X, 94; XI, 72, 73, 94
- losses in operations against
X, 164
- McClellan's retreat from...
VII, 239
- McDowell ordered to attack
VII, 168
- plan of attack on..VIII, 59
- prayers for Pres. in.XI, 92
- Richmond (contd.)**
- reinforces Jackson.VII, 228
- supplies cut off from.....
VII, 177
- Richmond "Enquirer".....**
V, 272, 358
- "irrepressible conflict" first appears in.....V, 215
- issue revealed by...IV, 200
- "State equality" in..II, 310
- Richmond "Sentinel".....**
VIII, 291; X, 31
- Richmond, —**, Dr., candidacy ofII, 271
- Ricketts, J. B.**, Gen., ordered to Manassas.....VII, 194
- Ridgely, Reddick.....**II, 50
- Right and wrong**, slavery a struggle between.....V, 65
- Right, eternal**, makes might...
V, 338
- Rights, of the people....**X, 50
- — enormity against..I, 106
- of property, respect for....
VII, 127; X, 54
- State, *see*, State rights.
- Riney, Zach.**, school of, VI, 26
- Rio Grande**, erection of fort onI, 327
- commencement of hostilities onII, 52
- Texas claims boundary on..
I, 332; VI, 36
- See also*, Mexican War; Mexico.
- Rionese, —**, appeal for, IX, 104
- Riot**, in Coles Co., Ill., X, 141

- Riot (*contd.*)
 — in N. Y. City....VIII, 266
- Ripley, —, Gen., Owen introduced to.....XI, 116
- Ritchie, Geo. Thos...XI, 142
- Rivas, Don Rafael, minister from New Granada.VIII, 189
- River patrol, Rosecrans' plan forVIII, 214
- "River Queen," steamer, Hampton Roads conference onXI, 30
- Rivers, improvement of, under J. Q. Adams.....II, 33
 — tonnage duties for clearing II, 42
See also, Internal Improvements.
- Road, improvement of, under J. Q. Adams.....II, 33
 — location of, by L.....I, 12
 — Jefferson's policy on.II, 38
 — tonnage duties for construction of.....II, 42
See also, Internal Improvements.
- Roberts, J. J., Pres of Liberia VIII, 5
- Roberts, Marsh. O., claim of XI, 131
- Robertson, Geo., draft of letter to.....VIII, 78
 — letter to....II, 78; VIII, 87
- Robinson, —, Lt.-Col., inquiries to.....X, 253
- Robinson, Chas. D., letter to X, 193
- Robinson, H. R., leaves Whig partyII, 49
- Robinson, J. J., witness..... III, 349
- Robinson, John M., Rev., exiledVIII, 173
- Rochester, N. Y., address at VI, 135
- Rockford, Ill., convention at.. III, 311
- Rockingham Co., Va., emigration of L.'s grandfather from V, 286
 — home of Dav. Lincoln.II, 181
 — Lincoln family in..... VI, 24, 57
- Rock Island, Ill., Huidekoper enlists Confederate prisoners atX, 210
- Rock Island Bridge Co., case ofII, 339, 340; XI, 54
- Rockwell, N. J., letter to.... I, 286
- Rogers, A. F., Col., exchanged X, 54
- Rogers, John, Capt., promoted IX, 253
- Rogersville, Tenn., Burnside's loss at.....IX, 204
- Rolling Fork, Ky., home of Lincoln near.....VI, 26
- Rollins, Jas. S., plea for Mo. exilesVIII, 172
- Roman Catholic chaplains, appointment of.....VII, 8
- Romance, early, of Lincoln.. I, 87

- Rooks, Elizabeth, Mrs.**, affidavit in Wright case..... IX, 120
- Roosevelt, R. B.**, letter to... IX, 202
- Roosevelt, Theo.**, on "Lincoln and the Race Problem," II, v
- Roosevelt, Theo.**, letter to.. XI, 42
- Rosecrans, W. S.**, Maj.-Gen., advice asked on Confederate raidsVIII, 216
- advised to hold Kingston road.....IX, 167
- asked to attack.....IX, 154
- — for news of Grant..... VIII, 280, 282
- — to report.....IX, 133
- — to review Ward case... X, 82
- battle of Stone River..... VIII, 227
- Belgian consul, returns papers of.....X, 124
- believes L. dissatisfied with VIII, 254; IX, 107
- Bragg's dispatch repeated to IX, 134
- Brown, investigates complaints of.....X, 134
- Burnside cannot reinforce.. IX, 167
- — relieves.....IX, 141
- Chattanooga to be held by.. IX, 131, 137, 154
- checks dangerous sentiment in North.....IX, 107
- Rosecrans, W. S. (contd.)**
- Corinth troops sent to..... IX, 133
- engagement at Bristow Station reported to....IX, 179
- fails to attack Bragg..... VIII, 284; IX, 66
- Haggard case and..... VIII, 279
- instructions on Hooker and Slocum.....IX, 142
- letters to.VIII, 227; X, 36, 63, 123, 273
- L.'s appreciation of.IX, 107
- Louden sentenced....X, 93
- Missouri, invasion of, repelled.....X, 341
- — prevents outbreak in... IX, 297
- at Murfreesboro, Tenn.... VIII, 173
- orders religious denominations to take oath...X, 63
- ordered to allow soldiers to vote.....X, 235
- popularity of.VIII, 226, 229
- promotion of, imperative... IX, 265
- proposes to patrol river... VIII, 214
- reinforcements for.IX, 137
- Sanderson ordered to join.. X, 19
- Sherman advances to aid of IX, 167
- telegram to..... VIII, 214, 228, 232, 254, 279,

- 280, 282; IX, 132, 133, 134,
142, 178, 207; X, 82, 93,
124, 234
— — on Davies and Mitchell
VIII, 232
— Tennessee, engaged in relief
of.....VIII, 71; IX, 64
— Vallandigham under control
of.....VIII, 278
— wishes to antedate commis-
sion.....VIII, 228
Rosette, John E., letter to...
II, 313
Ross, Dr., Rev., case of,.....
IV, 202
Ross, John, letter to, VIII, 45
Ross, Wm., Col......II, 356
Rough and ready clubs, ad-
vice on.....II, 50
— formation of.....II, 50
Rowan, S. C., Com., thanks of
Congress to.....VII, 267
Ruckel, Dan. E......VII, 131
Rumsey, Anne Maria..X, 29
Running, L.'s excellence in..
III, 209
Russell, Caleb, letter to.....
VIII, 174
Russell, John H., Lt.-Com.,
thanks of Congress to.....
VII, 162
Russell letter, Lee returns...
XI, 62
Russell, Lord John, corre-
spondence on "Trent" affair
VII, 91
— solicitude of.....VI, 277
Russia, Cameron offered minis-
try to.....VII, 80
— Clay, C. M., minister to...
VII, 307
— consul of, dismissed.....
VI, 281
— Emperor of, and "Trent"
affair.....VII, 107
— relations withVIII, xl
— telegraph connection pro-
posed.....VIII, 99
— — to England via..IX, 229
Rutledge, John, supports sla-
veryV, 304
- S**
- "S. B. Carson," steamboat**....
II, 349
Sabbath observance, order for
VIII, 76; XI, 126
"Sabine," movements of.....
VII, 129
— commander of, refuses to
land troops.....VI, 301
Sabine Pass, Tex., cotton
shipped from.....X, 186
Sack, Hen., sentence com-
muted.....X, 106, 107
Sagacity, political, of Lincoln
VII, xvii, xxvi
Sailor's Creek, fight at, XI, 76
Sailors' Fair, at Boston, Mass
X, 260
— ox presented to.....X, 261
Sailors, loyalty of.....VI, 321
St. Albans, Vt., port of entry
X, 337

- St. Augustine, Fla., blockaded** XI, 80
St. Clair Co., Ill. II, 273, 275
St. Genevieve, Mo., slavery in V, 224
St. John's, Fla., blockaded XI, 80
St. Joseph, Mo., disloyal persons armed in IX, 186
St. Louis, Mo., factions in VIII, 250
 — fair at X, 105
 — Frémont's troops in VII, 76
 — Ind. troops in VI, 343
 — insurrection in VII, 75
 — L. at I, 178
 — lynching at I, 39
 — proposed subtreasury at I, 117
 — rebel depredations in X, 255
 — salute ordered at X, 214
 — Sanitary fair in X, 105
St. Louis County, Mo., assessments in XI, 35
St. Louis "Democrat," editor of, arrested IX, 27
St. Louis "Intelligencer," on candidates V, 276
St. Louis of France, Lincoln likened to IX, liii
St. Mark's, Fla., blockaded XI, 80
St. Mary's, Ga., blockaded XI, 80
St. Nicholas Hotel, telegram to IX, 193
St. Thomas, W. I., neutrality of XI, 127
Salem, Ill., Lincoln a grocer in III, 209
 — relocation of road from I, 55
Sales, public land, see Public land sales.
Saloman, Edw., Gov. of Wis., requests L. to call for volunteers VII, 250
Saltmarsh, —, mail contractor I, 348
San Domingo, negro colony at IX, 301
San Francisco, Cal., proposed telegraph to Russia VIII, 99
"San Jacinto," collision of VIII, 132
 — movements of VII, 129
San Salvador, relations with X, 285
Sanders, Geo. N., commissioner X, 160
Sanderson, —, VI, 96
Sanderson, —, Col., ordered to Rosecrans X, 19
Sands, —, charges against IX, 65
Sands, N., letter to IX, 202
Sands, Thos., sentenced IX, 188
Sandwich Islands, treaty with IX, 304
Sandy Hook, communication with X, 142
Sandford, —, letter to II, 278

- Sangamon County**, Ill., address to.....I, 1
 — — literary style of..I, xvi
 — Douglas in.....III, 108
 — L. deputy surveyor of....
 VI, 32
 — — removes to.....V, 288
 — — representative from.....
 II, 269
 — L.'s residence in.....
 II, 15; VI, 30
 — report of road committee..
 I, 12
 — Whig representatives in...
 II, 49
 — Yates' vote in.....II, 273
Sangamon "Journal," Lincoln's speech in.....II, 52
 — postage on.....I, 11
Sangamon River, canoe trip downVI, 30
 — improvement of.....I, 3
 — Lincoln family settles on...
 VI, 29
Sanitary commission, original draft of Eman. Proc. sent..
 IX, 181
 — Protective War Claim Association of.....XI, 42
Sanitary Fair, Baltimore, X, 76
 — benevolent motives of.....
 X, 128
 — inception of movement....
 X, 127
 — in Philadelphia.....X, 109
 — — speech at.....X, 127
 — St. Louis.....X, 105
Sanitary Fair (*contd.*)
 — Washington.....X, 48
Santa Anna, Antonio Lopez de, treaty with..I, 147, 334
Santiago, Chili, church burned atIX, 292
Sarcasm of Lincoln..VIII, 78
Sardinia, Marsh, Geo. P., minister to.....VI, 223
Savannah, Ga., blockaded....
 XI, 80
 — evacuation of.....X, 325
 — Sherman captures...X, 325
Sargent, —,II, 272
Sargent, Hor. Binney, Col., bearer of invitation, VI, 107
Sargent, Nat., candidacy of..
 VI, 269
 — letter to.....VI, 56
Saumenig, Chas., Lt., news desired ofX, 253
Saunders, P. A., signer of invitation to Henry Clay, I, 232
Saxton, Ruf., Gen., at Harper's FerryVII, 199, 206
 — driven from Charleston....
 VII, 199
 — guns sent to.....VII, 185
 — inquiries for Banks.VII, 185
 — telegram to.....VII, 178
Scates, Walt. B., appointment ofX, 60
Schadt, —, Capt., character of
 VIII, 260
 — indorsement of..VIII, 259
Schaefer, Louis, letter to....
 IX, 1

- Scheldt** dues.....X, 332
 — liquidation of.....IX, 226
- Schenck, Robt. C., Gen.,** at
 BaltimoreVIII, 213
 — collects light-house dues...
 IX, 112
 — discourtesy to.....IX, 41
 — elected to Congress...X, 87
 — near Vienna.....VI, 327
 — opinion on elections.IX, 196
 — — on Milroy's position....
 IX, 184
 — order revoked.....IX, 198
 — ordered from Winchester..
 VIII, 316; IX, 12
 — question of transferring
 command.....VII, 224
 — resigns commission...X, 87
 — telegrams to.....
 VIII, 210, 334; IX, 17, 25,
 30, 124, 141, 179
- Schermerhorn, I. M.,** letters
 toX, 221, 223
- Schley, —,** appeal from, X, 179
- Schmedding, F.,** invites Lin-
 colnX, 105
- Schofield, John M., Maj.-Gen.,**
 accused.....IX, 161, 162
 — arrests slaves.....IX, 40
 — Dept. of the Missouri, com-
 mand of.....VIII, 271, 282
 — — — difficulties in retaining
 IX, 268
 — — — relieved from.....
 IX, 264
 — Herron objects to.....
 VIII, 277
- Schofield, J. M. (contd.)**
 — imbecility of.....IX, 161
 — Kansas objects to.....
 IX, 104, 161
 — Lawrence outrage, charged
 with shielding perpetrators
 of.....IX, 161
 — — suggestions to, on.....
 IX, 107, 161
 — letter to, published.IX, 161
 — letters to.....
 VIII, 283, 294, 329; IX, 147,
 186
 — Missouri dissatisfied with..
 IX, 155
 — — elections, order concern-
 ing.....IX, 188; X, 234
 — — — empowered to repress
 violence in.....IX, 176
 — — preserves order in.IX, 148
 — nomination of.....IX, 268
 — recommendations in McKee
 case.....IX, 37
 — supersedes Curtis.VIII, 294
 — telegrams to.....
 VIII, 329; IX, 27, 104, 146,
 150, 154, 204, 205
 — warned against factions....
 VIII, 283
- Schouler, W.,** letter to, II, 100
- Schurz, Carl,** at Mt. Jackson,
 Va.VII, 226
 — correspondence with.....
 VII, 226; VIII, 39, 55, 84,
 176
 — L.'s query as to office for..
 VI, 224

Schurz, Carl (*contd.*)

- — rebuke of.....VIII, 84
- ordered to Washington.....
X, 186
- proposed for Brig.-Gen....
VI, 273
- represents German element
VI, 224
- wishes to leave service....
X, 39, 55
- — remove his division....
VIII, 244

Schuyler County, Ill., home of
RichmondII, 271

Scott, Thos. A., Assist. Sec. of
WarVII, 179

- telegram to.....IX, 150

Scott, W. H. H., Dr., tele-
gram toIX, 120

Scott, Winfield, Gen., disfavor
ofI, 344

- Fort Sumter, opinion on...
VI, 189, 204, 205, 300
- Frémont, consulted on.....
VI, 296
- — orders relief of.VII, 10
- Lyon, consulted on.VI, 356
- habeas corpus, empowered
to suspend.....VI, 258, 295
- Hooker referred to.VI, 293
- letters to...VI, 68, 92, 188,
238; VII, 3, 42
- L. on electoral ticket of...
VI, 37
- L.'s tribute to.....VII, 54
- Meigs recommended by....
VI, 290

Scott, Winfield (*contd.*)

- order to.....VI, 188
- — on Md. leg.....VI, 255
- patriotism of, Blair's opin-
ion on.....VI, 230
- pres. of Bureau for Employ-
ment of Disabled Soldiers..
XI, 42
- recruiting in N. C..VI, 356
- retirement of.....VI, 13 = VII, 113
- views of.....VII, 233
- Whig nominee.....
II, 12; IV, 166

Scrap book, Lincoln-Douglas
debates in.....XI, 111

"Scribner's Magazine," Lin-
coln's letter to Wadsworth..
XI, 131

Scrip, *see*, Confederate scrip.

