WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

The Weekly Colonist. Tuesday, July 12, 1864.

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OUR' LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, May 21, '64. THE CONFERENCE.

You will not perhaps be surprised to learn that since I last forwarded you the latest intelligence as to the proceedings of the Con-ference, nothing has been done. There have been three meetings in all, and the result isas you were! The next, and in all human probability, the final meeting, is to take place on the 28th, when " the powers that e" will have to determine whether the war shall not at once be terminated by a manifes tation of much greater decision than England. France, and Russia have yet evinced. Hope still prevails, at least in our own country, that "a consummation so devoutly to be wished," may be realized ; but truth to tell, I should only be deceiving you were I to assert that there is any likelihood of its being so. Prussia has rushed so recklessly into the conflict, and her army has carried all before it with so much brutal success, that she is resolved to hold what she has stolen, and to inflict the utmost damage upon the unhappy districts that have been overrun. In spite of the only decision come to at the last meeting of the Conference on the 19th, she is still exacting forced contributions, and paying no more attention to the arrange-ment for a suspension of aims than if it had never been made at all. She, in fact, defies our own country, and believes she may continue to do so with impunity, because there is neither firmness in our councils, nor determination in our actions. The other day, the Channel Fleet was ordered, as I informed you, to the Downs, and Lord Clarence Paget assured the House of Commons it was ready to go any where in 24 hours ! The Prussians, and Austrians too, laughed outright at the noble lord of the Admiralty, having spoken such "prave worts," and immediately replied by their organs, that such " worts," might be quite true, but the fleet would not on any account whatever, be sent to the Baltic. AND THEY WERE RIGHT, inasmuch as just before the Conference met at its last sitting, orders were sent to Deal that steam should be got up at once, and that Plymouth would be the destination. At Plymouth the fleet now lies, quietly ensconced within the Sound! Earl Russel, who has so often threatened-on paper-"to do and dare" such things as would speedily bring the belligerents to their senses, is said to have been the first to propose this less than 24 hours voyage, because it might be inconvenient whilst the Conference was in deliberation, for the fleot to be so near the seat of war as the Downs. What the consequence of such trimming has been is now seen. Matters are not a bit more forward now than they were a fortnight ago; for anything like a settlement which will restore the hope of peace to Europe seems to be as far if not further off than ever, the disposition of all parties except those acting in England's behalf being to postpone everything to the Greek Calends ! Prussia and Austria in the meanwhile continue to defy everybody. France intimates through recognised Imperial organs that the "hitch" might be at once removed were a change of Ministry to take place in England, since it is impossible to make anything of the present holders of office, their vacillation and cowardice being contemptible to all parties but mother land. themselves. This event compassed, Louis Napoleon would have no difficulty in reestablishing the enteinte cordiale which Earl Russell has so needlessly weakened. Ques-tions put to Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons last evening-the first oceasion of his appearance there after his recent illness, were neither frankly nor cour-teously answered. To listen to Ministerial replies, whether those replies are given by the chief or any of his satellites, is more than enough to confirm the growing impression that those who enjoy the cares of office have either no hope of a peaceful solution of the war difficulty or that they are wholly indifferent as to final results. The fact is they are at their wits end. If there be any higher influence at work which resists all concession to Denmark and gives every adherence to Germany, they dare not as it seems say so, but if the idea of the existence of that influence be exaggerated nothing can be more contemptible than that they should neither do the utmost that may be done to restore amicable relations nor permit any one else-to do so. The complication is so great that nothing short of an immediate

however quietly he had kept his purpose Grey, well "stare aghast" when they heard him Reform, the right of every man not incapacitated by personal unfitness to be admitted to feeling we are to be sooner or later punished. a share in the franchise, and that he considered To which we reply, "only let them try it on, the intelligence of the working classes en- that's all !" titled them to immediate political recognition and relief. Mr. Gladstone may be right or wrong in opinions such as these ; but he did not join his colleagues, or become a Cabinet Minister or a Privy Councillor on such terms : therefore is he looked upon, even on his own side of the House, as a dangerous innovator. To those who know Mr. Gladstone best, it would be no wonder were he to attempt to assume office as Premier, with Mr. Cobden as his Foreign and Mr. Bright as his Home Secretaries! A more extraordinary scene than that which the enunciation of such views occasioned has rarely been witnessed in the House of Comnons. Immediately after the sitting, M. Ps of all shades of politics might be met with in the Clubs talking and gesticulating under the strongost excitement. Mr. Gladstone since this memorable day, has not said another word ; but " he has made his game," which at all events will prove to be at least a losing one for some time to come. But what shall be said of the vanity or happiness of a Cabinet where there is one such member always on the alert to do mischief : Lord

Palmerston cannot lie upon a bed of roses, and doubtless it is but too true that the outburst of his most brilliant colleague's hitherto pent up sentiments has been mainly the cause of the slowness of his return to convalessence.

