

TUESDAY, November 17th, 1863.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The roll being called, the following members answered to their names :

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cator, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Smith and Taylor—17.

A quorum present.

The journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

Mr. Russell of the 17th District, moved that a committee of three be appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the House, to wait upon his Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that the General Assembly is now organized and ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make ;

Which motion was adopted.

The President appointed Messrs. Russell of 17th District, Hogue and Cooper as said committee.

The committee retired and after a short time returned and reported that they had performed their duty and were discharged.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that a committee of three be appointed to make arrangements for the printing of the Senate ;

Which was adopted.

The President appointed Messrs. Abercrombie, Norwood and Taylor, as said committee.

A committee from the House appeared and informed the Senate that the House was organized and prepared for business.

Mr. Arnow gave notice that on some future day, he would introduce the following bill :

A bill to be entitled an act for the support of indigent widows and orphans of soldiers, who have died or have been killed in the service of the State or Confederate States; for the support of indigent families of soldiers who may be in the public service; and for the support of indigent soldiers who may be disabled by wounds or disease in the service of the State or Confederate States; and for indigent persons who have no means or power to obtain a support, for and during the year A. D. 1864; to provide for raising funds to carry into effect such appropriation; and to provide for the proper application of the same to the purposes aforesaid; also,

A bill to be entitled an act to amend the seventh section of an act entitled an act to change the mode of selecting Grand and Petit Jurors in this State; also,

A bill to be entitled an act relating to evidence; also,

A bill to be entitled an act allowing officers arresting criminals

to take a bond with good and sufficient security for their appearance at court;

Which were received and read.

Mr. Norwood gave notice that on some future day he would introduce the following bills :

A bill to be entitled an act to amend the election laws of this State relative to soldiers voting;

A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of Peter Parker, of Washington county, Florida; also,

A bill to be entitled an act to allow the Judges of the Circuit Courts of this State to appoint Sheriffs pro tem., in certain cases.

Which were received and read.

Mr. Abercrombie gave notice that on some future day he would introduce the following bill :

A bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Southern Express Company.

Which was received and read.

A committee from the House appeared at the bar of the Senate and stated that they were appointed a joint committee to act with a similar committee on the part of the Senate, to adopt joint rules for the government of the General Assembly.

Resolutions were declared in order.

Mr. Holland moved that the resolution presented by him on yesterday, and which was informally passed over, be taken up and read ;

Which was adopted.

The following is the resolution :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Senate, and that the House of Representatives be requested to appoint a like committee to act as a joint and select committee, to report a bill providing for the ample support and maintenance of families of soldiers who require assistance, and those who died in battle, or who have died from disease, or who, by wounds or disease, are incapable of rendering military service, and that said bill provide for the support of all indigent persons in this State.

The President appointed as said committee Messrs. Holland, Russell, of 17th District and Arnow.

Mr. Holland moved a committee be appointed to inform the Senate of the adoption of the above resolution ;

Which was adopted.

The President appointed as said committee Messrs. Holland, Taylor and Smith.

The committee returned and reported that they had performed their duty and asked to be discharged.

The following message was received from his Excellency, the Governor :

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 16th, 1863. }

*Fellow-Citizens of the Senate
and House of Representatives :*

From the commencement of the war on the part of the United States, waged under the despotic sway of Abraham Lincoln to subjugate the Confederate States of America, its progress has enriched the annals of nations with an additional illustration that a brave people, who know their rights and resolve to maintain them under the government of their choice, are invincible. The boast and solemn assurance given by President Lincoln to Foreign Nations and to his own subjects was, that in ninety days he would conquer the South. To accomplish it, he ordered seventy-five thousand of his victims to arms. This mighty army at Manassas was distinguished by the wild confusion in which it fled from the battle-field. Since then large armies, composed of citizens of the United States and of the deluded hirelings of foreign nations, have been brought into military service, and a debt of upwards of two thousand millions of dollars has been incurred by the United States. Unable to win conquests upon fields of battle, notwithstanding their vast number, and warlike preparations, they have resorted to rapine, robbery and murder, and thus excited the unrelenting hate of the people of the Confederate States of America and the disgust of humane and intelligent citizens of other civilized nations. Well assured of their inability to triumph by arms, and aided by their vile feats of rapine, robbery and murder, they have sought by emissaries, under the guise of loyalty to the Confederate States of America, to create distrust, dissension and partizan strife among the people of the South by inspiring the weak-minded, ignorant and timid, who would sell their birthright for a "mess of pottage," with the hope of reconstruction—of again living in harmony as one people under the same government. The intelligent, brave and loyal citizens of the Confederate States of America will ever regard with contempt any proposition which may be made

for peace with the United States, except under a separate government, recognized by the United States as the government of the free, sovereign, independent and Confederate States of America.

It is possible, and even probable, that when the Southern States seceded, if the United States had recognized their political right to do so as free, sovereign and independent States—a character which each of the United States had uniformly and proudly claimed—and had manifested a willingness to adjust the terms of separation equitably; or with justice and dignity had proposed to remove the causes which induced the separation, the States would have been reunited. But, under the control of the abolition party, President Lincoln resolved upon war for the emancipation of the slaves and the subjugation of the South; the result of which has been military despotism in the United States, and will be to insure the permanent independence and prosperity of the Confederate States of America.

To achieve the recognition of the Confederate States of America by the United States and other foreign governments, events have proved conclusively that our people must rely exclusively upon their own exertions, courage and fortitude, under the guidance and protection of Almighty God, whose wisdom and mercy they should seek to insure by the exercise of christian virtues. We have more to dread from the wicked practices and thoughtlessness of some of our own people than from the arms, cruelty and chicanery of the enemy. The love of money has been said to be the root of all evil, and this vile affection has induced many, capable of being good citizens and valuable soldiers, to seek wealth by speculation and extortion, and to avoid honorable service as soldiers in the war for the achievement of our independence, and with it the enjoyment of all political and civil rights. To your wisdom and patriotism is entrusted the right and power to remedy evils which threaten injury to the State, to devise measures to protect the rights of the citizens and to maintain the peace and dignity of the State.