Scripps, John L., complains of
postmastersX, 168

- defeats Arnold.....X, 141
- telegram to.....X, 141

Sebastian, Wm. K., Sen. from
Ark., offers to resume seat
IX, 51

SebastopolIII, 21

Seceded States, status of....
XI, 87, 88

Secession, act of, needs no re-
pealingIX, 203

- anarchy the essence of.....
VI, 179
- difference from rebellion...
VI, 312
- disintegration the principle
of.....VI, 318

- Secession** (*contd.*)
- doubt on majority being in favor of.....VI, 319
 - “driving out” and “seceding from”.....VI, 318
 - inconsistent with Constitution.....VI, 316
 - issue of.....VI, 304, 313
 - logic of.....VI, 317
 - ordinances of.....VI, 175, 299; VII, 294; IX, 203
 - sophistry of....VI, 313, 314
 - views on.....IX, 203
See also, Federal Union.
- Secrecy**, oath of.....I, 25
- Secretary of State**, letter to II, 106
See also, Seward, W. H.
- Secretary of the Interior**, letters to, II, 107, 112, 115, 122
See also, Smith, Caleb.
- Secretary of the Navy**. *See* Welles, Gideon.
- Secretary of the Treasury**, letter to.....II, 105
See also, Chase, Salmon P.
- Secretary of War**, conference with ScottVI, 92
See also, Cameron, Simon; Stanton, Edwin M.
- Sectionalism**, appeal to..IV, 7
- cause of.....VI, 165
 - elements of.....IV, 4
 - fragment on.....II, 299
 - of Rep. party.....IV, 5
- Sedgewick, John**, Gen., success on Rappahannock.....IX, 204
- Sedition law**, Douglas', V, 325
- Segar, Jos.**, Hon., telegram to IX, 111
- request for exemption.....VIII, 253
- Self government**, negro incapable of.....IV, 23
- Senate, U. S.**, bounty payments, desired to extend... IX, 276
- Cass' speech.....II, 76
 - defection of Southern Senators.....VII, 101
 - Douglas' bill on Territorial population.....III, 295
 - exchange of prisoners, correspondence regarding.....IX, 303
 - extra session, 1865..XI, 35
 - first Northern majority.V, 28
 - Hamlin in.....VI, 44
 - Hampton Roads conference, report of.....XI, 28
 - Kansas troops, report upon capture and treatment of... IX, 282
 - Lane, inquiry on appointment of.....VI, 338
 - L.'s candidacy for.....II, 263; III, 1; IV, 173
 - — defeat for.....II, 274
 - message to.....VI, 221, 225, 334, 335; VII, 149; VIII, 213, 215; IX, 254, 258, 299; X, 32, 36, 93

Senate, U. S. (contd.)

- — on capture of British vessels.....VIII, 204
- — circulation of bank notes VII, 231
- — Court of France, presentation of American citizens to.....VII, 98
- — death of Gen. Ward.... VIII, 213
- — European railway system.....VII, 130
- — exportation of contraband.....VIII, 198
- — Indian outbreaks..... VIII, 139
- — Johnson.....VIII, 151
- — medical officers.VII, 256
- — Mexican affairs..... VII, 182
- — Miles' case.....VII, 66
- — peace negotiations..... VIII, 214
- — seizure of M. Fauchet.. VIII, 137
- — Stone's arrest..VII, 151
- — visit of Henri Mercier.. VIII, 214
- — workingmen of England VIII, 218
- not to be controlled by President.....V, 19
- postpones adjournment.... VII, 278
- power of, to acquire territory.....IV, 292
- report on post office..I, 133

Senate, U. S. (contd.)

- Sandwich Islands, treaty with.....IX, 304
- Santiago, Chili, burning of church at, reported to.... IX, 292
- scheme to secure Shield's place in.....III, 204
- Thirteenth amendment, passage of.....X, 352
- Trumbull's interrogatory to Douglas.....IV, 57
- Senter, Geo. B.**, letter to.... VI, 108
- Sentiments**, political..VI, 157
- Serenades**, response to, Feb. 28, 1861.....VI, 166
- — Sep. 24, 1862...VIII, 43
- — July 7, 1863.....IX, 20
- — May 9, 1864.....X, 95
- — Oct. 19, 1864.....X, 243
- — Nov. 9, 1864.....X, 261
- — Nov. 10, 1864....X, 263
- — Dec. 6, 1864....X, 310
- — Jan. 31, 1865.....X, 352
- Seward, Clarence A.**, assists in recruiting.....VI, 356
- Seward, William H.**, Adams, letter of instructions to.... XI, viii
- advises calling Meigs in counsel.....VI, 227
- — postponement of Emancipation Proclamation...X, 3
- agreement on slavery..... V, 151
- arbitration refused..VI, 254

Seward, W. H. (contd.)

- Auburn, speech at...X, 243
- Burnley's note to....XI, 9
- Cabinet appointment.....
VI, 75
- — popularity of.....VI, 94
- character of.....XI, vi
- consultation on Fremont...
VI, 296
- criticises First Inaugural...
VI, 169
- Douglas attacks.....V, 150
- — denounces.....V, 191
- Eckert reports to....X, 354
- estimate of.....VI, 77
- Fortress Monroe, L. joins at
X, 355
- — order to proceed to.....
X, 351
- Fort Sumter, opinion on...
VI, 192, 227
- Hampton Roads conference
XI, 19, 21, 24, 29
- Hooker's night fight re-
ported to.....IX, 194
- "irrepressible conflict".....
V, 331
- — — attacked for.....
V, 358; VI, 3
- — — not author of..V, 214
- Kan. delegates instructed for
VI, 11
- letters to.....
VI, 91, 94, 102, 168, 185, 186,
189, 191, 223, 267, 269, 330;
VII 6, 115, 135, 212, 240;
VIII, 252

Seward, W. H. (contd.)

- Honolulu commissioner se-
lected by.....VII, 115
- L. corrects dispatch of.....
VI, 277
- L's inaugural drafted by...
I, xxvi
- Lord Lyon, correspondence
with.....VII, 216
- Maryland, refusal to change
route through.....VI, 252
- McClellan characterized by
X, 204
- memorandum for President's
consideration...VI, 234, 236
- notes to.....
IX, 213, 214; XI, 47
- opinion of L.....V, xxvi
- opinion on U. S. mails.....
VIII, 252
- Oporto exhibition, note con-
cerning.....XI, 34
- ordered to pay Meigs.....
VI, 239
- position on Douglas.....
II, 363
- prospects of.....VI, 10
- resignation refused.....
VI, 185; VIII, 148
- telegrams to.....
VII, 245; IX, 194, 199; X,
259, 261
- thrown from carriage.....
XI, 73
- views on the war..VII, 240
- — Emancipation Proclama-
tion.....X, 2

- Seward, W. H.** (*contd.*)
 — Walker referred to..VII, 6
 — Whig party, attempt of, to abolitionize.....IV, 167
 — Wilmot Proviso, support by V, 77
- Seymour, Horatio**, Gov. of N. Y., called on for militia X, 143
 — demands credit for volunteers.....IX, 92
 — L. refuses request to suspend draft.....IX, 58
 — letter to..VIII, 230; IX, 103
 — sends Swinburne and Gillett to front.....VIII, 272
 — telegrams to.....VIII, 83; IX, 53
- Seymour, Truman**, Capt., opinion on Fort Sumter... VI, 203
- Shaffer, —**, complaints of.... X, 173
- Shakspere**, opinion of..IX, 85
- Shaler, Alex.**, Lt.-Col., VII, 62
- Sharp, Kate**, Mrs.....IX, 120
- Sharpe, H. D.**, letter to, V, 96
- Sharpe, Sol.**, Surgeon, offered plateX, 84
- Sharpsburg, Md.**, McClellan at VIII, 35
- Sheahan, Jas. W.**, editor, Chicago "Times".....VIII, 293
 — letter to.....V, 289
- Shelby, —**, Gen., Missouri raid X, 341
- Shelby, —**, Mrs.....VIII, 232
- Sheledy, G. B.**, letter to, I, 189
- Shells**, incendiary, offered to HookerVIII, 296
 — — trial of.....VIII, 314
- Shenandoah River**, Banks moved to.....VII, 214
 — Confederates cross.....VII, 186
 — Jackson's position on.....VII, 220
 — McDowell moves to.....VII, 180
- Shenandoah Valley**, Fremont protectsVII, 225
 — O. Nat. Guard serves in... X, 219
 — Sheridan's operations in... X, 251; XI, 166
- Shepley, George F.**, Gov. of La., conflict with Banks.... IX, 273
 — inaugurates reconstruction. VIII, 80
 — informs L. about Durant's registry.....IX, 57
 — instructions to.....IX, 201, 273
 — Kennedy introduced to.... VIII, 79
 — letters to..VIII, 61, 79, 80
 — La. elections held by.....VIII, 61
- Sheridan, Phil. H.**, Gen., anticipates Lee's surrender.... XI, 76
 — captures of.....XI, 71
 — commands in field....X, 180

- Sheridan, Phil. H. (contd.)**
 — Early defeated by.....
 X, 223, 251
 — fears Early's reinforcement.
 X, 236
 — moves headquarters.....
 XI, 68
 — promotion of.....X, 251
 — retakes Five Forks..XI, 66
 — Shenandoah Valley, leaves
 force in.....XI, 40
 — — thanked for operations in
 X, 251; XI, 66
 — success at Burke Station...
 XI, 65, 76
 — Winchester, thanks for vic-
 tory at.....X, 227
"Sheridan's Ride".....X, 251
Sherman, F. C.....IV, 50
 — telegram to....IX, 105, 112
Sherman, Rog., vote on sla-
veryV, 296, 297
Sherman, W. T., Gen., ap-
pointment of Hovey on ap-
proval of.....IX, 40
 — at Chattanooga.....X, 93
 — Atlanta, capture of.....
 X, 211, 325
 — — — thanks for....X, 213
 — corn and sorghum, interest
 in.....X, 225
 — cotton, movement of..X, 188
 — Davis' visit to Hood re-
 ported.....IX, 235
 — Grant's dispatch to...X, 160
 — Ga. campaign aided by hun-
 dred-day troops..X, 106, 237
- Sherman, W. T. (contd.)**
 — Hovey and Osterhaus, pro-
 motion objected to..X, 174
 — Ind. soldiers given leave...
 X, 226
 — joint expedition under.....
 VI, 357
 — Logan's leave governable by
 X, 266
 — march to the sea.X, 302, 325
 — orders Tenn. citizens north
 of Nashville.....X, 93
 — reported wounded.....
 VIII, 295
 — thanked for capture of Sa-
 vannah.....X, 325
Shields, Jas., Gen., Auditor of
State for Ill.....I, 221
 — correspondence about duel
 with.....I, 232
 — displacement of.....
 III, 212, 223; IV, 171
 — Jackson's defeat at.VII, 226
 — letter to L.....I, 232, 234
 — objection to.....IV, 11
 — preliminaries of duel with.
 I, 237
 — report from Front Royal...
 VII, 206
 — scheme to fill place of.....
 III, 204; IV, 167
 — vote for.....II, 274
 — withdrawn from Bank's
 command.....VII, 176
Short, Jas., "woman affair" of
 I, 265
Shufeldt, R. W., correspond-

- ence with.....VIII, 133
- Siam, King of**, gifts from...
VII, 108
- Sibley, H. H.**, Gen., Indian
execution ordered.....
VIII, 133, 141
- — — postponed..VIII, 145
- Sickles, Dan. E.**, Maj.-Gen.,
asked to make tour.....
IX, 299; X, 9, 19
- letters to.....IX, 90
- pass for.....X, 42
- telegram to.....X, 4
- Sigel, Franz**, Maj.-Gen., cor-
roborates Jackson's rein-
forcementVII, 229
- court of inquiry for..X, 206
- Harper's Ferry, ordered to
VII, 210
- relieves of McClellan.....
VII, 208
- urged not to fall back.....
VII, 217
- with Banks.....VII, 224
- "Signing of the Proclamation
of Emancipation"**....XI, v
- Sill, —**, appointment of, X, 126
- Silliman letter**.....IV, 232
- Silver mines**, discovery of....
X, 300
- Simmons, Walt. C.**, candidate
VI, 270
- Simonides**, reference to.....
IX, xxxii
- Singleton, —**, Gen., proposes
to bring in Southern produce
XI, 5, 49
- Singleton, Wm.** (*contd.*)
- testifies to L.'s opposition to
Clay's nomination....V, 76
- Sinners**, the "righteous called
to repentance by"...V. 371
- Sioux Indians**, *see* Indians,
Sioux.
- Sitana, Peru**, *see* Chili.
- "Skewhorn,"** principle,.....
VIII, 257
- Slander**, Lincoln's treatment of
I, 15
- Slave breeders**, hatred for....
II, 286
- dealers, contempt for.....
II, 225
- labor, *See* Slaves.
- owners, complaints of.....
VII, 122
- — Douglas' service to.....
V, 214
- — in Mo., protection to...
VIII, 329
- — L.'s feelings towards...
VIII, 161
- population.....VI, 2
- Slavery**, abolition of....III, 98
- — by Eman. Proc.....
VII, xxxix
- — in D. C.....IV, 7, 12
- — with compensation, draft
of a bill for.....VII, 276
- account of, in Ill...III, 141
- age of, in America..V, 329
- agitation, beginning of.....
V, 263
- — end of.....IV, 334

Slavery (contd.)