Our readers have the benefit of both sides of English politics. While our London correspondent speaks the sentiments of the Conservative element, we, like the great bulk of British colonists, adhere to the more liberal and progressive party. We cannot therefore, of course, endorse the above expression against Mr. Gladstone, and the great names coupled with that distinguished statesman.-ED. COL]

. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales has added greatly to the popularity he deservedly enjoys by presiding on Wednesday the 18th instant, at the annual dinner of the Literary Fund, The manner in which he spoke to every toast was as admirable as the choice of his language was neat and elegant. He made an immense impression, and reminded so many of his Alsen. This too is in utter contravention of it was to apply to certain law papers, all hearers of his father's staid manner, and the the stipulation, that during the suspension of mortgages, deeds, transfers, notes and re-

fretful porcupine." A deputation of working men had gone up to him a few days previ-ously to exposulate with him about Gari-baldi being sent out of the country so suddenly; but in the course of the discussion he told these specimens of the "great un- the shouts of enthusiasm with which the inwashed" that they would hear in a few days telligence was received in the House of Comwhat his feelings were towards them as a mons, that a small Danish force had thoroughclass. His spetch was therefore premeditated, ly licked a large Austrian one, on the 9th inst., off the mouth of the Elbe. The plucky from his colleagues, who might, like Sir Geo. spirit of the Danes having resulted in their compelling the Austrian commander to "cut vocating a forther extension of Parliamentary that the reception of the news here occasioned. For our very natural ebullition of

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

Will have another great stimulus applied to it on the 28th, next Saturday. The metropolitan force, combined with several others from the adjacent provinces, are to be re-viewed on that day in Hyde Park, by the Prince of Wales. The day, if fine, being that on which Her Majesty's birth-day will be kept, is to be made a general holiday. This is but a dull letter, I fear, but there ernment had resigned when they had a ma-jority of two, yet they had held office through

is very little stirring just at present, though we are in the very height of the season .-all last session with that majority; so would Pleasure alone is rife, in spite of heat, which the present Government. This appears to be up to last night, when a tremendous thunder a little more of the "humbugging" usually practised by the Hon. member for Kingstorm cleared the air, has driven the therme meter up to 80 and 83 in the shade! The ston. heat set in on Whitsunday, and has contin-The Montreal Witness says : " In analyued till this morning without intermission. The prospects of the hay crops, and for the zing the vote upon the canal tolls, which amounted to a trial of strength between the harvest are most cheering and satisfactory. two parties into which our Legislature is

REDUCTION OF THE BATE OF DISCOUNT. The Bank of England reduced its rate of discount on Thursday, from nine to eight per cent., and yesterday the Bank of France brought its rate down to seven per cent. Consols-closing prices-for money, 911 to 36. For account, June 8, 9014, ex dividend

some time, and his vote will probably be re-PRUSSIAN BRUTALITY. corded hereafter on questions according to The latest intelligence from Denmark,

which has just been published here, is that their merits. Indeed, we see the liberal the Prussians continue to enforce their ex- French papers claim him as being on their actions in Jutland from the inhabitants, re- side. fusing to pay for such commodities as they position side, there would have been an abdemand, and conducting themselves in the solute tie, and no Ministry can carry on the most brutal manner, and that too in spite of Government in that position. It is, therethe agreement come to at the last sitting of fore, evident that some new party must be the Conference, that neither Prussians nor formed." The financial loss to the Province on the Austrians were lever des contributions de guerre, nor to refuse payer tout ce qui serait fourni aux troupes Allemandes. The Prns. this, Hon. Mr. Galt proposes imposing a

this, Hon. Mr. Galt proposes imposing a stamp act, by which he will realise \$100,000. sian generals in their proclamations, wholly There cannot be two opinions which of these imposts would be the most just in its ignore all reference to these stipulations, and whenever the poor oppressed natives urge that the latter direction is unfulfilled, they operation. No fairer way can be devised for keeping high-ways in repair than by tolls. are told that payment will be made in bonds, Let those, and those only who use them which will be discharged-when the war is whether on land or water pay for them. Then over ! It is also asserted by the Times' corthis stamp act is a very small affair after all. respondent at Copenhagen, that the Prusstans are busily engaged in levelling the forti-fications at Duppel, in order the more easily whether private or bank, in a sort of sliding to concentrate their fire upon the Island of scale. When such an act was first mooted

deportment of his mother, that he could not fail to "gather golden opinions." On every enforcer leur positions militaires. Would \$600,000 would be realised. This was some