The Constitution makes it the duty of the Governor of the State to recommend to the consideration of the General Assembly such measures as he may deem expedient. If the General Assembly shall not concur in opinion with the Governor upon such measures as he may recommend, it is their

duty not to adopt them; but it may be due to the intelligence of the people whom they represent to make known the reasons of difference upon important measures, inasmuch as the people, by the Constitution, have made it the solemn duty of the Governor to recommend to the consideration of the General Assembly such measures as he may deem expedient, and inasmuch as the Governor represents a distinct department of government of equal dignity. In performance of the duty thus enjoined by the Constitution of the State, I had the honor at the last session of the General Assembly to recommend to your honorable body the absolute necessity for a change in the militia laws of the State; and I again most respectfully invite your attention to this subject, and and recommend to your honorable body "to repeal the existing militia laws," which are incomprehensible and, for practical purposes, inefficient; to vacate the few militia offices which have not been vacated; and to enact laws suitable to the condition of the State, adapted to its defence, and which can be enforced. Every man and boy capable of bearing arms, not already in the military service of the Confederate States; or liable to conscription therein—embracing, those who have substitutes in the Confederate service, those who have resided in the State five days, those who are or may be in it one hour for the purpose of speculation, and not excluding those who may claim to be aliens—should be organized *as State Troops*, armed and occasionally drilled, but not subject to be ordered into Confederate service, nor from their ordinary pursuits, except to repel invasions and to maintain suitable police regulations for the protection of the lives and property of the citizens generally, and especially of the lives and property of the families of those who are absent in the military service of the Confederate States. All persons who are intended to be liable to militia duty, under the existing laws, are subject to be conscripted into the Confederate service, except such as have substitutes in the service or are specially exempted by law. There are but few persons holding commissions under the existing militia laws, and of them none between the ages of 18 and 45 years have been exempted from Confederate service by me, nor is there any reason why they should be, there being no organization of militia and no organization being practicable under the existing laws of the State and of the Confederate States. Important parts of the State are now in possession of the ene-

my, our citizens are constantly subject to be harassed by them, and the State generally is under a constant threat of invasion; therefore I respectfully recommend to your honorable body to enact promptly suitable laws to aid in the protection of the lives, liberty and property of your fellow-citizens and the political existence and honor of the State.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America, by an act approved May 1st, 1863, repealed certain clauses of an act entitled "an act to exempt certain persons from military service," &c., approved October 11, 1862. So much of the latter act was repealed "as exempts from military service one person, either as agent, owner or overseer on each plantation on which one white person is required to be kept by the laws or ordinances of any State, and on which there is no white male adult not liable to military service, and in States having no such law, one person as agent, owner, or overseer, on each plantation of twenty negroes, and on which there is no white male adult not liable to military service;" and also the following clause in said act, to-wit: "and, furthermore, for additional police for every twenty negroes on two or more plantations, within five miles of each other, and each having less than twenty negroes, and on which there is no male adult not liable to military duty, one person, being the oldest of the owners or overseers on such plantations." By the 2d section of the act approved May 1st, 1863, it is enacted, that "for the police and management of slaves there shall be exempted one person on each farm or plantation, the sole property of a minor, a person of unsound mind, a *feme sole*, or a person absent from home in the military or naval service of the Confederacy, on which there are twenty or more slaves: *Provided*, the person so exempted was employed and acting as an overseer previous to the sixteenth April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and there is no white male adult on said farm or plantation who is not liable to military duty, which fact shall be verified by the affidavit of said person, and two respectable citizens, and shall be filed with the enrolling officer: *And provided*, the owner of such farm or plantation, his agent or legal representative, shall make affidavit and deliver the same to the enrolling officer, that, after diligent effort, no overseer can be procured for such farm or plantation not liable to military duty: *Provided, further*, That this clause shall not extend to any farm or plantation on which the negroes have been

placed by division from any other farm or plantation since the eleventh day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two: *Provided, further*, That for every person exempted, as aforesaid, and during the period of such exemption, there shall be paid annually into the public treasury, by the owner of such slaves, the sum of five hundred dollars." By the 3rd section of the same act it is enacted, that "such other persons shall be exempted as the President shall be satisfied ought to be exempted in districts of country deprived of white or slave labor indispensable to the production of grain or provisions necessary for the support of the population remaining at home, and also on account of justice, equity and necessity."

And by the 4th section it is enacted that "in addition to the State officers exempted by the act of October eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, there shall also be exempted all State officers whom the Governor of any State may claim to have exempted for the due administration of the government and laws thereof; but this exemption shall not continue in any State after the adjournment of the next regular session of its Legislature, unless such Legislature shall, by law, exempt them from military duty in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States."

The Congress of the Confederate States also passed "an act to authorize the discharge of certain civil officers from the military service of the Confederate States," approved April 2, 1863. The act declares "that any officer, non-commissioned officer or private now in the military service of the Confederate States, who has been elected or appointed since entering said service, or who may hereafter be elected or appointed a Senator or Representative in Congress, or in any State Legislature, a Judge of the Circuit, District or Superior Courts of law or equity in any State of the Confederacy, District Attorney, Clerk of any Court, of Record, Sheriff, Ordinary, Judge of any Court of Probate, Collector of State taxes, not to exceed one for each county, Parish Recorder, upon furnishing the Secretary of War with evidence of such election or appointment, if an officer, his resignation shall be promptly accepted, and if a non-commissioned officer or private, he shall be honorably discharged by the Secretary of War."

To these acts of Congress I invite your attention and deliberate consideration.

The maintenance of our armies in the field, of the families of those in military service, of the civil governments of the Confederate States and the States separately—in a word, not only the liberty, but the lives of the people of the States—depend upon agricultural labor. The agricultural labor of the Southern States is mainly slave labor.—The advocates of slavery in our national councils, and throughout the various forms of argument to justify and sustain the institution, have contended forcibly and truthfully that negroes had not the inclination or ability to labor successfully without the superior skill and intelligence of the white man to enforce and direct their labor. The experience of mankind is, that Africans, when free, will not engage in agriculture for their own support. It is not reasonable to suppose that, as slaves, they will voluntarily labor in a manner to secure subsistence for the armies, insure the support of families at home and raise the revenues necessary to sustain the Confederate and State Governments. The most reasonable presumption is, that if left without the control of overseers, to whom they have been accustomed to yield obedience, the result will be insubordination and insurrection.