- — increased V, 46
- — L.'s idea of ending
IV, 188
- — persistence of . . III, 353
- amendment proposed for
abolition of VIII, 116
- basis of all controversy . . .
III, 161, 232, 355; IV, 41;
V, 151, 262
- — changed by Douglas
V, 67
- Beecher, H. W., opinion on
X, xv
- Bible-right of V, 202
- bill to abolish, in D. C.
II, 96
- chains and fetters of . . I, 179
- Clay on planting of . . III, 182
- climate, effect upon . . V, 225
- Colonial III, 147; V, 50
- conflicting ideas on . . VI, 3
- Congressional resolution to
abolish XI, 31
- conspiracy to nationalize . .
III, 187, 249, 338; IV, 214,
386
- Constitutional rights of
III, 129
- Constitution's covert lang-
uage on V, 48, 357
- contemporary with Consti-
tution III, 186
- danger of extension of
II, 236; IV, 224, 294, 327
- Democratic position on
IV, 331; V, 61; XI, 107

Slavery (contd.)

- dependence of, on local po-
lice regulations
III, 89, 297; IV, 59; V, 67
- disavowal of purpose to mo-
lest . . V, 193, 232; VI, 170
- distinction between existing
institution and extension of
II, 192
- diversity on VIII, 118
- Douglas' opinion on policy
of government to perpetuate
IV, 34
- — purpose to nationalize . .
III, 186, 239
- draft of message proposing
compensated abolition of . . .
XI, 1
- — for proposed bill of com-
pensated abolition of, in Del.
VII, 21
- early opposition to . . . I, 192
- effect of cotton-gin on
III, 175
- — on free labor V, 331
- Eman. Proc. death blow to,
in U. S. VIII, 161
- establishment of III, 186
- — in Territories . . III, 182
- exclusion from Territories . .
V, 183
- extension of II, 67
- — under Douglas' proposal
V, 121
- — L.'s opposition to
VI, 103
- — opposed . . II, 282; V, 232

Slavery (contd.)

- — to be controlled..II, 92
- — to Territories...II, 202
- extinction of.....
II, 279; IV, 220
- evils of....X, 65; XI, 108
- Federal Union, only danger
to.....V, 346
- fight against, to go on.....
V, 92, 94
- foundation of.....II, 238
- fragment on.....
II, 183, 184, 186
- Great Britain forces on colo-
nies.....V, 152
- happiness in.....I, 179
- in D. C.....III, 276
- — opposed.....III, 262
- in French settlements.V, 224
- in Kan.....IV, 75
- in La.....V, 299
- in Md.....VII, 124
- in Neb.....IV, 75
- in original States....V, 7
- in Territories.....
III, 182; V, 9
- — right of people to decide
on.....VI, 23
- inactivity not a remedy for.
IV, 205
- Jefferson provides for prohi-
bition of, in N.-W. Ter..
V, 167
- laws to regulate....II, 221
- L. on extension of..VI, 78
- — on moral wrong of.....
IV, 275

Slavery (contd.)

- L.'s attitude toward..V, xvii
- — determination not to re-
turn negroes to.....
IX, 57, 249; X, 191; XI, 116
- — hatred of...II, 205, 281
- — hope of having helped to
solve question of....V, 97
- — — peaceable end to....
V, 122
- — opinion on effect of Sen-
ate campaign on....V, 95
- — — right of States to
regulate.....IV, 31
- — policy non-interference
with.....III, 229
- — position on.....III, 186
- — — extension of.....
II, 67; VI, 77
- — purpose to oppose.....
IV, 214
- — reluctance to molest....
VI, 183; XI, xi
- — speech on, at Worcester
II, 91
- logical end of.....V, 154
- mandatory in Ky....IV, 25
- maintenance of, a condition
in cession of Tenn., Miss.,
and Ala.....V, 298
- morally wrong.....
II, 259; V, 59; VI, 3
- mulattos caused by..II, 337
- mutual concessions urged to
secure emancipation.....
VIII, 118
- nationalization of..III, 181

- Slavery** (*contd.*)
- — by action of Congress...
V, 146
 - — Douglas.....IV, 32
 - — Dred Scott decision....
III, 290
 - — popular sovereignty.....
V, 137
 - Neb. bill, effect on..IV, 231
 - new basis of.....III, 174
 - Noell's views on...VII, 123
 - North, view of, on..VI, 3
 - — shares responsibility for
VII, 127; VIII, 120
 - party issue.....IV, 2
 - peace with, question of.....
V, 263
 - perpetuity of.....
III, 175; IV, 33
 - planting of, in America....
IV, 206
 - policy of indifference toward
VI, 4
 - position of South and North
on.....II, 205
 - — Whigs and Democrats on
IV, 162
 - power of, to establish itself
IV, 60
 - — Congress to abolish in
Territories.....III, 187
 - property rights of..VII, 127
 - proportion of population
held in.....VI, 2
 - protest against in Ill. legis-
lature.....I, 51
 - question of Confederate
abandonment of, and reunion
X, 154
 - — in Ariz.....IV, 75
 - — N. M.....IV, 75
 - — Northwest Ter....II, 194
 - — Wash. Ter.....IV, 75
 - regulation of, in La.....
V, 300
 - Republican party declares
wrong of..V, 119; XI, 107
 - — not to disturb, in original
slave States.....V, 279
 - — proposes to exclude from
Territories.....V, 279
 - restriction of, policy of
Fathers.....V, 153
 - right and wrong of.....
VIII, 111
 - — States to control.....
III, 269; V, 5
 - root of the war...VIII, 32
 - sensitiveness in regard to..
V, 62
 - status of, at framing of Con-
stitution.....V, 356
 - — in U. S., 1854....V, 146
 - struggle between right and
wrong.....V, 65
 - "sum of all villainies".....
IV, 235
 - superiority of, suggested by
Dred Scott decision.....
XI, 108
 - Territorial control of.....
V, 296
 - — legislatures powerless to
exclude.....IV, 66

Slavery (contd.)

- ultimate extinction of, as-
sured by course of Wash-
ington and Jefferson. III, 234
- — expected by Fathers....
III, 175; V, 49
- — when to be expected...
IV, 189
- votes cast against....V, 319

Slavery question, difference

- between Lincoln and Doug-
las onIV, 32
- history of.....II, 202
- leading issue.....IV, 163
- Lincoln's one compromise
for.....VI, 94
- sophisticated by Douglas...
V, 170
- turmoil of.....IV, 186
- underestimatedV, 34
- See also* Crittenden-Mont-
gomery bill; District of
Columbia; Emancipation;
Fugitive Slave Law; Kan-
sas; Kansas-Nebraska bill;
Lecompton Constitution;
Missouri Compromise; Ne-
braska; Nebraska bill; Ne-
gro; Slaves; Wilmot Pro-
viso.

**Slaves, affection for master
and mistress.....V, 317**

- arming of, suggested.....
VII, 79
- army annoyed by...VII, 121
- by escheat, Ky. liberates...
VII, 282

Slaves (contd.)

- Clay petitioned to liberate..
V, 39
- compensated emancipation
of compared with cost of
war.....VII, 113
- competition of, feared.....
V, 204; VIII, 126
- controlled as property.....
V, 176, 212
- Constitutional rights to hold
II, 282
- difficulty in Mo. concerning
VIII, 184
- emancipation of, a military
necessity.....VIII, 36
- — in Del., compared to one
half day's cost of war....
VII, 119
- employment of....VI, 80
- feeding of.....VIII, 30
- fugitive, additional article of
war on.....VIII, 38
- — not returnable..VII, 258
- — to be freed...VIII, 39
- — to be protected..VIII, 40
- freed, colonization of.....
VII, 50
- — future of.....VIII, 125
- forfeited.....VII, 282
- importation of, into Ill. ter-
ritory.....III, 141
- in Confederate army..XI, 56
- in Del., number of.....
VII, 132; VIII, 127
- in D. C., number of.....
VII, 132

Slaves (contd.)

- in Federal army, 1863.....
VIII, 288
- in Ky., number of..VII, 133
- in Md., number of.....
VII, 132; VIII, 127
- — recruited by Birney....
IX, 151
- in Mo., number of..VII, 133
- insurrections, instigation of,
denied.....V, 314
- labor, conflict with free la-
bor feared.....V, 214
- liberation of, destruction of
property.....VIII, 119
- — by Fremont.....VI, 351
- L.'s last attempt to free, by
compensated emancipation..
VII, 270
- negro not necessarily a....
IV, 25
- not mentioned in Constitu-
tion.....V, 322
- number of, in army during
last days of war.....
VIII, 288
- — border States....II, 220
- offer to free, of Geo. Rob-
ertson and pay indemnity...
VIII, 88
- one-sixth of population held
as.....V, 330
- population, in 1850..II, 220
- question of emancipation by
Congress.....VII, 282
- recognition of, by U. S. Con-
stitution as property..IV, 57

Slaves (contd.)

- revolution of, in Hayti....
V, 317
- right to buy, in Africa.....
V, 182
- runaway, return of.....
II, 233
- seizure of, rules for..VI, 358
- status of, in La.....V, 300
- value of.....V, 330, 344
See also Slavery.
- Slave States**, admission of
new, to Union..IV, 80; V, 9
- — protested by Republican
party.....IV, 73
- compensated emancipation
proposed for.....XI, 2
- effort to array, against
North.....IV, 5
- free population a majority
in.....V, 249
- Lovejoy's resolutions on ad-
missions of.....III, 322
- number of mulattos in.....
III, 356
- protection for.....VII, 121
- restriction of slavery to....
IV, 188
- right of admission of, de-
nied.....IV, 7, 12
- urged to adopt emancipation
VII, 330
- use of patronage in..VI, 81
- Slave trade**, abolition of.....
X, 7, 12
- — in District of Columbia
II, 203

- Slave trade** (*contd.*)
 — conviction of those engaged in.....VII, 47
 — foreign, suppression of.....VIII, 111
 — — provisions for preventing X, 288
 — indictment of Nath. Gordon for engaging in....VII, 95
 — in D. C.....II, 202
 — L. on abolition of..VI, 80
 — L.'s tolerance of...VI, 103
 — power to abolish...III, 187
 — restraint of.....II, 245
See also, Inter-State Slave Trade; Slave; Slavery.
- Slave traders**, hatred for.II,286
- Slidell, John**, in Europe, X, 267
- Slocum, Hen. W.**, Maj.-Gen., reinforces Rosecrans, IX, 142
 — relations with Hooker.....IX, 142
 — with Sherman on march to sea.....X, 325
- Slough, —**, Gen., asks respite X, 218
- Small-pox**, prevalent at Washington, D. C.....IX, 286
- Smiley, M. E.**, Mrs. affidavit in Wright case.....IX, 119
- Smith, —**, appointment of....VI, 330
- Smith, —**, execution suspended IX, 278
- Smith, Alb. N.**, Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress to.....VII, 162
- Smith, Benj. G.**, sentence annulledXI, 58
- Smith, C. B.**, influence asked..XI, 99
 — letters to.....VI, 21, 47
 — consultation on appointments.....VI, 325
- Smith, C. M.**, telegram to...IX, 126
- Smith, Caleb**, Sec. of Int., letter to.....VII, 8
 — opinion on Fort Sumter....VI, 210, 229
 — order for appointment....VI, 258
 — reasons for his appointment VI, 187
- Smith, E. D.**, telegram to....IX, 23
- Smith, Enos W.**....IV, 50, 51
- Smith, Franklin W.**, sentence annulledXI, 58
- Smith, —**, Gov. of R. I., appeals of.....X, 218
- Smith, Green Clay**, election of IX, 62
- Smith, J. Gregory**, Gov. of Vt., complaint of....XI, 6
- Smith, John C.**, Rev..VII, 61
- Smith, Jos. S.**, appeals for...IX, 125
- Smith, Kirby**, movements of VIII, 332
- Smith, L. B.**, telegram to....X, 224
- Smith, Lisle**.....II, 114
- Smith, Melancton**, Com.,