OUR CANADA LETTER. FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. Canada West, May 26th, 1864. PARLIAMENTARY.

spread arms it grasps the whole human family. The world enjoys its wide-spread philanthropy; "the sooty African and sunburnt Moor, men of all climes, and of all creeds; the Turk, the Jew, the Christian."-Surely this is the river that flows "fast from the oracle of God." The annual meeting of

We have nearly had another ministerial crisis in this Canada of ours. On motion the Upper Canada auxiliary of this noble so-"that the Speaker do now leave the chair ciety, was held in Toronto, on Wednesday and that the House go into Committee of evening, the 18th inst., and was well attended Supply," it was moved in amendment by This is one of the few platforms on which Hon. A. A. Dorion (the motion verbatim you men of all classes meet without jostling one guage," which no one than the Chancellor of British waters off Heligoland, appears to disapproved of the action of the Govern- join in forwarding. Even those who have no the Exchequer knows better how to use, ad- have given not half the annoyance at Vienna ment in threwing open the canals. After a penchant for religion agree that the Bible in and run," and make the best of his way into will see in your exchanges) that the House another, and the object of which almost all very animated and lengthy debate the mem- the very best civilizer ever put into the hand of bers were called in. On "counting noses" Well may we, who hold so decidedly man. it was discovered that the Ministers had a the doctrine of the inspiration of the Scripmajority of two in a very full house, the tures, rejaice in the almost universal diffusion numbers being 64 to 62; close shaving, is it of this infallible Word. Your late guest, the Rev. Lashlan Tavlor.

not? This was the same majority the late Government had, and, justly thinking that was there. Many were disappointed in not two was not a sufficient number to control having more from Mr. Taylor of his journeythe House and carry on successfully the busiings beyond the Rocky Mountains; but the ness of the country, resigned. On the openlateness of the hour precluded him from entering on this very interesting subject. He promises to give a lecture on these interesting working majority they would also resign. After the division, when reminded of his countries soon. I have not space to mention other religious meetings that are being held promise, he said that although the late Govthis month.

QUREN'S BIRTH-DAY.

Tuesday, the 24th, was a gala day in Canada-the 45th anniversary of Her most gracious Majesty's birth-day. Truly if our leyalty is to be guaged by the heartiness with which we enter into the annual celebration of our beloved Queen's natal day, we ought to stand high indeed; and we see no reason why we should not. It is impossible to simulate such heart-felt joy as illumines the faces of our worthy lieges, or give mouth to such divided, we are struck with the extraordin. deafening and truly British cheers as issue ary equality of members. The Ministry had a majority of two; but against that there was the Speaker on the other side, and from the throats of our lusty yeomen. And when we think on the noble, queenly character of Her Majesty; of her character as a Mr. Dunkin absent. This latter gentleman wife, a mother, a Christian, and compare her has usually voted heretofore with the party with other earthly potentates, our rejoicing at present in power, but he has evidently must be sincere; our loyalty must be unbeen occupying an independent position for feigned, because the object of it is very de-

serving. Ged save our Queen ! CHAUDIERE GOLD MINES.

The Hon. Donald McDonald, M.L.C., has lately returned from a personal inspection of With these two members on the Opthe gold fields. He says that it is an unmitigated "sell," and will result in great disappointment and loss to the most of those foolish enough to be influenced by the flaming reports of interested parties. He says there is certainly gold there, but in such minute quantities as only to average 20 to 30 cents

per day, to mest of those employed. DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN QUEBEC.

A fire broke out in some outbuildings between the St. Louis Hotel and the Ursuline Convent. The fire rapidly extended, and raged for about an hour with great fury. Six houses were completely destroyed, and others injured. The Convent was for some time in great danger. Amongst the property destroyed, was a large quantity of Parliamentary and departmental documents, which had been sent there for binding; the public documents were insured for \$3,000.

QUICK WOBK.