In my humble judgment, therefore, a more effectual auxiliary could not be devised to ensure success to the emancipation scheme of the President of the United States, to destroy the sovereignty of the States and to subjugate the people of the several States to a military despotism than an act of Congress which (if it were respected by the States) would entrust the agriculture of the country and the lives of families to the slaves unrestrained by the presence, authority and skill of overseers. I say *overseers*—and not owners of slaves—because, as a general rule, slaves have been managed by overseers, and but few owners have manifested the industry, skill and energy necessary to successful agriculture.

In a time of profound peace, when not the slightest anticipation of war could have reasonably existed, the General Assembly of this State enacted a law requiring a white person, either the owner or overseer, to reside on the plantation where slaves lived, for their proper control and government, for the protection of the property of others as well as that of their owners, and to avoid the dangerous consequences resulting from idleness and insubordination. Each

of the other States had passed a similar law. Judging from the debates which occurred in Congress upon the subject, the belief was entertained that a sufficient number of men over forty-five years old could be obtained who were qualified to perform the necessary duties of overseers. But such was not and is not the fact. Persons over that age, who, perhaps, might have been competent and have been hired as overseers, had been generally employed and received into the Confederate military service as substitutes for those under that age who were liable to conscription or had volunteered. The prices paid to overseers ranged generally from two to six hundred dollars per annum. The prices offered and paid to substitutes have ranged from five hundred to five thousand dollars. You may readily believe, therefore, that the class of men who have been generally employed as overseers—a class whose habits of industry, skill and integrity qualified them to direct the agricultural labor of the country—would enter into the military service for an amount sufficient in itself to secure a permanent support to their families, and especially with the arguments used to induce the belief that the war would be of short duration, that it would terminate gloriously and that they would have the honor of having their names identified with it, rather than to oversee for an amount which, at the present high prices of the necessaries of life, would be scarcely more than sufficient to pay current expenses.

The number of persons engaged in overseeing was small in proportion to the population generally, and their services in the management of agricultural interests will contribute much more to the general welfare in the performance of their duties on plantations than in military service.

The exemption of overseers was not for the benefit of the rich, as was alleged. Those who were engaged as overseers were themselves generally poor men, distinguished for their industry and integrity; and their occupation was necessary to secure subsistence to our armies and support to the families of soldiers absent in military service; to protect the property of the poor as well as the rich from the effects of insubordination and violence on the part of the slaves, and, by the skillful management of the agricultural labor of the country, to ensure the means of support to the government of the Confederate States and of each of the States. Much complaint is now made of the high prices and scarcity of

the necessaries of life, and if the agriculture of the country shall be entrusted to those incompetent to direct it, a general famine throughout the Confederacy may be the result—a result which would produce the most fearful and fatal consequences.

When "the Conscript Act" was passed by the Congress and approved by the President of the Confederate States—and while it operated alone upon citizens not necessary to the due administration of the State Government and not required by the laws of the State to maintain police regulations necessary for the protection of the property and lives of the citizens of the State—I regarded the question of its constitutionality as a judicial question, and to the best of my ability, as the Executive of the State, was ready and willing to sustain whatever decision might be made upon the subject by the proper department of the Government. But when its enforcement threatened to subject to its operation citizens required by the laws of the State to maintain suitable police regulations, I did not then consider it exclusively a judicial question, and, for reasons assigned, respectfully protested officially to the President of the Confederate States against its enforcement contrary to the laws of the State intended to insure proper police regulations for the government of slaves and necessary to the most sacred rights of citizens.

All between the ages of 18 and 45, not absolutely necessary for the police of slaves and administration of civil government, and physically qualified, should perhaps have constituted the armies in Confederate service for the defence of the country. Those over the age of 45 should have been, and yet should be, devoted to agriculture and other necessary employments, but organized as State troops, to maintain suitable police regulations, and to co-operate when necessary with Confederate forces in the defence of their respective States. These views were submitted respectfully by me to his Excellency, the President of the Confederate States, and to the honorable Senators and Representatives of this State in Congress. If your honorable body shall concur with me in the opinion just expressed, I respectfully ask the adoption of such measures by legislation as the safety of the State demands. If you shall not concur in this opinion, then I recommend to your honorable body to repeal the Act which makes it unlawful "for the owner or proprietor of any farm

or plantation upon which slaves are or shall be employed, to leave the same without any white person residing thereon," and thus relieve the citizens of the State from their liability to indictment and punishment, and avoid a conflict of authority upon the subject between the State and Confederate Government.

I have not deemed it necessary to a due administration of the State government to exempt any State officers not exempted by the 4th section of the act of Congress approved May 1st, 1863. The act of Congress approved April 22d, 1863, does not entitle any person who since its enactment may have been elected Justices of the Peace, County Commissioners, Coroners and other minor offices not specified in the act, to be discharged from the military service of the Confederate States; nor, in my humble judgment, is there any good reason why they should be discharged, as their military services are necessary to the country and there are enough citizens not in military service, or liable even to conscription, willing and qualified to discharge the duties of these minor offices. The reports generally having been made agreeably to the act entitled "an act to aid the families of soldiers that require assistance," there will not perhaps be any necessity for so many Justices of the Peace as are now authorized by law.

Since the adjournment of the last General Assembly, complaints have been made to me of mal-practice or inefficiency of some of the county officers, and to remedy the evils complained of no legal authority existed. The Board of Commissioners in one county held a public meeting at the Court House and passed the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the Judge of Probate be and he is hereby requested to inform the Governor of the State of Florida of the neglect of Sheriff — in the performance of his duties as assessor of the taxes of this county, caused by continued intemperance.

"Resolved, That the authorities be and they are hereby requested to take immediate steps for his removal from office."

These resolutions were certified under the seal of the county, by the Judge of Probate, forwarded to and received by me, but no legal remedy had been provided by statute for the relief of the county and protection of the public interests.

I had the honor to recommend to the General Assembly, at its last session, "to make ample provisions to secure the necessary food and clothing for the indigent families of those who have volunteered or been mustered into military service as conscripts, that a fund should be provided by taxation, the amount thus raised deposited in the State treasury and prudently distributed." To supply the fund supposed to be sufficient, your honorable body enacted a statute authorizing an additional issue of treasury notes. Under the provisions of the act, much difficulty has been experienced in extending the required assistance to soldiers' families, and complaints have been made from several counties against county officers whose duty it was, with the money in their possession, or at their command, by a compliance with the statute, to supply the wants of the families. The co-operation of so many officers was made necessary by the statute, that, in some instances, their movements were, perhaps, unavoidably dilatory.