- thanks of Congress to.....
VII, 161
- Smith, Preston, Gen.**, reported
killedIX, 137
- Smith, Sam.**, speech of, IV, 360
- Smith, Truman**, letter to....
VI, 68
- Smith, Victor**, collector.....
VIII, 270
- removal.....VIII, 270
- Smith, Watson, Lt.-Com.**,
thanks of Congress to.....
VII, 162
- Smith, W. F., Gen.**, failure of
IX, 29
- Maj.-Gen.....VIII, 223
- plan of operations.....
VIII, 150
- Smithfield, Lee**, near,.....
VIII, 316
- Smithson, —**, case of.....
X, 48, 275
- “Smoky localities,”** responsi-
bility for.....X, 254, 255
- Snead, —**, Judge, liberated...
X, 182
- ordered home.....X, 201
- Snider, Wm. O.**, presents cane
X, 172
- Societies, secret**, formation of
VII, 101
- Society of Friends**, for New
EnglandVII, 135
- Soldiers**, amnesty to, VIII, 224
- credit to.....X, 252
- enticed to desert..VIII, 225
- loyalty of.....VI, 321
- Soldiers (contd.)**
- turned away from Baltimore
hospitals.....VIII, 63
See also, Army; Troops;
Volunteers.
- Soldiers’ Fair**, Springfield,
Mass., invitation to, X, 319
See also, Sanitary Fairs.
- Soldiers’ Home**, in Spring-
field, Ill.....IX, 302
- L. stays at.....X, 3
- Soldiers’ Retreat**, Derrickson
guardsVIII, 71
- Somers, J. W.**, letter to.....
III, 16; VI, 6
- Sonnet in 1862**, by John Jas.
PiattV, xxxiii
- Sons of Temperance**, reply to
IX, 144
- South**, amnesty, universal, for
XI, 131
- conciliation of.....
V, 367; X, 190
- conservatism of.....V, 366
- employs secret agents.X, 170
- L. favors partial suffrage in
XI, 131
- — held in contempt by.....
VII, xvii
- L.’s disposition toward.....
VI, 62, 323
- — opinion on terms to...
XI, 131
- New England loses trade in
V, 363
- responsibility of, for slav-
ery.....VIII, 120

- South** (*contd.*)
- restoration to Union..... XI, 131
 - satisfaction of.....V, 368
 - slave question in the..... VII, 127
 - soldiers of, fraternize with Union men.....X, 191
 - South America**, effects of race equality in.....III, 92
 - negro colonization in..... VII, 272
 - possible invasion of..... IV, 292
 - relations with U. S..X, 285
 - South Anna**, seizure of..... VII, 202
 - South Carolina**, act of war by VI, 219
 - attempt to provision Fort Sumter.....VI, 302
 - blockade of ports of.VI, 248
 - electoral comparison with Me.....II, 234
 - leader in rebellion...VI, 230
 - martial law proclaimed in.. VII, 170
 - political eccentricities in... II, 173
 - reconstruction in...IX, 221
 - secession of.....VI, 85
See also, Fort Sumter.
 - Southern products**, passage of lines for.....XI, 37
 - Southside road**, Wright on... XI, 69
 - Sovereignty**; *see* Popular sovereignty; State sovereignty.
 - Spain**, Cuba a maritime jurisdiction of.....IX, 225
 - sale of territory to..I, 339
 - Sparta**, Rockingham Co., Va., residence of Dav. Lincoln.. II, 181
 - Speaker**, on the election of a VIII, 229
 - Spears, George**, letter to I, 11
 - Special Commission**, report of X, 22
 - Specie**, amount of in U. S.. I, 104
 - effect of collecting revenue in.....I, 103, 104
 - Special payment**, suspension of.....VII, 231; VIII, 100
 - return to.....VIII, 100
 - Species**, economic classes of.. I, 307
 - Speech**, freedom of....V, 308
 - L.'s first political...XI, 97
IV, 200, 203, 213, 225
 - Speed, Jas.**, appointed Atty.-Gen.....X, 278
 - Ky. arrests referred to.VII, 6
 - opinion on duties of Sec. of NavyX, 328
 - Speed, John, Hon.**, Wolford's parole signed by.....X, 162
 - Speed, Josh. F.**, letters to.... I, 168, 182, 185, 187, 210, 211, 214, 217, 238, 261, 267, 297; II, 105, 281

Speed, Josh. F. (contd.)

- L.'s room-mate.....I, 182
- love affair of.....I, 184
- marriage of.....I, 210
- signer of call for Whig State Convention.....I, 181
- — Whig circular.....I, 145
- temperament of.....I, 182

Speed, J. F., Mrs., telegram to
IX, 124

Speed, Mary, letter to...I, 177

Spencer County, Ind., Lincoln's home in.....VI, 26

— removal of Thos. Lincoln to
V, 287

Speer, Wm. S., letter to, VI, 63

Spies, excepted from parole orderVII, 103

Sprague, Wm., Gov. of R. I., consents to raising of troops inVI, 352

— introduced.....VII, 261

— recommends post master...
VI, 270

— solicits aid.....XI, 33

Spriggs, —, Capt., contemplated execution of, VII, 229

Spring, Sydney, letter to....
III, 15

Springer, Francis, letter to..
VIII, 286

Springfield, Ill., address on temperance at.....I, 193

— — to Young Men's Lyceum at.....I, 34

— Black Rep. convention at...
III, 306

Springfield (contd.)

— — resolutions of...III, 307

— Dem. State Con., 1858.....
IV, 42

— Douglas perverts L.'s speech at.....IV, 215

— farewell address at
I, xxv; VI, 110; VIII, xxi

— lecture at.....V, 99

— L.'s early life in.....I, xv

— — eulogy of Clay at.....
II, 155

— — law practice in...V, 288

— — letter to Conklin at...
IX, 95

— — removal to.....
I, 53; II, 15; VI, 33

— Nat. Dem. State Conv. at, 1858.....IV, 42

— Patten greeted at..XI, 120

— proposed railroad to...I, 2

— prospects for removing capital to.....I, 17

— remarks at, after nomination
VI, 49

— — election celebration in...
VI, 72

— Rep. State Conv.....
III, 279; IV, 16, 311

— speeches at.....
I, 100; II, 315; III, 1, 108, 155

— Whig Conv. at, call for...
II, 154

— — meeting at.....I, 240

Springfield "Journal," Lincoln's letter to.....I, 221

- Springfield "Register,"** Lincoln exonerated in...IV, 192
- Springfield, Mass.,** Soldiers Fair at.....X, 319
- Springfield, Mo.,** completion of railroad to, urged..VIII, 197
- Squatter sovereignty** III, 22, 23, 24, 25
- Stafford, E.,** letter to...VI, 7
- Stager, Anson,** telegram to.. VIII, 281
- Stahel, —, Gen.,** question of assignmentVIII, 226
- Standard of value, true**..... VI, 128
- Stanford, Josh. R.,** letter to.. II, 178
- Stanley, Edw.,** Mil. Gov. of N. C., inquiry on..VII, 212
- desires to return to N. C... IX, 297
- L. approves.....VIII, 51
- Stanley, Wm.,** alias Frank R. Judd, execution suspended.. X, 329
- Stanton, Edw.,** Hon., Gov. of N. C.VII, 212
- Stanton, Edwin M.,** Sec. of War, Adj.-Gen. attends L.. VII, 87
- Baird allowed to re-enlist.. VIII, 309; X, 28
- Blair ordered to field..X, 84
- Bowen appointed..VIII, 21
- Brown paroled.....IX, 46
- Buell co-operates with Halleck.....VII, 98
- Stanton, Edwin M. (contd.)**
- Bureau of Ordnance, changes in.....VII, 88
- Burnside's movement reported to.....IX, 111
- Butler ordered to New Orleans.....VIII, 203
- — spoliations investigated.. X, 343
- — telegram referred to L.. X, 259
- character of.....XI, vii
- Chicago "Times," revokes suspension of...VIII, 290
- Churchill allowed to remain in Ky.....VII, 276
- Confederate Peace commissioners, order to pass.... X, 348
- Curtin's letter on draft referred to.....X, 258
- Curtis, department created for.....IX, 275
- — removed.....VIII, 271
- Ellsworth, Edw., appointed VI, 340
- Fort Sumter, establishes date of fall of.....XI, 63
- Freese given negro regiment.....IX, 206
- Fremont asked to move on Richmond.....VII, 165
- Gettysburg, arranges trip to IX, 208
- Gillmore, independent service allowed to....IX, 267
- Grant, visit to.....XI, 70

Stanton, Edwin M. (contd.)

- — telegrams repeated to..
 XI, 64, 75, 76
- Halleck's demand for
 Blair's resignation trans-
 mitted.....X, 157
- — resignation....VIII, 166
- Hampton Roads conference
 XI, 13, 14, 15, 19, 24
- Hedden & Hoey, refuses
 arms from.....VII, 134
- Herron threatens resigna-
 tion.....VIII, 277
- Hooker, dissatisfied with...
 VII, 206
- Howard, orders release of..
 X, 201
- Hunter, revokes deportation
 order of.....X, 179
- Kan., empowers governor
 of, to give commissions and
 fill vacancies.....IX, 34
- Ky., pacification of..X, 276
- Lane expedition explained
 to.....VII, 90
- letters to.....
 VII, 87, 88, 134, 138, 309;
 VIII, 21, 166, 191, 203, 219,
 290, 297, 330, 331; IX, 34,
 68, 84, 88, 90; X, 4, 27, 28,
 32, 44, 60, 84, 275
- L. exonerates.....VII, 305
- Linder, discharge of.....
 IX, 275
- McClellan's attitude toward
 VII, 304
- — reinforcement..VII, 168

Stanton, Edwin M. (contd.)

- McClernand denied court of
 inquiry.....IX, 120
- Marque and Reprisal bill,
 consults L. on....VIII, 223
- militia enrolled by.VII, 287
- Mott, brevetted Maj.-Gen..
 X, 187
- opinion of L.....V, xxv
- Petersburg, action near, re-
 ported to.....XI, 63, 64
- Phillips' re-appointment ob-
 jected to.....IX, 44
- prison recruiting, L. exon-
 erates from.....X, 228
- prisoners of war, assents to
 discharge of.....X, 44
- prohibits exportation of
 munitions of war...IX, 110
- report, 1863.....IX, 235
- Representatives, desires in-
 formation as to election of
 IX, 91
- Schofield relieved..IX, 264
- Shelby's raid, reports on...
 X, 341
- Shenandoah Valley, anxiety
 for.....XI, 40
- Sheridan's movements re-
 ported to.....X, 66
- Sigel, orders inquiry for...
 X, 206
- Smithson case referred to..
 X, 48
- Stafford empowered to raise
 negro troops.....VIII, 191
- Steele deported...VIII, 325

- Stanton, Edwin M. (contd.)**
- telegrams to..... VII, 165; VIII, 277; X, 66; XI, 61, 62, 63, 64, 70, 73, 75, 111
- Tenn., East, attempt to relieve.....IX, 64
- Tex., western, organizes force to invade.....IX, 47
- troops, negro, desired to expedite raising of.....IX, 37
- Vache, orders transport to IX, 301
- Va., orders oath taken in.. IX, 108
- Washington, plans for protection of.....VII, 138
- Whiting's resignation referred to.....XI, 62
- Yocum case referred to..X, 47
- Stapp, recommended...**II, 122
- "Star of the West,"** fired on X, 221
- State, Douglas on admission of** IV, 28
- power of, to regulate own affairs.....IV, 31
- right to dominate nation... VI, 114
- "sacred rights" of..VI, 314
- slavery an evil to..XI, 108
- — right of, to decide on... VI, 22; V, 56
- voters the practical power of.....VIII, 157
- State banks, conversion of...** X, 295
- State banks (contd.)**
- suppression of issues of.... X, 295
- *See also,* Illinois State Bank.
- State constitution, compared to a will.....**I, 333
- right of people to make.... IV, 211
- slavery provisions in..... II, 326
- "State equality,"** invention of phraseIII, 310
- State prisoners; see** Prisoners, political.
- State rights, basis of.....** V, 6; VI, 316
- claim of.....VI, 315
- conceded.....VIII, 301
- guaranteed in 1850...IV, 3
- L.'s definition of..... VI, xxxix
- stumbling-block..VI, xxxviii
- States, constitutions of, dependentVI, 316**
- domestic institutions of, varied.....V, 52
- equality among.....V, 16
- interdependence of..VI, 316
- legal status of.....VI, 315
- origin of name.....VI, 314
- original, slaveholding in... V, 7
- power of, conferred..... VI, 314, 316
- privileges equal among..... XI, 117

VII, VII
VIII, VIII

- States** (*contd.*)
 — republican government guaranteed to.....VI, 323
 — rights of, regarding slavery V, 5
 — slave; *see*, Slave States.
 — Tex. only sovereignty among.....VI, 315
- State** "sovereignty," not in ConstitutionVI, 315
See also, Popular sovereignty; State rights.
- Statistics**, guidance of..II, 47
 — need of.....II, 48
- Steedman, J. B.**, Gen., banishes Mrs. McElrath, X, 224
- Steele, Fred.**, Brig.-Gen., Ark., election in...IX, 289; X, 11
 — — — instructions regarding.....IX, 296
 — — — reconstruction in...X, 8
 — — registers voters in IX, 277
 — — warned against factions in.....IX, 299
 — letters to.....X, 19, 29
 — Murphy, directed to cooperate with.....IX, 304
 — promotion of.....VIII, 201
 — supports representatives of X, 139
 — telegram to.....X, 18
- Steele, John**, banished.....VIII, 325
- Steele, —**, asks appointment..VIII, 13
- Stellwagen, Hen. S.**, sword presented to.....XI, 9
- Stephens, Alex. H.**, Douglas' estimate of.....IV, 360
 — Eckert interviews.....X, 348, 349
 — effect of his oratory..I, 354
 — effort to visit Washington..IX, 16; X, 185
 — Federal government characterized by.....IX, xvii
 — Hampton Roads conference XI, 16, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30
 — letters to.....VI, 75, 85
 — L. paroles nephew of.....X, 356; XI, 32
 — opinion on slavery...VI, 85
 — position on Kan.-Neb. bill..VI, 25
 — Seward meets.....X, 351
 — Vice-Pres., Confederate States of America...VI, 85
- Stephens, Jas. L.**, exiled.....VIII, 172
- Stephens, John A.**, Lt., exchangedXI, 32
 — paroled.....X, 356
- Steubenville, O.**, address at..VI, 122
- Stevens, Thad.**, denounces compensated emancipation...VII, 112
- Stewart, —**, execution suspendedXI, 37
- Stewart, C. B.**, appointment of IX, 165
 — reports on plan to pass gunboats.....X, 62
- Stewart, Judd.**I, vii; XI, 142