The boot and shoe contractors at the Peni-

VOL. 5. CHE BRITISH CO PUBLISHED EVERY MOR (Sandays Excepted AT VICTOBIA, V TERMS Per Annum, in advance, Par Week, payable to the Carrier, Magle Copies, -----Advertisements inserted on th a rainta i THE WEEKLY CO furnished to Subscribers for 36 a months; \$2 50 for three months; pa NOTICE L. P. FISHER is our only authori ollecting of advertisements, etc., AGENTS John Meakin larkson & Co., arnard's Express, 0 11 18 170.44 W. R. Burrage, L. P. Fisher, -P. Algar, Clemen 30 (ARRIVAL OF THE "A - DATES TO JULY The Confederates Threat -ga nota and Washingt Hunter retakes Martins with 1,000 Prison Federal Reinforcements-19 New Orleans, and 18th

Baldy Smith

NEW YORK, July 9th-The respondent of the 17th says ars continually coming into plaining of short rations at this respect enacting Vicksbu There are very many thous to be fed in the two cities, an government has got to feed them, it is not probable that last long.

PHILADELPHIA, July 8-Cou orders that all persons flying posed danger shall be stopp reach the bridge over the S This implies that the danger nent. Large numbers of far crops ready harvested. A dispatch this forenoon d orth of Hagerstown states t

CHANGE OF MINISTRY can solve it; and to that conclusion the Gov-

ernment is rapidly drifting and must come at last, the scoper the better being the geoeral verdict, wherever party spirit does not override national feeling. It is not merely the Danish war question alone which is hastening on this inevitable result. "There is treachery" in the Ministerial camp. That Lords Palmerston and Russell have never been en rapport with anything like cordiality everybody acquainted with the state of parties, well knows. Their antecedents towards each other forbid that they should do anything else than distrust one another. Their differences, however, are as nothing towards making ministerial arrangements as unsatisfactory as they well can be, compared with the positive danger

MR. GLADSTONE

is to them. No sooner has Lord Palmerston the misfortune to be laid up with an attack of gout to which he is now constantly liable, than the erratio member for the University of Oxford seizes the opportunity to frighter his Whig allies and to startle the country. His last escapade has, however, placed him quite in a new light before the political world. Last Wednesday week there was a morning sitting of the House of Commons. The measure under discussion was a bill brought in by Mr. Baines, member for Leeds to extend the franchise to boroughs, the £10 suffasge to be superseded by a £6 qualification, which would be tantamount to " unito "kill it." versal suffrage " in the country boroughs and cities, as £10 already is within the metropolitan parliamentary districts. Mr. Gladstone supported Mr. Baines' measure, and delivered himself of such extreme Radical utterances as to make the hair of Sir Geo. Grey, who sat beside him on the Treasury Beach, literally " start up like quills upon the

London journal in which the pith and marrow is fairly reported, the perusal of which I am confident will create as much pleasure in your colony as it has excited throughout the to the British Government!

THE QUEEN.

The Queen, I regret to say, has left England for Balmoral, where she is far away rom subjects who dearly love her, and who ament the disposition which induces her almost wholly to withdraw herself from the public gaze. Before leaving for the North she came suddenly up to town from Windsor and held a Court at Buckingham Palace, but the notice given was so short that very few of the nobility were able to attend. The determination, however, not to give up one iota of her privilege was curiously instanced at the first State Concert of the season, on Wednesday the 10th instant when the guests who were earliest in their arrival at Buckingham Palace literally found no one to receive them ; the invitations from the Lord Chamberlain's office having positively included both the Prince and Princess of Wales, who came late, and made no pretensions whatever to receive her Majesty's visitors who thus paid their respects to her in her absence. All this is looked upon with

a considerable degree of fear, as well it may, and is attributable not to Her Majesty herself, but rather to those, unfortunately, about

THE WAR OFFICE.

A pretty kettle of fish ; " there has been

GARIBALDI.

The great Italian liberator has arrived safely at his island home, and is once more in peaceful retirement amongst his goats and onions. The furore respecting him has long subsided; and the indignation at his departure has also vanished. The whole affair has been here but a "nine days' wonder;" but it

just will be its retribution when it arrives, "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." both to Austrians and Prussians, no less than

DENMARK NEWS.