No duty can be more sacred, the performance of none more honorable, than that which devolves upon the authorities and citizens of the State to provide for the wives, and children, and indigent parents, and families of the brave men who are in military service, exposed to the dangers and hardships of the war.

The number of families reported as needing assistance, is three thousand three hundred and ninety-eight, comprising eleven thousand six hundred and seventy-three persons.

Whether the assistance heretofore rendered shall be extended by a further appropriation of money, to be raised by taxation, and in what manner, or by the issue of an additional amount of treasury notes, or by a tax in kind, is worthy the serious consideration of your honorable body. It is better, in my judgment, to resort to taxation than to increase the amount of treasury notes in circulation. To a considerable extent, it would reduce the amount in circulation, enhance the value of the currency and check the spirit for speculation of which there is much complaint.

The Judge of Probate and County Commissioners should be authorized to increase the taxation in the several counties where it can be justly done, and to receive the amount

in provisions or money. There are several counties which have suffered from invasions of the enemy, which should be relieved from this taxation and special appropriations made for their benefit.

The reports from the several counties being complete, to insure justice to those who may need assistance, I would respectfully suggest the appointment of an intelligent and responsible agent in each judicial district to ascertain and supply their wants,—that the agents should be required to give good and sufficient securities, to be approved by the Judge of the Circuit before entering upon their duties, for their faithful performance; to report their actings and doings to the Executive Department every ninety days, and upon their failure or neglect of duty, to be dismissed from office, a judgment summarily entered up against them and their securities by the Judge of the Circuit at term time or at Chambers, and other appointments made.

To ascertain errors, if any existed, in the reports made from the several counties, I have caused the names of those who have been mustered into Confederate service, as appears from the muster rolls filed in the War Department at Richmond, to be arranged alphabetically, and also the names of those whose families are reported as requiring assistance. Since the muster rolls were filed, there have been many others mustered whose names have not been made known to me.

CLOTHING FOR TROOPS.

I am not informed of any proceedings on the part of the Commissioners of the several counties, under the provisions of the act entitled "an act to authorize the Board of County Commissioners of the several counties in this State to levy a specific tax for the relief of the soldiers in the service of the State, or of the Confederate States," approved December 12th, 1862. The sixth section of said act, required the several Boards of County Commissioners to keep a just and correct account of all monies expended by them under the authority of the act, "and, upon turning over any clothing or other supplies necessary for the comfort of their respective companies, the President of the respective Boards shall take, or cause to be taken, the receipt of the Quarter Master of the regiment to which said company may belong, specifying the number and nature of the pieces, and the

estimated value thereof, so turned over as aforesaid, with the view of adjusting the same with the Government of the Confederate States upon the establishment of peace." There is no provision in the act requiring information to be given to any of the Executive Departments of the State, and consequently no information has been received.

The report of the Q. M. General will make known to your honorable body the amount of clothing and other supplies furnished to soldiers in service from Florida by the praiseworthy exertions of the Q. M. General, aided by the self-sacrificing patriotism and indomitable energy of the ladies of the State. For the supply of materials, at reasonable prices, to supply the wants of the soldiers and their families, the State is much indebted to the patriotism and generosity of our worthy fellow-citizen, General William Bailey. With the thread and osnaburgs made at the factory owned by him, the soldiers' families have been supplied at \$3.50 and \$4.00 per bunch of five pounds for the former, and at 25 to 75 cents per yard for the latter. If I am correctly informed, these prices are much lower than has been paid in our sister States for these articles for the same purposes. The State is also under obligations of kindness to the Augusta Manufacturing Company of Georgia, and to Mr. H. Bacon of that State, at whose instance the accomplished President of the Company, William E. Jackson, Esq., supplied sheeting, shirting, &c., at reasonable prices for the benefit of needy families of soldiers and refugees. Mr. Bacon, with the homespun he obtained, has aided, as I am credibly informed, eleven hundred and one families in Columbia, Nassau, Duval, Bradford, Baker, Hamilton, Suwannee, Putnam and St. Johns counties, by distributing amongst them twenty-seven thousand one hundred and twenty yards of homespun, at an average of sixty cents per yard, while goods of like character was generally selling from one dollar and seventy-five cents to two dollars and fifty-cents per yard, thus saving to the families in the State who have received it over thirty thousand dollars in the aggregate. Among those assisted by Mr. Bacon was one hundred and forty-seven widows, whose husbands have been killed in battle, died from wounds received, or from sickness contracted while in service. Mr. Bacon is a refugee from Georgia, and I have deemed it an act of simple justice to his benevolence to present the foregoing statement of facts to the consideration of your honorable body.

CARDS.

Unable, with the amount appropriated by the General Assembly, to make any satisfactory arrangement for the importation or purchase of a sufficient number of cards, or even approximating to a sufficient number, needed for indigent families, I made a contract with Messrs. Bailey, Williams, Barnard and Cardy, to furnish three thousand pairs, at six dollars per pair, and to be manufactured in the State. A copy of the contract is herewith submitted. The report of the Q. M. General will exhibit the number so far distributed, and to what counties. The balance will be distributed as fast as manufactured.

SALT.

It is important to the welfare of the State that some arrangement should be made by legal authority to provide salt, not only for soldiers' families, but for all indigent citizens who have not the physical ability to make it, or the means otherwise to procure it. This arrangement should be either by an appropriation of money to purchase, by authority on the part of the State to have it made, or by a revenue derived from the labor of those engaged in making it.

A large quantity of salt is made within the limits of the State by our own and by the citizens of other States, many of whom have and are now realizing large profits in its manufacture.