- Still-house**, Lincoln works in
III, 230
- Stockholders**, appeals of, I, 23
- Stocks**, decline of....VIII, 50
- Stockton, T. B. W.**, Col., commands Mich. regiment.....
XI, 291
- Stoddard, Rich. Hen.**, "Abraham Lincoln,"I, xxxi
- Stoeckl, De**, and "Trent" affairVII, 107
- Stokes, Wm. B.**, Col. recommends releases.....X, 278
- Stone, Chas. P.**, arrest of....
VII, 151
— — evidence concerning....
X, 69, 70
- Stone, Dan.**, protest on slavery resolutions....I, 52; VI, 33
- Stone, Wm. M.**, Gov. of Ia., offers troops.....X, 83
— telegram to.....X, 277
- Stoneman, Geo.**, Gen., captures cars.....VII, 197
— driven back.....VII, 242
- Stone River**, battle of, VII, 228
— Rosecrans at....VIII, 226
- Store**, purchase of, by Lincoln
VI, 32
- Storrs, Emory A.**.....V, 290
- Story, Justice**, citation from
II, 40
- Stout**, —, paid by Lincoln...
I, 317
- Story's "Equity Pleadings"**...
XI, 114
- Stover**, —, Col, case of, X, 240
- Strasburg, Va.**, Banks at....
VII, 186
— line to Harper's Ferry opened.....VI, 333
- Streeter, Jos. E.**, appointment ofVI, 330
- Strickland, Jesse H.**, raises regimentVIII, 137
- Striker**, —, letter to...II, 278
- Strikes**, shipyard.....IX, 267
— shoemaker's....V, 336, 360
- Stringham, Silas H.**, Com., approves plan.....VI, 206
— thanks of Congress to.....
VII, 268
- Strode, J. M.**.....IV, 51
- Strong, W. K.**, Gen., on military commission....IX, 84
- Strunk**, —, faithlessness of...
II, 272, 275
- Stuart, C. B.**; *see* Stewart, C. B.
- Stuart**, —, Gen., sends in prisonersVIII, 53
- Stuart, Alex. H. H.**, on committee from Va. State ConventionVI, 243
- Stuart, John T.**, renews note
XI, 98
— assists L....II, 140; VI, 33
— election of.....VI, 32
— endorses Logan....XI, 101
— letters to.....
I, 98, 139, 140, 146, 147, 148,
150, 156, 157; VI, 231
— partner of L.....VI, 33
— witness.....I, 63

- Sturgis, Sam. D.**, Gen., force of, consolidated . . . VII, 235
- Style, Iverson's**. II, 70
— literary, of L. I, ix
- Substitutes, law of**. . . IX, 79
See also, Draft.
- Sub-treasury, cost of conducting** I, 111
— discussion of. I, 101
— insecurity of. I, 112
— unconstitutionality of, I, 123
See also, National banks; United States Bank.
- Sudarth, —**, Gen. X, 277
- Suffrage, based on intelligence**
XI, 131
— for military service. XI, 131
— rights of. X, 50, 51
— Wadsworth's inquiry on. . .
XI, 131
See also, Woman suffrage.
- Sulgrove, Jas.**, letter to.
VI, 100
- Sullivan, Dan.**, sentenced.
IX, 138, 139
- Sullivan's Island, S. C.**, batteries on. VIII, 248
- Sumner, Chas.**. IX, lxiv
— advocates raising negro troops. VIII, 288
— assault upon.
III, 175; IV, 33
— invited to ball. XI, 47
— opinion of L. . V, xvii, xxvi
- Sumner, E. V.**, Brig.-Gen., commands Second Corps. . .
VII, 116
- Sumner, E. V. (contd.)**
— memorandum of questions and answers. VII, 262
— relieved from duty.
VIII, 204
- "Superior races,"** sophistry concerning V, 126
- Superstition, Lincoln's**
VIII, 296
- Supreme Being, Lincoln's confidence in**. II, 148
- Supreme Court; see** Court, U. S. Supreme.
- Surgeon-General, letter to**. . .
VIII, 63
- Survey, certificate of**. I, 12
- Suspension of specie payment; see** Specie payment, suspension of.
- Suspicion, futility of**. . . II, 57
- Sutherland, Jos.**, letter to.
IX, 215
- Sutton, G. A.**, application of. . .
II, 335
- Swain, D. G.**, habeas corpus before VIII, 274
- Swan, —**, II, 272
- Swan, J. R.**, Judge, repudiation of V, 136
- Swann, Thos.**, letter to.
IX, 185
— takes Cresswell to Washington. XI, 59
— telegram to. X, 155
- Swartwout, Sam.**, Com., recommended for thanks of Congress VII, 161

Swayne, —, Judge, appeals for HarrisX, 214
Sweden and Norway, Halde-
 man, minister to....VI, 221
 — King of, as arbitrator.....
 VI, 221
Sweeney, T. W., Lincoln's
 school masterVI, 27
 — telegram to.....IX, 171
Sweet, Mart. P., candidate for
 CongressIV, 46
 — — Land Office.....II, 105
 — — Senate.....II, 272
Swett, LeonardVI, 96
 — defeat of.....II, 290
 — telegrams to.IX, 24, 31, 106
Swift, Geo. W., Mrs., requests
 autographX, 253
Swift, H. A., inquiries about
 pardonsX, 339
Swift, J. C., pass for...X, 107
Swinburne, —, Dr., refused
 permission to visit Army...
 VIII, 272
Swiss Confederation, Repub-
 lic of the, proposed as arbi-
 tratorVI, 221
Sympathy, resolutions of, for
 HungaryII, 127
Sympson, Alex., letter to....
 III, 199; V, 89, 97
Syracuse, N. Y., address at..
 VI, 135

T

**Tact of Lincoln in Cameron
 case**VII, 80

Talbot, —, Capt., bearer of
 dispatches to Fort Sumter
 VI, 240
Talbott, Benj., reply to Ad-
 amsI, 65
Talcott, Wash., collector.....
 VIII, 17
 — introduction for...VIII, 13
 — position of.....II, 272
Tams, G. Yoke, letter to....
 VI, 58
Taney, Roger B., Chief Jus-
 tice, death of.....X, 311
 — Douglas disavows interview
 with.....III, 240
 — Dred Scott decision.....
 II, 320; IV, 86
 — opinion of, on negro "prop-
 erty".....IV, 258
 — position on State legislation
 on negro.....IV, 26
Tariff, Calhoun's speech on...
 I, 245
 — Chicago platform, 1860 on
 VI, 127
 — discussion of.....I, 300
 — effect of.....I, 301
 — L.'s position on.VI, 11, 58, 61
 — Morrill bill on.....VI, 128
 — necessity of.....V, 256
 — Old Whigs abandon.V, 257
 — party feeling on....VI, 126
 — "Pa. specialty"VI, 126
 — permanence of.....VI, 126
 — resolutions on.....VI, 61
 — Taylor's suggested position
 onII, 55

Tariff (*contd.*)

— Whig party on.....I, 243
See also, Duties; Free trade;
 Reciprocity; Revenue; Tax-
 ation, direct; Tonnage du-
 ties.

Tax law, principle of..IX, 81

Taxation, of bank circulation
 VIII, 193

— direct, Whigs against.I, 243

Taxes, authority to lay, II, 40

— proclamation concerning...
 VII, 251

Taylor, Hawkins, letter to...

V, 138; VI, 10

Taylor, N. G., protest of....

XI, 129

— telegrams to.....IX, 129

Taylor, Robt., Col., plan to se-
 cure money.....XI, 122

Taylor, Zach., Gen., agreement

on veto power.....II, 60

— attitude of, in defense of
 Tex.....I, 320

— campaign conduct of.II, 95

— Barret's attack on...II, 116

— expedition against Mexico
 I, 327; VI, 35

See also, Mexico; Mexican
 war.

— fallacy of arguments
 against.....II, 90

— L.'s canvass for....VI, 37

— — Cong. dist. for....VI, 37

— — speech on.....II, 59

— — suggestions on position
 of.....II, 55

Taylor, Zach. (*contd.*)

— — support of.V, 76; VI, 37

— march across Nueces desert
 II, 24

— objects to interference.....
 II, 65

— peril of his army.....II, 52

— position on Mexican war..
 II, 87

— — political questions, 1848
 II, 63

— — veto power....II, 59, 61

— prospects for nomination..
 II, 16

— "shelter under coat-tails of"
 II, 72

Tazewell County, Ill., Lin-
 coln inIII, 224

Teche, La., blockade of, XI, 80

Telegraph, Atlantic
 VIII, 99; X, 286

— overland
 VIII, 99; IX, 229; X, 286

Temperance, address on, I, 193

— Sons of, reply to....IX, 144

— zeal for.....I, 193

Temperament, Lincoln's.....
 I, 212, 218

Temple, J. B., requests L. to
 call for volunteers in Ky.

VII, 250

Templeton, Isaac F., con-
 victedVIII, 333

Ten Eyck, J. S., consent de-
 siredX, 226

Ten Eyck, T., Capt., exchange
 ofX, 49

- Tennessee**, Burnside raises troops inIX, 175
 — ceded by N. C.....V, 298
 — cleared.....IX, 116
 — East, Buell to menace.VII,84
 — — capture of, Buell's main object.....VIII, 63
 — — distress in.....VII, 73
 — — expedition against.....VII, 228, 247
 — — importance of holding.. IX, 154; XI, 129
 — — joint movement on.....VI, 333
 — — new troops raised in.... XI, 129
 — — occupation of, date set for.....VIII, 64
 — — Relief Association of... X, 86
 — — Union success in.IX, 217
 — election, Presidential, 1861 X, 248
 — — Johnson's proclamation on.....X, 21
 — — emancipation in....IX, 117
 — — ordinance of.....X, 340
 — Federal troops in.....IX, 63, 246
 — Fort Pillow massacre.X, 78
 — Johnson suggests gov. of.. X, 340
 — — leaves.....X, 345
 — — re-inaugurates government.....IX, 116; X, 345
 — Lincoln family in.....II, 15, 180, 182; VI, 24

Tennessee (contd.)

- Longstreet moves toward.. IX, 135
 — military success in..IX, 254
 — organization of....IX, 127
 — people of, relieved..XI, 34
 — question of Isham G. Harris as gov. of.....IX, 116
 — — taking oath in.X, 17, 21
 — — withdrawing forces from IX, 175
 — repression of Union sentiment in.....VI, 305
 — Rosecrans' position, importance of.....IX, 131
 — seizure of vessel belonging to.....VI, 258
 — suffering in..IX, 63; X, 86
 — West, orders to officers in.. XI, 33
Tennessee River, U. S. gunboats destroyed on....X, 259
Territories, admission of, V, 15
 — authority of U. S. upheld in VII, 48
 — Chase's amendment to exclude slavery from..III, 287
 — decision on slavery in.....IV, 57
 — Douglas' bill on populations of.....III, 295
 — — position on acquisition of III, 302
 — effect of effort to establish slavery in.....IV, 40
 — homes for free people.....II, 232; V, 58

- Territories** (*contd.*)
- importance of developing.. VIII, 99
 - nation interested in..II, 232
 - political dependence of..... VI, 314
 - power to abolish slavery in III, 187
 - prohibition of slavery in... IV, 7, 12, 32, 188
 - prosperity of.....VIII, 99
 - slavery, determination to save from.....XI, 109
 - — exclusion of, difficult... V, 177
 - — forced upon.....III, 182
 - — L.'s opposition to..... VI, 103
 - — question of, in...II, 193
 - — right of people to decide III, 297; V, 9; VI, 22
 - See also*, under the names of each Territory.
 - Territorial government**, slavery andII, 202
 - treason in.....VII, 101
 - Territorial legislature**, powerless to exclude slavery.IV, 66
 - sworn to support Constitution.....IV, 205
 - Territory**, acquirement of.... II, 67
 - — legitimate.....II, 67
 - — slavery question perpetrated by.....VI, 94
 - Tevis, Joshua**, telegram to.... VIII, 324
 - Texas**, admission of..... V, 11; VI, 315
 - Banks not to abandon IX, 274
 - boundary, question of..... I, 332; VI, 36
 - — thrown eastward.II, 203
 - debts of.....II, 203, 317
 - defense of.....I, 320
 - effect of annexation of.... IV, 40
 - Federal authority, important to re-establish in.IX, 64
 - importance of events in Mexico to.....IX, 56
 - independent but not a State VI, 314
 - invasion of.....I, 318
 - joins seceded States.VI, 305
 - L.'s opinion on boundary of II, 53
 - only State ever a sovereignty.....VI, 315
 - question of admission of States from.....IV, 75
 - settlement of.....II, 197
 - slavery in.....IV, 186
 - Thirteenth amendment, failure to act on.....X, 352
 - Western, invasion urged... IX, 47
 - Thanksgiving**, recommendation for, Apr. 10, 1862..... VII, 144
 - — July 15, 1863....IX, 32
 - — Oct. 3, 1863.....IX, 151
 - — May 9, 1864.....X, 94

- Thanksgiving** (*contd.*)
 — — Sept. 3, 1864....X, 212
 — — Oct. 28, 1864....X, 257
 — orders for, on victories in East Tenn.....IX, 257
 — — National victories.XI, 84
- Thayer, —**, Con.-Gen., VII, 7
- Thayer, J. M.**, Gen., letter to X, 8
- Theology, pro-slavery**, IV, 202
- Thirteenth Amendment**,
 Bramlette receives copy of.. XI, 3
 — Confed. Peace commissioners informed of.....XI, 31
 — Cong. resolution for.X, 354
 — Ky. rejects.....X, 352
 — La.'s vote for, desired.XI, 91
 — passage of.....X, 352
 — ratification, necessary vote for.....XI, 91
 — — submitted for....X, 354
See also, Constitution, U. S.
- Thomas, —**, recommendation ofII, 106
- Thomas, Geo. H.**, Gen., news fromX, 251
 — telegrams to....X, 269, 315
- Thomas, Jack**, graduation of VI, 22
- Thomas, Lor.**, Adj.-Gen., business on Mississippi River in charge of.....X, 24
 — instructions to Harvey..... VI, 289
 — letter to, concerning Lewis X, 26, 74
- Thomas, Lor.** (*contd.*)
 — recruits colored troops in Mississippi Valley..... IX, 37, 65
 — telegram to, on militia at Henderson, Ky.....X, 125
 — transmits orders...VII, 118
 — urged to expedite troops... IX, 23
- Thomas, R. S.**, appointment of VIII, 228
- Thomas, Wm. B.**, offers 100,000 men.....IX, 175
- Thomasson, Wm. P.**, recommendedVIII, 208
- Thompson, —**, letter to..... II, 113
- Thompson, A. W.**, letter to.. X, 64
- Thompson, Gid. H.**, deportation suspended.....X, 315
- Thompson, Jac.**, Hon., Peace Commissioner from Confed. StatesX, 160
- Thompson, Elizabeth, Mrs.**, painting presented by, XI, v
- Thompson, Nancy H.**, Mrs., charges against.....X, 315
- Thompson, R. W.**, desires son's promotion.....X, 108
 — friend of L.....VII, 300
- Thompson, Wm.**, execution suspendedIX, 89
- Thornton, Jas. T.**, letter to.. XI, 114
- Thornton, S. B.**, Capt., capture of.....II, 25

- Tillman, J. W.**, letter to.....
VI, 100
- Tinsley, S. M.**, witness..I, 63
- Tobey, Samuel Boyd, Dr.**,
letter to.....VII, 135
- Tod, Dav.**, Gov. of O., L. de-
sires re-nomination of.....
VIII, 326
- nomination for Sec. of
Treas.....X, 141
- — declined.....X, 140
- provost-marshals named by
VIII, 223
- requests L. to call for vol-
unteers in O.....VII, 250
- Todd, Ann**, marriage of, I, 268
- reference to.....I, 184
- settlement of.....I, 268
- Todd, —**, Capt., body found..
VIII, 183
- Todd, —**, Dr., member of com-
mitteeII, 127
- Todd, —**, Gen., bearer of letter
X, 258
- Todd, L. B.**, telegram to....
IX, 169
- Todd, Mary**, marriage of.VI, 34
- writer of letter.....I, 221
- Todd, Robt. S.**, Lincoln's
father-in-lawVI, 34, 39
- Todd, Robt. S.**, Mrs., pass for
IX, 169
- Tolerance**, Lincoln's, toward
intemperance.....I, 193, 201
- Tonnage duties**, levy of, II, 41
- Toombs bill**, alleged plot in..
IV, 96, 97
- Toombs, Robt.**, elected.....
III, 343
- reply to Douglas....III, 342
- Toppahanock, Va.**, blockaded
XI, 80
- Tossing-a-copper**, Lincoln's
excellence atIII, 209
- Townsend, E. D.**, Asst. Adj.-
Gen.....VIII, 20, 204
- Tracy, Gilbert A**...XI, 94, 97
- Trade regulations**, order ap-
provingIX, 295
See also, Commerce; Com-
mercial Intercourse.
- Traylor, Arch.**, supposed mur-
dererI, 168
- Traylor, Hen.**, supposed mur-
dererI, 168
- Traylor, Wm.**, supposed mur-
dererI, 168
- Transportation**, loss to labor
VI, 128
- Trapp, —**, deserts Lincoln....
II, 275
- Treason**, definition of.VIII, 299
- Fed. gov. perverted by....
VII, 101
- punishment for....VII, 285
- in revenue service.VII, 101
- Treasury, U. S.**, advances
public money.....VII, 192
- balance in, Sept. 30, 1861..
VII, 34
- — July 1, 1862..VIII, 103
- — July 1, 1863.....X, 292
- Chase resigns.....
VIII, 148; X, 140

- Treasury, U. S.** (*contd.*)
- civil service disbursements of.....X, 292
 - condition of.....VI, 128
 - corruption in.....IX, 11
 - cotton shipment to agent of X, 186
 - disbursements for year ending June 30, 1861..VII, 34
 - — June 30, 1862.VIII, 103
 - — June 30, 1863.....VII, 44; X, 291
 - — June 30, 1864.....IX, 235; X, 292
 - draft of Cass upon..II, 80
 - embarrassments of...II, 30
 - Federal attempt to collect revenues in southern States VI, 299
 - Fessenden secretary of.... X, 140
 - issues \$100,000,000 notes... VIII, 192; IX, 233
 - loans of, in 1861...VII, 34
 - operations of.....IX, 233
 - public debt, July, 1863..... X, 293
 - revenues, Confederate seizures of.....VI, 298
 - — for year ending June 30, 1861.....VII, 34
 - — June 30, 1862..VIII, 103
 - — June 30, 1863.....VII, 44; X, 291
 - — June 30, 1864.....IX, 235; X, 292
 - proposed bonds for compensated emancipation..... VII, 276
 - Tod declines secretaryship of X, 140
 - trade-permits suspended... XI, 49
 - trade-regulations of.IX, 295
 - — frustrated.....X, 172
- Treat, Sam. H.**, Judge, prepares resolutions on death of Judge Nath. Pope...II, 137
- signs opinion.....II, 178
 - telegram to.....X, 141
- Treaty**, with Great Britain, for adjustment of claims, X, 289
- — suppression of African slave-trade.....IX, 225
 - Canada.....X, 290
 - New Granada....VIII, 188
 - Sandwich Islands..IX, 304
 - Santa Anna.....I, 345
- See also*, Commercial treaty; Reciprocity.
- Tremble**, —, Gen., traitorous intentions of.....IX, 25
- "Trent" affair**, Austrian minister instructed on..VII, 75
- correspondence with De Stoeckl on.....VII, 107
 - draft of dispatch on.VII, 63
 - Italian minister instructed on.....VII, 111
 - message to Congress on... VII, 67, 75, 86
 - need of explaining policy on XI, 122
 - Prince Gortchacow in-

- "Trent" affair (contd.)**
 instructs Russian minister on
 VII, 107
- "Trent," steamer, removal of
 Confederate commissioners
 from.....VII, 92, 111**
- "Tribune," debates with Doug-
 las in.....XI, 112**
- "Tribune," N. Y. See N. Y.
 "Tribune."**
- Trimble, Isaac, Gen., captured
 IX, 197**
- Triplett, —, Capt., execution
 ofVII, 229**
- Troops, U. S., adjustment of
 quotas of.....X, 60**
 — Burnside raises, in Tenn...
 IX, 175
 — call for.....VII, 245
 — — 100,000, six months....
 VIII, 318
 — difficulty of receiving.....
 VI, 312
 — discrepancy in number of..
 VII, 142
 — draft of, for one year..X, 166
 — German, in Mo.....VII, 85
 — hundred day.....X, 106
 — Irish.....VIII, 322
 — Mo., status of....VIII, 90
 — negro, in Mass.....X, 12
 — — arming of.....X, 66, 67.
 — — assistance of.....
 VIII, 186; IX, 245; X, 195,
 222
 — — effort to recruit on Miss.
 Riv.....IX, 37
- Troops, U. S. (contd.)**
 — — employment of, suggest-
 ed.....VIII, 186
 — — enlisted in La. and Miss.
 VIII, 234
 — — for garrison purposes..
 VIII, 186
 — — "heaviest blow yet
 dealt".....IX, 99
 — — Johnson raises in Tenn.
 VIII, 233
 — — Kelley raises in Phila...
 VIII, 331
 — — massacred.....X, 78
 — — Mo., raising of.VIII, 191
 — — opinion on rights of....
 X, 94
 — — raised in North.....
 VIII, 288
 — — recruited on same terms
 as white.....VIII, 289
 — — use of.....X, 79
 — offer of, from various
 States.....X, 82
 — returned to Tenn..VIII, 76
See also, Army, U. S.
- Troy, N. Y., address at, VI, 142**
- "True Delta," reference to...
 VIII, 73**
- Truesdale, Cal., communica-
 tions to....VIII, 251; X, 80**
- Trumbull, Lyman, Sen., at-
 tack on Douglas.....
 IV, 91, 92, 94**
 — attempt of, to dissolve Dem.
 party
 III, 204, 316; IV, 6, 77, 167

Trumbull, Lyman (*contd.*)
 — canvasses Ill. for Rep. party, 1856....II, 296; IV, 76, 77
 — charges plot in Kan. Constitution.....IV, 115
 — Cong. campaign of...IV, 6
 — Conn. birth of.....III, 211
 — desires information on Ark. X, 130
 — discussion with Douglas... IV, 8
 — Douglas' fraud on..... IV, 280, 385
 — effect of speech of, on North and South.....VI, 74
 — elected Sen. from Ill..... II, 274; IV, 13, 15
 — Ga., removal to...III, 211
 — Ill., removal to...III, 211
 — — leg., elected to...III, 211
 — — State debt, repudiates.. III, 211
 — interrogates Douglas.IV, 57
 — letter to, on Duff Green... VI, 87
 — — on La.....X, 334
 — Lecompton Constitution, opposed to.....III, 168
 — L.'s compact with...IV, 171
 — — — denied.IV, 35, 36, 189
 — — desire to re-elect..V, 92
 — — endorsement of.IV, 190
 — — fear of defeat of...V, 92
 — — opinion of...IV, 92, 190
 — Matheny's attack on.IV, 15
 — nullification, part in..... III, 211

Trumbull, Lyman (*contd.*)
 — opposes Douglas.IV, 169, 170
 — scheme to secure Douglas' seat.....III, 204
 — speech at Waterloo, Ill.... IV, 10
 — treachery of..... III, 212; IV, 13, 174
 — vote on Ore.....III, 294
Trumbull, —, painting by.... XI, v
Truth, immortality of...IV, v
Tunstall, Robt. B., affidavit of IX, 120
Turkey, consular courts in... VIII, 203
 — treaty with.....VIII, 98
Turner, Levi C., Maj., testimony in Key case..VIII, 46
Turner, T. J., appeal of Lincoln toII, 270
 — election as Speaker..II, 271
 — Senatorial contest..... II, 267, 272
Tuscumbia, Ala., Halleck at.. VII, 277
Twiggs, Dav. E., Gen., disposition of swords of, VIII, 142
Tycoon, opposition to, IX, 229
See also, Japan.
Tyler, E. B., Gen., cares for negro troops.....IX, 150
 — near Vienna, Va....VI, 327
 — surrounded.....VIII, 315
Tyler, John, Pres., defeats National bankI, 258
 — effect of policy.....I, 258

Tyler, John (*contd.*)

— succeeds Harrison..II, 293

Tyranny, preparation for.....

XI, 110

U

“**Ugly letter**,” of Hunter....

VII, 68

Ullman, Dan., Col., recruits

negro troops, VIII, 175, 234

Unconditional Union meet-
ing at Springfield, Ill., IX, 95

Underwood, J. R., petition of

X, 253, 256

Underwood, John C., Judge,

recommendation desired....

X, 73

Union, Federal; *see*, Federal
Union.

Union League of Phila.,

makes Lincoln honorary

memberIX, 182

Union National Convention,

Baltimore, 1864.....X, 118

Union Pacific Railroad, or-
der for construction of....

X, 32, 33, 36

— progress on.....VIII, 108

— work begun on.....IX, 244

Union Party, repudiation of

VI, 39

Union of States; *see*, Federal
Union.

Union Volunteer Refresh-

ment Saloons.....X, 128

Unitarian church, difference

in.....IV, 233; V, 55

United States, act to modify
collection districts in.....

X, 336

— area in 1861.....VIII, 121

— citizens of, rescue Chileans

IX, 292

— condition in 1862...IX, 244

— Ecuador, claims of....X, 40

— Eman. Proc. divides people

of.....XI, xii

— foreign residence of citizens

of.....IX, 228

— Great Britain, relations with

VIII, xxxii

— — sentiment toward.....

VIII, 197

— — telegraph to.....X, 286

— Liberia, correspondence with

X, 285

— natural resources...IX, 238

— naval force on Can. border

X, 290

— New Granada, treaty with..

VIII, 188

— notes to pay army and navy

VIII, 192

— people of, source of author-

ity.....V, 232

— population of.VIII, 121, 123

— — ratio of increase in.....

VIII, 122, 123

— protection to citizens of,

abroad.....IX, 227

— reinstatement in foreign re-

spect.....VI, 311

— relations with Canada.....