While Florida has extended the privilege to citizens of other States to make salt within her jurisdiction and upon her lands, and has invited them to avail themselves of a privilege which has been largely accepted, and has proved of inestimable benefit, I regret to say that the vile spirit of speculation and extortion has gone hand in hand and thrown obstacles in the way of the cheap manufacture of this article, so indispensable to the citizens generally. In no way has this vile spirit been exhibited in a more oppressive and contemptible light than in the purchase of large tracts of land by our own and by citizens of other States, and the letting out or sale of mere fractions of it at exorbitant rates, thus depriving citizens of our own and other States, of limited means, of the right or opportunity to manufacture cheaply,

or even to use their own industry in the exercise and enjoyment of a privilege extended alike to the poor and the rich. To check in a measure this growing evil, the lands in such localities were withdrawn from market.

A reasonable tax in kind upon all salt manufactured in the State would, in my opinion, yield a sufficient supply for the purposes which I have suggested, and is preferable to either of the other methods, and possibly might check the exorbitant price demanded for it.

FISHERIES.

Upon equitable and reciprocal terms, Florida should spare no exertion to furnish the means of subsistence to our armies and to the people of the Confederate States generally. Almighty God in his infinite wisdom has blessed the patriotism and industry of our people with abundant crops of corn, potatoes, and sugar cane, and with an ample supply of bacon, pork and beef. Our coast has been visited by vast numbers of fish, unprecedented in the history of the State; and upon the waters adjacent thereto, a vast amount of salt has been manufactured, while from other parts of the Confederacy, from our armies, and from fellow-citizens in peaceful pursuits, we hear of a scarcity of food. Why should not suitable efforts be made to provide fish to remedy any want of supplies of meat? Prompt efforts on the part of the States and of the Confederate Government would secure a large quantity of fish to aid in the support of citizens and soldiers, and would prepare the way for future subsistence should a future scarcity of provisions prevail. To attain so desirable an object, companies now scattered throughout the State might be so disposed as effectually to guard and defend the fisheries that may be established. I recommend this subject to your serious consideration, that you may adopt suitable measures relative to it.

HOSPITALS.

The amount appropriated for the establishment and support of hospitals, was thirty-five thousand dollars. Of this amount it has not been necessary to use more than five thousand four hundred and twenty dollars and thirty-three cents, of which three thousand one hundred dollars has been

used in support of the hospitals at Richmond, and two thousand three hundred and twenty-two dollars and thirty-three cents in aid of the sick and wounded soldiers of the army of the West in the various hospitals.

The expenditure of a larger sum by the State upon the hospital at Richmond was rendered unnecessary by the large and liberal subscriptions of patriotic citizens for its support. The amount derived from this source was four thousand four hundred and thirty-eight dollars. How it was expended is explained in the report of Messrs. Papy and Baker, which is herewith submitted.

Under the superintendence and direction of Dr. Thomas M. Palmer and Mrs. M. M. Reid, the hospital at Richmond has been ably and efficiently managed.

It has not been deemed necessary or practical to establish a hospital for the use of soldiers from Florida in the Western army, as will appear by the accompanying report of Dr. T. Y. Henry, who, with full authority upon the subject, visited and consulted with the officers in command of that military department.

The facts stated and opinions expressed by Dr. Henry have been fully sustained by information received from other reliable sources.

In connection with Dr. Henry's report, I am prevented from submitting to your consideration a report of the Hon. J. Wayles Baker and other gentlemen, in consequence of the inability of Judge Baker, from sickness, to prepare the report; but hope that the cause will soon cease to exist, and that I shall be able to do so in a few days.

ISSUE OF TREASURY NOTES.

Under authority of the act entitled "an act to aid the families of soldiers that require assistance," approved Dec. 6th, 1862, I have caused to be signed the sum of four hundred and seventy-eight thousand three hundred and ten dollars; and, under the act of Dec. 13th, 1862, entitled "an act to provide for an additional issue of Treasury Notes," I have caused to be prepared and signed the sum of one hundred and sixty-four thousand six hundred, and thirty-five dollars and twenty cents, all of which has been paid over to the Treasurer, as required by law. The Comptroller has also signed and delivered to the Treasurer one hundred and fifty-

nine thousand six hundred and five dollars of war tax treasury notes, signed and issued under the act to aid the families of soldiers that require assistance.

The aggregate amount, therefore, of war tax and treasury note blanks signed and paid over to the Treasurer is eight hundred and two thousand five hundred and fifty dollars and twenty cents.

The amount authorized to be issued by the Legislature for "the purposes of the government" far exceeded the necessities of the State.

Under the act to authorize an additional issue of treasury notes, the sum of one hundred and thirty-five thousand three hundred and sixty-four dollars and eighty cents is still entitled to be issued. No blanks have been prepared for the twenty, fifty and one hundred dollar bills authorized by that act, and amounting in all to one hundred thousand dollars. It was early discovered that there were too many large bills in circulation; and that there was a great demand for notes of a small denomination, particularly for fractional parts of a dollar. In lieu, therefore, of the blanks for \$50,000.00 in bills of the denomination of one hundred dollars, I had that amount of blanks in fractional parts of a dollar engraved, but as the amount was not needed in the treasury, they were not prepared and issued. It is for your honorable body to determine whether they shall be used or not. I would suggest, however, that they be prepared and placed in the treasury, and paid out *only in exchange for State treasury notes* of the denomination of twenty dollars and upwards.

DISTILLERIES.

Agreeably to the act approved Dec. 15th, 1862, regulating distilleries, only three licenses have been issued to parties who had made contracts with the proper officers of the Confederate Government to distil spirituous liquors. I am not informed that the Confederate Government has derived any benefit from these contracts; but am informed that in no instance has a contract been complied with.

I would therefore respectfully again recommend to your honorable body the enactment of a law which will forbid altogether, under severe penalties, the distilling of whiskey or other spirituous liquors. To grant the opportunity of distilling to supply the Confederate Government does not insure

a compliance with contracts, but affords facilities to individuals to monopolize the right of distilling and to demand exorbitant prices from individuals for the liquor which they distill. It is believed that the amount of cereals produced this, is not as great as was made last year. Higher prices are being asked for corn, sugar, syrup, potatoes, &c., and the means of subsistence should not be decreased by converting any of them into spirituous liquors. Much complaint is made of the high prices of provisions, but little of the price of spirituous liquors. Some individuals, who reluctantly pay two dollars per bushel for corn or potatoes, cheerfully pay fifteen or twenty dollars per quart for whiskey or rum. Mean rum and whiskey, manufactured in the State, or brought into it by evading the blockade, has sold for more per quart than the amount allowed to each member of a soldier's family for a year's support. The common use of spirituous liquors is an evil of the most degrading character, which should, if possible, be remedied by enlightened public sentiment and stringent legislation.