X, 290

- United States** (*contd.*)
- — China.....X, 287
 - — Colombia.....X, 284
 - — Egypt.....X, 287
 - — Foreign Powers..X, 287
 - — Japan.....X, 287
 - — Peru.....X, 284
 - — Venezuela.....X, 189
 - — South American Republics.....VIII, 99
 - rise and progress....IV, 20
 - slave population.....VI, 2
 - Ven., diplomatic intercourse with.....X, 284
 - worth fighting for...X, 203
- United States Army**; *see*, Army, U. S.
- United States Bank**, Cincinnati platform on...IV, 287
- constitutionality of...I, 122
 - depository.....I, 102
 - Douglas on charter.IV, 221
 - Douglas' action on.IV, 377
 - effect on circulation..I, 110
 - fiscal agent.....I, 110
 - Jackson on.....III, 180
 - necessity of.....I, 247
 - subject discussed.I, 100-139
 - suggested position of Taylor on.....II, 55
 - Taylor on establishment of II, 61
 - Tyler's defeat of.....I, 258
 - Washington on.....II, 60
 - Whig party on.....I, 248
- See also*, National banks; State Banks.
- United States Christian Commission**; *see*, Christian commission.
- United States Circuit Court**; *see* Court, U. S. Circuit.
- United States Civil War**; *see* Civil War, U. S.
- United States of Columbia**, diplomatic relations with.. IX, 241
- recognition of....VIII, 190
 - relations of U. S. with.... X, 284
- United States Congress**; *see*, Congress, U. S.
- United States Constitution**; *see*, Constitution, U. S.
- United States Consular Courts**; *see*, Courts, U. S. Consular.
- United States Government**; *see*, Federal Government.
- United States House of Representatives**; *see*, House of Representatives, U. S.
- United States Mails**; *see* Mails, U. S.
- United States Marshal**, appointment of, for Ill.II, 106
- United States Military Academy**; *see* Military Academy, U. S.
- United States Naval Academy**; *see* Naval Academy, U. S.
- United States Navy**; *see* Navy, U. S.

- United States Navy Department**; *see* Navy Department, U. S.
- United States notes**, issue of \$100,000,000.....VIII, 192
- United States Post Office**; *see* Post Office, U. S.
- United States Senate**; *see* Senate, U. S.
- United States Statute Laws**; *see* Laws, U. S. Statute.
- United States Supreme Court**; *see* Court, U. S. Supreme.
- United States Treasury**; *see* Treasury, U. S.
- United States War Department**; *see* War Department, U. S.
- Usher, John P.**, assures L. on Wright.....VII, 300
— letter to, on Ill. claims.... IX, 91
- Usury**, in Ill. State bank, I, 27
— legal control of.....I, 6
- Utah**, compromise on..IV, 271
— L.'s reply to Douglas on.... II, 315
- Utica, N. Y.**, address at..... VI, 136
- Utley, —**, Col., slaves in his camp.....VIII, 88
- V**
- Vacation**, Lincoln urged to take.....X, 189
- Vallandigham, Clement L.**, arrest and deportation of.. VIII, 278, 307, 313
— case of.....IX, 3, 5
— responsible for resistance to military.....IX, 6
— surveillance of.....X, 132
— suspension of habeas corpus in case of.....VIII, 311
See also, Habeas corpus.
- Van Alen, —**, Gen., letter to.. XI, 94
- Van Buren, Martin**, Pres., attack upon.....II, 71
— cost of administration..I, 126
— effort to re-elect.....II, 92
— nomination defeated..II, 71
— “old horse turned out to root”.....II, 70
— silence on Mexican War... I, 328
— war with old admirers..... II, 72
- Van Buren party**.....I, 126
- Vance, W. L.**, letter to..... VIII, 83
- Vandalia, Ill.**, depression in.. I, 18
— Land Office at.....II, 122
— L. sets out for.....I, 90
- Vanderbilt, Cor.**, presents steamer.....VII, 278
- Vanderlyn**, painting by..XI, v
- Vandever**, indorsement for.... VII, 74
- Van Dyke, John**, letter to.. II, 289

- Vanity of Lincoln**, speculation aboutX, 189
- Van Vliet**, —, Maj., telegram to.....VIII, 332
- Venezuela**, diplomatic intercourse with.....X, 284
- Vermont**, Butler's proposal to raise troops in.....VI, 352
- Dem. State Conv. in.IV, 53
- Douglas' early home.....IV, 53, 81
- draft of.....XI, 7
- Verse**; *see* Poetry.
- Veto**, Lincoln's speech on....II, 59
- Vickers**, —, Gen.....IX, 150
- Vicksburg**, Miss., Banks joins Grant at.....VIII, 200
- blockade of.....XI, 80
- capture reported..VIII, 281
- Halleck reports fall of.....IX, 22
- Johnston threatens..IX, 66
- lynching of gamblers at.I, 38
- progress of siege at.....VIII, 294, 295
- Victoria**, Queen, esteem for...VIII, 196
- Vienna**, Va., defeat at..VI, 327
- Schenk near.....VI, 327
- Views**, political..I, 14; VI, 157
- Villard**, —, Pomeroy circular X, 29
- Villiers**, —, Lady, letter to...VII, 173
- Virginia**, alliance with Confederacy.....VI, 306
- Virginia** (*contd.*)
- assessed..IX, 108, 112, 131
- cedes Northwest Ter.....II, 194
- claim of royalists to protection.....VI, 307
- compulsory oath suspended IX, 108
- convention on secession....VI, 305
- discussion on salary of judge.....II, 54
- Eman. Proc., difficulty of application to.....IX, 108
- — — exemptions from....VIII, 253
- Federal troops in, embarrassed.....X, 146
- Hanks family in....VI, 26
- invasion of, disavowed.....VI, 254
- Lincoln family in.....II, 15, 180, 181; V, 286; VI, 24, 57
- mulattos in.....III, 356
- ownership of Northwest Ter.....II, 193
- Pierpoint recruits negro troops.....X, 13
- proclamation opening ports IX, 135
- rebel depredations checked X, 255
- remission of confiscations..XI, 92
- repression of Union sentiment.....VI, 305

- Virginia** (*contd.*)
- reply to committee from State convention....VI, 243
 - status of negro in...III, 175
 - troops of, captured...XI, 93
 - Western, Federal occupation.....VII, 53
 - — Fremont to protect.....VII, 225
 - withdrawal of troops from Confed. army....XI, 74, 93
See also, Fortress Monroe; Norfolk; Pierpont, F. H.
- Virginia legislature**, rebel, dispersal ordered....XI, 93
- proposed meeting of.XI, 92
- Volunteers**, bounties to.....IX, 276; X, 165
- call for 100,000..VIII, 319
 - — 300,000 ..VII, 248; IX, 172; X, 316
 - — 500,000.....X, 164
 - circular letter on..VII, 256
 - credited on draft.....IX, 83, 173; X, 316
 - credits for, question of....IX, 84
 - disbandment of, on Fremont's proc.....VI, 359
 - medical officers for.VII, 256
 - mustering of, in N. Y.....IX, 92
 - re-enlistment of.....X, 26
 - to be forwarded.....VI, 332; VII, 256
See also, Army, U. S.; Troops, U. S.
- Voss, Arno**, delegate..IV, 50
- Voters**, challenged.....II, 177
- duty of.....VIII, 157
- "Vulgarity and 'blackguardism,"** charge of....III, 335
- W**
- "Wachusett,"** captures "Florida".....X, 261
- Wade, B. F.**, Maine, speeches of.....II, 291
- reference to.....V, 140
- Wadsworth, Jas.**, Gen., interest in terms to South.....XI, 131
- ordered to Alexandria....VII, 195
- Wainwright, Jon. M.**, Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress to VII, 162
- Wainwright, Rich.**, Com., thanks of Congress to....VII, 162
- "Waiting for the Hour,"** picture.....X, 345
- Wakeman, Abram**, letter to..X, 170
- telegram to.IX, 193; X, 347
- Walborn, C. A.**, invitation from.....X, 109
- telegram to.....X, 131
- Walbridge, Hir.**, Gen., letter from.....VII, 21
- Wallace, Edw. D.**, letter to V, 256; VI, 11
- Wallace, Lew**, Gen., defeated at Monocacy.....X, 156

- Wallace, Lew** (*contd.*)
 — telegram to.....X, 98
 — — on Hawks.....X, 97
 — — Waters
 X, 314, 318, 344, 351
 — retards enemy.....X, 155
- Wallace, Wm.**, letter to.....
 VI, 100
- Wallace, Wm. S.**, Dr., allu-
 sions to.....V, 256
 — L.'s gratitude to....VI, 231
 — recommendation of..II, 115
 — request of.....VI, 11
- Walter, —**, appeal of..IX, 104
- Walters, Harry**, prisoner....
 X, 315
- Walthall, E. C.**, Brig.-Gen.,
 reported killed.....IX, 137
- Walker, —**, Gov., letter to...
 XI, 120
- War**, attitude of Lincoln to-
 wardsV, xiii
 — repugnant to people.....
 VI, 284
- War between the States; see**
 Civil War.
- War Department, U. S.**, con-
 trol of churches....X, 5, 7
 — amnesty to soldiers.VIII, 224
 — call for 100,000 volunteers..
 VIII, 319
 — — 300,000 volunteers.....
 VII, 248; IX, 172; X, 316
 — — 500,000 volunteers.X, 164
 — corruption in.....IX, 11
 — disbursements, 1862.....
 VIII, 103
- War Dept., U. S.** (*contd.*)
 — — 1863.....X, 292
 — La. court officers paid.....
 VIII, 66
 — officers appointed by.....
 VIII, 12
 — prohibits export of arms...
 IX, 110
 — railroads taken possession of
 VII, 184
 — report on re-enlistment of
 volunteers.....X, 26
 — resignation of Cameron....
 VII, 79
 — vessels, U. S., treatment of,
 in foreign ports..XI, 82, 83
- War of 1812**, cost of...I, 126
- Ward, F. F.**, Gen., death of..
 VIII, 213
- Ward, Jas. H.**, Capt., opinion
 on Fort Sumter....VI, 205
- Ward, Marcus S.**, Hon., ap-
 peals of.....IX, 125
- Ward, —**, Mrs., St. Louis....
 X, 82
- Waring, —**,X, 275
- Warner, A. J.**, Col., suspends
 execution.....X, 329
- Warren, Gouveneur K.**, Gen.,
 at Bristow Station..IX, 179
- Warren, W. B.**, letter to.....
 II, 110
- Washburn, C. C.**, Gen., ad-
 vised of raid.....X, 252
- Washburne, E. B.**, asks for
 "Charley Wilson" letter....
 II, 361

Washburne, E. B. (contd.)

- attack on Douglas..III, 312
 - candidate for Cong..IV, 80
 - interview with Scott.....
VI, 84
 - leave of absence for brother
of.....IX, 182
 - — for Logan forwarded to
X, 266
 - letters to.....
II, 16, 266, 267, 271, 356,
359, 360; VI, 20
 - L.'s assurance of impartial-
ity to.....II, 269
 - L. deprecates compromise
to.....VI, 78
 - — informs, of defeat.II, 274
 - nominatedIII, 310
 - pledge of, on slave States..
IV, 304
 - posts L.....VI, 55
 - prepares medal.....IX, 264
- Washburne, Israel, Gov. of
Me., collectorship for.....
IX, 182**
- requests L. to call for vol-
unteers.....VII, 249
 - telegram to.....VI, 352
- Washington, D. C., address to
Union meeting in..VII, 304**
- arrangements for journey to
VI, 101, 102, 106
 - Butler ordered to...X, 339
 - Curtin sends force to.....
VII, 310
 - construction of railroads
concentrating on..VIII, 198

Washington, D. C. (contd.)

- danger of sacking.....
VII, 142; X, 155
- dangers of Presidential
journey to.....VI, 166
- Foote's attempted escape to
X, 339
- Halleck ordered to.VII, 277
- L. arrives in.....VIII, xxii
- local benefit from public offi-
ces in.....II, 36
- Logan invited to...X, 266
- Longstreet's movement to-
ward.....X, 157
- McClellan leaves unprotect-
ed.....VII, 141
- — plans for defense of....
VII, 254
- measures for protection of
VII, 117, 139, 183
- military line to Manassas..
VI, 332
- — orders directly from....
X, 176
- N. Y. militia called to.....
X, 143
- news of Mexican hostilities
II, 52
- remarks at Sanitary Fair in
X, 48
- reply to Mayor of..VI, 165
- — serenade at.....VI, 166
- salute ordered at...X, 214
- small force at.....X, 156
- small-pox at.....IX, 286
- telegraph to N. Y. and....
VII, 191

- Washington, D. C. (contd.)**
 — threatened by Jackson..... VII, 198
- Washington "Battery,"** Whig newspaper..... II, 58
- Washington "Chronicle,"** anonymous note to..... VIII, 292
- Washington "Constitution,"** Trumbull's speech and..... VI, 74
- Washington County, Ky.,** Lincoln family in.... II, 14
- Washington, Geo., Pres.,** birthday of..... VII, 107
 — compared to L.. V, v, xxvii
 — course toward defeated opponents..... V, 218
 — feeling of, toward Dec. of Ind..... IX, xi
 — first general order.. XI, 127
 — greatness of..... I, 192
 — hope of, in free States.... V, 358
 — member of Constitutional convention..... IV, 20
 — "ordinance of '87" approved by..... V, 298
 — position on slavery. VIII, xi
 — — U. S. Bank, I, 122; II, 60
 — Sabbath observance ordered by..... XI, 126
 — Sumner's sketch of.. IX, x
 — warns against sectionalism V, 312
- Washington, N. C.,** blockaded XI, 80
- Washington "National Republican,"** designation of.. VI, 242
- Washington "States".....** V, 272, 358
- Washington Territory,** organization of..... II, 257
 — possessory claims in..... IX, 225
 — question of admission..... IV, 75
 — territorial enabling act.... II, 258
- Washington "Union,"** article in III, 291, 301, 330-33, 340, 342-43; IV, 306
 — attack on Douglas.. III, 246
 — attempt to read Douglas out of party..... VI, 22
 — Douglas' plans published in III, 159
 — on "Freeport doctrine".... IV, 361
 — speech of Cass in.... II, 76
- Watauga River,** residence of Isaac Lincoln on..... II, 15, 180; VI, 25
- Waterloo,** incident of battle of V, 357
- Waterloo, Ill.,** speech of Boker at..... IV, 10, 177
 — — Trumbull at.. IV, 10, 177
- Waters, Chas. E.,** case of... X, 350
- Waters, Levin L.,** case of... X, 314, 318

- Welles, Gideon** (*contd.*)
- naval force assigned to revenue service.....VI, 225
 - opinion on Fort Sumter.... VI, 208, 228
 - Porter re-assigned to duty VI, 272
 - protection of Va. refugees.. VIII, 170
 - question on government mail of neutral powers..... VIII, 252
- Welling, J. C.**, letter to..... X, 173
- Wendell, Cor.**, public printer III, 332, 342, 343
- Wentworth, John**, gubernatorial aspirations of...II, 364
- Molonoy's manager..IV, 79
 - senatorial prospects of.... IV, 16
 - superior knowledge of.... II, 268
 - supports Trumbull...IV, 9
- West Indies**, race equality in III, 92
- West, Lincoln family** in..... II, 15
- West Point, N. Y.**; *see* Military Academy, U. S.
- West Virginia**, admission of VIII, 151, 152, 160
- — opinion on....VIII, 157
 - call for militia in..VIII, 318
 - forces in, under McClellan VI, 332
 - loyalty of.....VIII, 159
- West Virginia** (*contd.*)
- proclamation admitting to Union.....VIII, 250
 - tribute to men of.VIII, 159
- Wetherell, Chas. M., Dr.**, remuneration of.....IX, 54
- Wetmore, Prosper M.**, letter to.....IX, 215
- Wheaton, F., Gen.**, leave of absence for.....IX, 113
- Whig caucus**, for House of Rep.....I, 316
- Whig majority**, small...I, 316
- Whig meeting**, resolutions of I, 240
- Whig party**, abolitionizing of III, 204, 205, 211, 314; IV, 5, 6, 77, 167, 171
- — denied by L.....IV, 189
 - appointment of committee to prepare address.....I, 242
 - Ashmun amendment, vote on.....VI, 35
 - attitude of, in Mexican War II, 84
 - bargain for U. S. Sen. of.. IV, 15
 - "Battery," newspaper of.II, 58
 - broad distinction of, from Dem. party.....II, 65
 - compact to elect L..IV, 14
 - convention, Baltimore, 1852 IV, 166
 - — call for.....II, 154
 - — circular of.....I, 142
 - — district, recommendation to hold.....I, 255

Whig party (*contd.*)

- — Ill. State.....I, 260
- — of, in 1858.....IV, 3
- — Phila., 1847, L. at.V, 176
- — Springfield, 1841, call for
I, 181
- — system of nominations
recommended.....I, 240
- demands election of L. to
U. S. Sen.....IV, 15
- desire of, to aid Taylor...
II, 52
- difference from Van Buren
party.....I, 126
- disruption of.....IV, 5
- effect of Harrison's death
on.....I, 257
- factions in....I, 253; II, 87
- endorsement of Clay's land
bill.....I, 251
- — comp. of 1850.....
II, 203; IV, 37
- L.'s membership in.....
II, 287; V, 38, 288
- majority of nation...I, 259
- national character of.....
IV, 247
- offense of, at Butterfield's
appointmentII, 121
- on Mo. Comp.....III, 202
- on national bank...I, 247
- opposition to Neb. bill.....
II, 286
- plan to organize Ill.....
I, 143; II, 154
- political principles of.....
IV, 1

Whig party (*contd.*)

- principle of Government of
II, 64; III, 201; IV, 161
- — presidential elections...
II, 69
- reflections on condition and
prospects of.....I, 256
- resolutions of.....I, 243
- — sub-treasury, position on
I, 123
- "selling out" denied by L..
III, 224
- State Cent. Com. appointed
I, 242
- understanding among Cong.
candidates of.....VI, 37
- victory of, 1840.....I, 256
- will of the people, view of..
II, 91

Whigs, honesty of.....I, 266**Whig State Central Commit-**

tee, address of.....I, 243

— circular from.....I, 160

Whiskers, Lincoln and.VI, 63**White, —, letter to**...V, 292**White, C. A., letter to**..IX, 1**White House, address at, on**

colonization.....VIII, 1

— leaves for the first time....

XI, 94

— L.'s residence in, a witness

X, 202, 209

White House, Va., McClel-

lan's communication via, cut

off.....VII, 242

— sick and wounded removed

from.....VII, 244

- White House** (*contd.*)
 — Stoneman driven back on..
 VII, 242
 — Williamsburg, communication to.....VII, 247
White, Hugh L., pledge to vote for.....I, 15
White, Jas. W., letter to....
 VII, 278; IX, 1
White men, slavery an evil to
 XI, 108
White Oak Road, enemy on
 XI, 66
Whiteside, Sam., Brig.-Gen., order for arms.....I, 9
Whiting, —, resignation of...
 XI, 62
Whiting, Riley, release suggested.....XI, 39
Whitlock, Chas. liberty restrained.....XI, 78
Whitman, Walt.....IX, lxxv
Whitney, —, Dr.....II, 272
Whitney, —, letter to..II, 290
Whitney, Hen. C., "lost speech".....II, 308
 — letters to.....
 XI, 101, 102, 104, 112, 114
Whittington, —, Bishop, opinion in Hawks case....X, 97
Wickliffe, C. A., Gov. of Ky., consents to Boyle's raising Ky. regiment.....VI, 295
 — defeated.....IX, 62
 — questions emancipation....
 VII, 125
Widner, John H.,.....XI, 114
- Wiegand, Chas.**, concerning command of brigade.....
 VIII, 231
Wigeon, Margaret E., Miss
 IX, 120
Wiggins loan, payment of.I, 34
Wilcox, Elij.....IV, 50
Wilcox, O. B., Maj.-Gen., Hampton Roads conference
 XI, 14
Wild turkey, story of shooting
 VI, 27
Wilder, A. C., telegram to...
 IX, 104
Wilkes, Chas., Capt.; *see* "Trent" affair.
Will of Lincoln tardy in action.....VIII, xlv
William of Orange, Lincoln compared with.....IX, lii
Williams, —, candidacy of, for U. S. Senate.....II, 268
 — gift to L. of Mackinaw trout
 X, 356
 — letter to.....I, 274
Williams, A., Hon., presenter of resolutions on death of Judge Nathaniel Pope....
 II, 137
William Archer.....IV, 16
 — endorses L.'s bill...II, 289
 — letter to.....II, 17, 26
Williams, E. B.....IV, 50
Williams, H. H., sentenced..
 IX, 188
Williams, J., telegram to....
 IX, 175

- Williams, J. C.**, Lt.-Col., request for removal of..... VIII, 256
- Williams, L. J.**, Dr., prisoner VIII, 10
- Williams, John**....VIII, 286
— letter to.....X, 284
— protest of.....XI, 129
— telegram from.....X, 84
- Williamson, —**, Lincoln's remembrance of.....I, 211
- Williamson, Elizabeth**, Lincoln's remembrance of..... I, 211
- Williamson, Hugh**, vote on slavery.....V, 296
- Williamsport, Md.**, Bank's retreat to.....VII, 194
— Confederates cross at..... IX, 22
— Jackson crosses at..... VIII, 317
- Willich, —**, Gen., news brought by.....VIII, 269
- Wilmington, N. C.**, blockade of port of.....XI, 80
- Wilmington expedition**.... X, 327
— Butler publishes report of.. X, 338
- Wilmot, Dav.**, author of Wilmot Proviso.....II, 200
- Wilmot Proviso**, agitation of V, 77
— demand for.....IV, 7
— effect of, in Ill....III, 116
— enforcement of....IV, 7, 12
- Wilmot Proviso (contd.)**
— introduction of.....III, 210
— L.'s votes for.....II, 201, 287; V, 77
— Lovejoy's resolutions on.... III, 322
— origin of.....II, 200
— position of Taylor on..II, 67
— progress of.....II, 201
— record of Cass on....II, 76
- Wilson, —**, Maj., murdered.. X, 273
- Wilson, Chas. L.**..II, 357, 360
— "Charley Wilson letter"... II, 361
— letter to.....II, 362
- Wilson, Edw. C.**, letter to.. VI, 98
- Wilson, Singleton**, takes oath IX, 88
- Wilson's Creek**, gallantry at VI, 356
- Wilton, Harry**, statement on I, 175
- Winchester, Ill.**, Douglas a school-teacher in...III, 209
- Winchester, Va.**, Banks' race for.....VII, 186
— besieged.....VIII, 317
— communications cut..... VIII, 316
— Hancock at.....XI, 60
— Hooker at....VIII, 315, 316
— McClellan advised to attack at.....VIII, 59
— Milroy surrounded at..... VIII, 315

- Winchester** (*contd.*)
 — — to be gotten away from
 VIII, 316
 — position and force of Southern troops at.....VII, 182
 — Schenk relieves Milroy....
 VIII, 316
 — Sheridan's victory at.....
 X, 227
- Winslow, John A.**, Capt., thanks of Congress to.X, 280
- Winston, F. S.**, letter to....
 VII, 278
- Winthrop, Robt. C., Jr.**, opinion of.....II, 89
- Wisconsin**, admission of.....
 II, 194
 — — motion to reconsider vote
 II, 18
 — hundred-day troops..X, 237
 — offers infantry.....X, 82
 — proposed cession to...I, 146
- Wise**, —, of Va., Douglas supporter.....V, 217
- Wofford**, —, Brig.-Gen., killed at Chickamauga.....
 IX, 137
- Wolf**, —, Maj., sentenced...
 X, 273
- Wolford, Frank**, Col., action in regard toX, 181
 — offer of parole..X, 162, 276
- Woman suffrage**.....I, 14
- Women**, question of passing lines.....X, 46
- Wood, Fernando**, letter from
 VII, 143
- Wood, John T.**, letter to.....
 VI, 100
- Woodruff, T.**, indorsement on letter of.....VIII, 249
- Wool, John E.**, Gen., command assigned to McClellan
 VII, 143
 — letter to.....VI, 98
 — sent to Ft. McHenry.VII, 208
 — telegram about Bragg.....
 VIII, 22
 — — inquiring condition of force.....VII, 153
- Woolworth, Salem E.**, acting-Lt.-Com., thanks of Congress to.....VII, 162
- Worcester, Mass.**, speech by Lincoln at.....II, 89
- Worden, John J.**, Lt., imprisonment of.....VI, 336
 — thanks of Congress to.....
 VIII, 136
- "Working and Eating,"** Cass on.....II, 80
- Working-men**.....VI, 119
See also, Capital; Labor.
- Working-men**, of London, Eng., letter to...VIII, 211
 — of Manchester, Eng., letter to.....VIII, 194
- Working-men's Asso. of N. Y.**, reply to committee of..
 X, 50
- Worthington, T.**, Col., desires to visit Grant.....X, 206
- Wrestling**, Lincoln's excellence in.....III, 209

- Wright, A. R.**, claim for cotton.....X, 274
Wright, C. J., plan to secure cotton.....IX, 280
Wright, Dav. M., Dr., case of IX, 105
 — execution postponed IX, 169
 — examined as to his sanity.. IX, 114
 — transcript of trial ordered.. IX, 53
Wright, Dav., Mrs. Dr...... IX, 176
Wright, H. G., Gen., breaks Confed. lines.....XI, 68
 — co-operates with Hunter... X, 157, 161
 — on Southside Road..XI, 69
 — responsible for Louisville.. VIII, 26
 — telegram to, about Gen. Bragg.....VIII, 21, 34
Wright, Jos. A., report of Hamburg exposition..... IX, 291
 — letter to urging him to carry Terre Haute district for Union cause.....VII, 300
Wright, J. L., telegram to.... X, 168
Wright, Silas, drafts first Sub-treasury bill.....I, 103
 — letter to Chicago Convention.....II, 46
Wynkoop's cavalry soldier of, sentencedVIII, 245
- Y**
- Yates, Rich. —**, Gov. of Ill. candidate for Cong..... IV, 279
 — L.'s canvass for.....VI, 37
 — offers Ill. troops.....X, 83
 — reports forged proclamation X, 104
 — — insurrection in Edgar Co., Ill.....X, 28
 — requests L. to call for volunteers.....VII, 250
 — Soldiers' Home, permit to use Govt. lot for...IX, 302
 — telegram to.....VII, 145
 — vote for, in Sangamon Co.. II, 273
Yates, Wm., letter to..... VIII, 286
Yeatman, Jas., Gen. Grant's opinion of.....XI, 62
 — interested in McPheeters case.....VIII, 170
 — Sherman's opinion of..X, 63
Yeddo, U. S. legation burned IX, 229
Yocum, case of, referred.... X, 275
 — sentence unjust.....X, 47
Yorktown, Va., blockade.... XI, 80
 — McClellan breaks enemy's line from.....VII, 140
 — negro troops suggested to garrison.....VIII, 186
 — siege guns before..VII, 152

“Young America,” cry of
 Douglas supporters..V, 101
Young, Francis G., Capt., in
 battle of Balls Bluff.....
 VII, 61
“Young Hickory,” Polk
 known as.....II, 73
Young, John S., case of.....
 X, 324
Young men, choice of law by
 II, 143
 — importance of, in politics..
 II, 57
Young Men’s Cent. Rep.
 Union, of N. Y. C..V, 293
Young Men’s Lyceum, ad-
 dress before.....I, 35
Young, —, Judge, U. S. Sen.
 from Ill.....I, 252

Z

Zagonyi, Chas., Col., bearer of
 dispatches.....VII, 222
Zouaves, Baxter’s Fire.....
 VII, 309
Zwizler, Lew.....II, 50
Unidentified Letters.
 —, letter to.....II, 133
 — —,II, 288
 —, Dr., letter to.....V, 258
 —, letter to.....VI, 5
 —, letter to.....VI, 10
 —, John, letter to.....VI, 54
 —, letter to.....VI, 191





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