CROPS.

No doubt is entertained that abundant crops of cereals have been made in the State, except in localities where, in despite of public sentiment, cotton was planted.

With regard to the constitutional right of the General Assembly to impose a tax upon cotton, your attention is respectfully invited to the accompanying opinion of the Attorney General of the State.

To ensure ample supplies of subsistence for the support of the citizens and the armies in the field, no doubt, it seems to me, can be longer reasonably entertained that the inducement to make cotton and tobacco for the accumulation of wealth must be overcome by suitable legislation.

To clothe the people of the Confederate States, it is necessary some cotton should be made, but excessive crops, which endanger the armies and people to the want of subsistence, should be prevented. In my humble judgment, the most effective means will be to prevent any cotton being exported from the State except on account of the Confederate or State Government, and by an act of the Legislature to impose a heavy tax on all cotton made over a given amount per hand engaged in its cultivation.

THE BLOCKADE.

For reasons assigned in my last annual message to the General Assembly, and which may be found upon your journals, and for the reasons assigned in a correspondence between the Governors of Georgia and Alabama and myself, which is hereto attached, and to which your attention is respectfully invited, I recommend to your honorable body to make a statute which, by the severe penalties it shall impose, may prevent the citizens of this State from engaging in the fraudulent speculations and demoralizing influences incident to "running the blockade."

It may be a question for your consideration whether the State Legislature has the authority to enact any law concerning the running of the blockade. Before examining whether, under the Constitution, any law can be enacted concerning the subject of running the blockade itself, I will make known to you the opinion I entertain as to the rightful power of the State to control the action of its citizens and the exportation of any of the products of its soil. I do not believe that a law to control the citizens of the State in reference to any action which is injurious to the public or detrimental to their welfare can with truth be said to come in conflict with the right or power to regulate commerce, which by the constitution has been delegated to the Congress of the Confederate States.

Each State must be the judge for itself as to what acts of its citizens operate injuriously on the public interests, and has the right by the law to restrain them. To hold otherwise would be to surrender one of the most important rights of sovereignty, and to deprive a State of one of the most essential powers for the regulation of its internal affairs. This right and power has been decided to exist. In the case of *Cribb vs. the State*, in the 9th volume of Florida Reports, page 147, the Supreme Court declares, "there can be no question that each State, being sovereign and independent, possesses and must possess the inherent right and power over her citizens and of controlling her inhabitants or residents while they remain residents. This is a matter of police and internal arrangement for the common welfare of all, the people being the judges for themselves what shall be a grievance as well as a matter of public convenience or in-

convenience. Under this power, the State has a right to declare what is a public grievance," &c.

Can the State, also, by legislation, prohibit the exportation of any of the products of its soil? The principle which sustains its right to control its inhabitants applies, I think, with equal force to its productions. Indeed, it would be difficult to conceive how the latter could be excluded when the former is within the operation of the rule. The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of *Gibbon vs. Ogden*, 9 Wheat., 1, affirmed that, in the mass of power not surrendered to the General Government, inspection laws, quarantine laws, health laws, as well as laws for regulating the internal commerce of a State, are included, and they reaffirm this declaration in the case of the city of New York vs. *Milne*, 11 Peters, 102, subsequently decided. The Court in the case last cited also held, "that a State has the same undeniable and unlimited jurisdiction over all persons and things within its territorial limits as any foreign nation, where that jurisdiction is not surrendered or restrained by the Constitution of the United States. That by virtue of this it is not only the right, but the bounden and solemn duty of a State, to advance the safety, happiness and prosperity of its people and to provide for its general welfare by any and every act of its Legislature which it may deem to be conducive to these ends, where the power over the particular subject or the manner of its exercise is not surrendered or restricted in the manner just stated; that all these powers, which relate to merely municipal legislation, or what may, perhaps, more properly be called internal police, are not thus surrendered or restrained, and that, consequently, in relation to these, the authority of a State is complete, unqualified and exclusive."

I come now to the question, can the State legislate directly on the subject of blockade running within its limits? This is a more delicate question and more difficult to be solved. It is an established principle, as well by the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States as of this State, that in the grant of power to Congress to regulate commerce, the States did not entirely divest themselves of all right over the subject. In the absence of the exercise by Congress of the power thus granted, the States have a concurrent power to legislate, and it is only when Congress has exerted the power that the States cannot act. This re-

sults from the provision of the Constitution declaring that the laws made in pursuance thereof shall be the supreme law of the land. Now, as the grant of commercial power did not *per se* exclude the States from exercising authority over the subject matter, and as in order to prevent the States from legislating, a law of Congress must have been enacted—for, without such law there would be nothing in congressional action to be supreme—it follows that the State may legislate in the absence of congressional regulations.

I am not advised of any special legislation by Congress upon the subject, except an act entitled "an act to encourage the manufacture of clothing and shoes for the army," approved October 8th, 1862. By that act the President is "authorized to import, duty free, cards or card cloth, or any machinery or materials necessary for increasing the manufacture of clothing for the army, or any articles necessary for supplying the deficiency of clothing or shoes, or materials for shoes, for the army;" also, "that any machinery, or parts of machinery or materials imported as aforesaid, may be worked on government account, or leased or sold, at the discretion of the President." It is further provided, "that the President may extend the privileges of this act to companies or individuals, subject to such regulations as he may prescribe."

Do the laws regulating legitimate trade and commerce control the subject? are the requirements of these laws in reference to clearances, entrances, &c., complied with? and, if not, are the consequences which attach to such non-observance simply overlooked? I understand that the most of the vessels arriving from foreign ports are not cleared for any port in the Confederacy, but are cleared for some other port, foreign and not within the limits of the Confederate States. If the laws of Congress do not warrant the manner in which vessels enter our waters, and such entries are simply permissive, then, in the absence of legislation by Congress directly on the subject, the State may and should adopt such measures as may be deemed best to subserve the interests and welfare of her people.

It is only when a law of the State comes in conflict with a law of Congress on the subject matter, where Congress has the right to legislate, that it must yield to the latter, under the constitutional provision already referred to. The General Assembly of Georgia passed resolutions on the subject, which

are annexed, and to which your attention is respectfully invited.

Believing that your honorable body has the right to enact a statute prohibiting the introduction into the State of all articles except such as are provided for in the act of Congress "to encourage the manufacture of clothing and shoes for the army," I recommend most respectfully the exercise of that right, prohibiting, under the severest penalties, the introduction into the State of any other articles by evasions of the blockade, and only admitting those provided for by the act of Congress, and in strict compliance with the provisions of the act.

CURRENCY.

Much anxiety prevails relative to the depreciated currency of the Confederate States, and it is important to the general welfare that the causes which have produced it should be considered and suitable constitutional measures adopted by the Confederate Government, the State Governments and the people of the respective States to remedy an evil of such fearful tendencies and, if possible, prevent the most disastrous results.

In my humble judgment, the most prominent cause is the nefarious traffic carried on by running the blockade. Many of the individuals engaged in this lawless trade are persons who claim the protection of foreign governments against military service in the army of the Confederate States, and have never, perhaps, been honorably identified with the legal commerce of the States. Others have been favorably known as intelligent and loyal citizens, but the general conduct of the traffic has not produced distinctive results favorable to their character for disinterested patriotism or true loyalty to the South.

Cotton has been purchased and paid for with the treasury notes of the Confederate States, passed through the blockade to foreign ports and sold at much higher prices in gold, or its equivalent, than it cost in Confederate treasury notes.—The proceeds thus obtained have been invested in merchandize at current prices in foreign ports. The articles thus purchased have been brought into the Confederate States through the blockade and, under "a hue and cry" against the Confederate currency, made chiefly by those engaged in running the blockade, the articles have been sold to the citi-

zens of this and other States at the most exorbitant prices, payable in Confederate treasury notes or cotton. For instance, calicoes, which cost per yard from ten to thirty cts. in a specie currency, have been sold at from four to eight dollars per yard; rum, that cost from fifteen to twenty cents per gallon in a specie currency, has been sold at from forty to eighty dollars per gallon, payable in Confederate treasury notes. The examples given might be multiplied to embrace all articles of merchandize thus imported. The Confederate treasury notes received in payment have been again invested in cotton, the cotton shipped to foreign ports and sold as was the first, the proceeds invested in merchandize, brought into the country and disposed of as above described; and by the same routine the traffic is carried on *ad infinitum*.

Previous to the war, the proceeds of a bushel of corn, sold at fifty cents, would have purchased from two to five yards of calico, or one gallon of rum. Now, if sold at fifty cents, the proceeds of eight or sixteen bushels of corn would be required to purchase one yard of calico, and the proceeds of eighty or one hundred and sixty bushels to purchase one gallon of rum. Occasionally, a man esteemed as a good citizen will censure the planter for asking two dollars per bushel for his corn, and, without complaint, will pay four or eight dollars for a yard of calico and twenty dollars for a bottle of rum. But it is said, planters should not pay such prices for calico, that their wives and daughters should wear homespun, and that planters should not buy or drink rum or whiskey. That is true. Men should not bet at faro—yet, to restrain them, it is necessary to prevent the dealing of faro by stringent enactments. The only certain way of avoiding vice is to be freed from its temptation. The evasions of the blockade should be prevented by legal provisions, inflicting the most summary and severe punishments, and the currency would to a certain extent be promptly improved.

Another cause of a depreciated currency has been the issue of treasury notes to meet expenses unnecessarily and unwisely incurred. The expenses of the Confederate Government should be retrenched by reducing the number of civil and military officers, and by all other practical means consistent with the due administration of the government.—The systems of taxation adopted are either in tithes or *ad valorem*. The *ad valorem* system existed in the States pre-

vious to its adoption by Congress. Why, by the concurrent Legislation of Congress and the State Legislatures, could not the revenues of the Confederate Government be assessed and collected by the State officers, and thus save a large amount of the expenditures of the Confederate Government and increase the army by a large number of able-bodied young men, whose uniforms in military service in the presence of the enemy would be more appropriately displayed than in assessing and collecting taxes or measuring corn and potatoes? Uniform has ceased to be the honorable badge of position in military service, because its admirers cannot distinguish the gallant officer, who has fought bravely in many battles, from the peaceful citizen who has measured thousands of bushels of corn and potatoes, or conducted a thousand cars upon a railroad. To lessen the number of officers, or prevent the increase of their number, would it not be wiser and more just to fill up the ranks of brigades, which by the casualties of war have been reduced, and, as was the true intention of the Conscript law, rather than to form new brigades out of recruits, with untried officers appointed to command them, and thus forcing upon the veterans of the war the necessity of being reduced from brigades to regiments, from regiments to battalions and from battalions to companies, and then consolidating them under a new organization, and thus compelling tried officers to retire from positions in the service which they have nobly occupied and whose courage and fortitude should entitle them to more exalted positions. Shall the swords so often crossed in deadly conflict with the enemy in defence of our political and civil rights, of our lives and liberties, of the honor of our mothers, wives and daughters, be taken from the hands of our brave and noble defenders to gratify the ambition of gentlemen who (however honorable) have not yet faced the enemy?— Shall the brave defenders of our most sacred rights be hurled from positions of honor and trust, most nobly maintained, and be subjected to conscription?

The Florida Brigade in Virginia, as well as the Brigades in the army of the West (from the casualties of war, in which they became honorably distinguished,) have become reduced to a small number, while the recruits with which their ranks should have been filled have been formed into new regiments or battalions and placed under the command of newly appointed officers. Has this course been just to

these Brigades and Regiments, wise in the conduct of the war, or consistent with the intent of the "Conscript Act," or the general legislation of Congress upon military subjects? The effect of new organizations has been to increase the expenses of the Government and to deprive the veteran Brigades of their just and legal claims to the recruits to which they were entitled in order to maintain their organization, and, where the recruits under the command of experienced officers, and associated with veterans in arms, would have been sooner disciplined in military service, and have become more efficient. Why should not a large portion of the cavalry, now maintained at an enormous expense and consuming an immense amount of subsistence, be at once rendered more serviceable and efficient by being dismounted and turned into infantry—a much more efficient and less expensive arm of service—the horses, together with the mules used in transporting provender for them, returned to the plough, where they would be of greater service and from which perhaps it would have been better if they had never been taken?

I confess I had not the ability to appreciate the necessity of the assessments made by the Confederate Government to ascertain and collect the amount of the late war tax. Assessments having already been made in the several States, the desired information could have been obtained at the offices of the respective Comptrollers of the several States within a few days and at an expense of a few hundred dollars; to obtain which information months of time were consumed at a cost to the Confederate Government of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The principal measures which suggest themselves to my mind, to relieve from embarrassment the currency of the Confederate States, are, first, to prohibit the evasions of the blockade, except on government account and by its authority. Second, to reduce the expenditures of the government by lopping off all unnecessary offices, civil and military. Third, for the several States to issue no more treasury notes, except change bills below the denomination of one dollar; and, where they have the means, to retire all above that denomination which they may have in circulation, and thus create the necessity for making Confederate treasury notes the currency. Fourth, direct taxation for an amount sufficient to

call in a large portion of the Confederate notes now in circulation.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Citizens of this and other States are purchasing large quantities of land in this State, not so much, perhaps, with the view of cultivation as of holding them on speculation. I would respectfully repeat the recommendation made in a previous annual message:

"The resources of the State to redeem its treasury notes and sustain its government, are the lands owned by the State and taxation.

"The lands are ample for the purpose, if wisely disposed of. I would respectfully recommend that the sale of lands be postponed until the termination of the existing war. That then, those who have rendered military service should each have secured to him or his heirs an exemption right of at least one hundred and sixty acres of land; that having been done, the remaining lands should be disposed of from time to time, at public outcry, after reasonable notice of the time of sale has been published in this State and the adjacent States. The competition thus excited would secure reasonable prices, and invite emigration to the State, and in proportion to the property introduced by emigrants, and the improvements which would be made on the lands—if the proceeds of the sales should be insufficient to relieve the State from debt—the weight of taxation would be lightened, and additional facilities secured for the support of the government and the prosperity of the State."

THE ARSENAL.

The conversion of the Arsenal into a Military Academy has been, time and again, recommended. Its non-use exposes it to dilapidation and creates the necessity of expense for its protection and repair, while it is no service to the State. This property is too valuable not to be used for some important or useful purpose:

Upon the application of the officer, who at the time was in command of this military district, the privilege of its temporary occupation by Confederate troops was granted upon suitable conditions. The Arsenal and the appendages should

be made useful to the State; or, for a valuable consideration, should be transferred to the Confederate States, upon condition that a Military Institute shall be established there; or that it shall be made use of as an Arsenal of Construction.

REPORTS FROM HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

The Reports of the Comptroller, Treasurer, Land Register, Attorney General and of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund are herewith submitted to your respectful consideration.

Permit me, in conclusion, to congratulate your honorable body upon the distinguished character Florida has acquired by the gallantry of her sons in arms, by their chivalry in battle and by their honorable deportment in camps, as well as by the generosity and patriotism of her citizens—upon the abiding confidence of the people of the Confederate States, in the wisdom, integrity and patriotism which have distinguished the noble statesman and gallant soldier, His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS, in the administration of the Government of the Confederate States of America, in the estimation of foreign nations as well as of our own people—upon the Christian fortitude and invincible courage of our armies and the determined and heroic purpose of soldiers and citizens—men, women and children—to spurn with bold defiance unto death all overtures which our enemies may make for peace, except upon the unconditional recognition of the independence of the Confederate States of America.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Your fellow-citizen,

JOHN MILTON,
Governor of Florida.

On motion of Mr. Norwood, the further reading of the message was dispensed with:

Mr. Norwood moved that 200 copies of the message be printed; which was adopted.

Mr. Norwood presented the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That this General Assembly will adjourn sine die on Monday, the 30th day of November, instant.

The yeas and nays being called for on the adoption of the above resolution, by Mr. Russell, of Jefferson, the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Norwood, Russell, of 17th District and Smith—9.

Nays—Messrs. Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Roper, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—7.

So the resolution was adopted

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

Also, the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, It is known to this General Assembly that there is to be elected by joint vote of the Senate and House of Representatives, at its present session, one Senator to represent the State of Florida in the Senate of the Confederate States, also a Secretary of State for the State.

Be it therefore resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That they will enter into said election in the House of Representatives on to-morrow at 12 o'clock, M., and that the rules of the last General Assembly governing the Joint Assembly of this State are hereby adopted for the government of the Joint Assembly at its present session.

Upon which the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Russell of Jefferson and Norwood;

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Norwood, Roper, Russell, of 17th District and Smith—13.

Nays—Messrs. Cooper, Russell, of Jefferson, and Taylor—3

Which was adopted.

Mr. Norwood moved that a committee be appointed to convey the above resolutions to the House of Representatives;

Which motion was adopted.

The President appointed Messrs. Norwood, Cooper and Jones as said committee.

Mr. Russell, of Jefferson, moved that a committee be appointed to procure the services of a Chaplain for the Senate;

Which was opposed by Mr. Smith of the 12th district.

Mr. Russell, of the 17th District, moved that the Hon. J. B. Smith, of the 12th District, be solicited to open the Senate by prayer;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Smith accepted the honor conferred upon him.

Mr Hogue moved that the Senate adjourn until 10 o'clock to-morrow;

Upon which the yeas and nays were called for by Mr. Hogue and Russell of Jefferson;

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Norwood and Roper—8.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Smith and Taylor—8.

So the motion was lost.

The rule was waived to allow Mr. Taylor to introduce the following resolution without previous notice:

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That the officers of the State of Florida, other than those expressly and specifically designated in the act of the Confederate States Congress entitled an act to amend an act to provide further for the common defence, shall not constitute an exemption in the armies of the Confederate States;

Which was read and placed among the orders of the day for to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Hogue, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, November 18th, 1863.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The following members answered to their names:

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Smith and Taylor—14.

A quorum present.

Rev. Mr. Smith, Senator from the 12th, opened with prayer.

The Journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

Mr. Arnow gave notice that, on some future day, he would introduce the following bills:

A bill to be entitled an act for the organization of the militia; also,

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to forfeited bonds of criminals

Which were received and read

Mr. Abercrombie gave notice that he would, on some future day, introduce the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act authorizing publication to be made out of the State of sales by administrators and executors in certain cases;

Which was received and read.