Austria has still further reinforced her squadron in the North Sea, in spite of the 1859." It will be in the recollection of some blockade of German ports being raised by Denmark, agreeably to rhe terms insisted upon at the last sitting of the Conference. of your readers, that the Government of that day, consisting of Cartier, Macdonald, Galt, &c., memorialised the Home Government on

Thus the plot thickens on all sides, and our humiliation is well nigh complete. CHANGE OF MINISTRY. A rumor of several changes in the minis

try has been rife all the morning ; but nothing confirmatory has been suffered to transpire. That we are on the eve of another shuffle of the pack," or of a total break up, politics, to discuss the best means of removgenerally believed. No telegrams (Reuter, or otherwise) of any so you must take this as the latest.

THE BOISE MINES.

From several returned miners from Boise who were passengers on board the Pacific, agreed to and the sommittee appointed, and we gather that in Idaho, late Bannock City, Mr. Brown elected chairman. Just think of alone, there are at present about 20,000 the component parts of this committee-Carsouls, and numbers are still constantly her, not one of whom attempts to dispel her arriving, allured by the reported attractions donald, McDougall, McGee, McKellar, morbid feelings, but rather lead themselves of the country. Out of these an immense to cherish and fomeut a disposition which proportion are without employment or means appointed in the golden visions which they

had realized, and cannot do any good for in this department. The extravagance of themselves, would gladly leave had they the young Government clerks has long been pro-verbial, but there was no idea till a week or least fifty Caribooites proceeded up there two ago that gambling constituted a principal during the rush, all of whom purpose feature of their occupation during business making their way back before the fall. hours. Such, however, is proved to have been give these statements without the least wish the fact, and what is worse there has been to detract from the merits of that section cheating of the worst description going on, loaded dice having been used, by which one the various accounts, that the predious or two of the seniors have fleeced the juniors metal is not only abundant, but is widely pretty considerably; the consequence of scattered over a large section of that country, which is that two of the former, in receipt of but, unfortunately, water, that indispensable excellent salaries, have been dismissed in accessory to mining operations, is so scarce, disgrace, and several others put back upon that but few are enabled to work to advanthe list for promotion, and deprived of every tage. On Elk, Moore's and one or two other privilege to which their position hitherto had creeks, some of the fortunate ones who could entitled them. Lord de Grey Ripon has obtain water for washing were taking out acted with great spirit and determination, pay. The maximum day's work, however, is and has showed an amount of feeling that only about \$20 to the hand; and our inand has showed an amount of itering that formants state that many are not making the entire control of its ewn local affairs, of this department may have winked at this more than half wages, or \$3 a-day. There will be satisfied. But this central power prevailing vice, but he has done his best to is no doubt that eventually water will be must be carefully hedged in, and must be of about 40 miles, and Boise will then possess good placer diggings. The whole sec-tion is said to abound in excellent quarts ficial to all parties.

ridges, which will altimately prove good in-

vestments for those whe have located lodes

hand his well-deserved popularity increases. I cannot give you even an outline of his Royal Highness' speeches, but I send you a reckoning cannot, however, be far offr and money lenders. Verily our public mon gether in this way in fifteen seconds. Cheap brogues after this! HON. G. BROWN'S CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTER.

At Glasgow, on the 8th instant, Sir James The House has agreed to grant a committee on the subject " of certain dispatches to the Anderson, a gentleman of unbounded charity. Colonial office from the Executive Council in He will be a great loss to society in general, and the United Presbyterian Church in particular.

FAREWELL BANQUET .- Some eighty or ninety gentlemen sat down to dinner in the " the increasing difficulties of earrying on the Government of these Provinces satisfactorily Lyceum Hall Friday night, on the occasion of the banquet given to J. D. Walker, Esq., of

to both sections, &c., &c." Mr. Brown, in an excellent and exceedthe Bank of British Columbia, who is about ingly temperate and conciliatory address, to leave this city for San Francisco. His moved for a committee. Mr. Brown named Excellency Governor' Kennedy honored the this committee, composed of all shades of company with his presence. and amongst the ing the ever increasing difficulties between other gentlemen were some of the members of Legislature, the leading merchants, professional men, &c. J. G. Shepherd, Esq., manager of the Bank of British North the two sections of the Province, and to demoment, have come to hand this afternoon, vise some way of introducing such constitutional changes as might conduce to the harmony and presperity of United Canada. After a good deal of debate? in which the speakers, with very few excep-America, acted as Chairman, The various

patriotic and other toasts were drank with the usual hilarity, the viands (by M. John tions, yied with each other in courtesy and

Bigne), and the music were all that could be wished, and the whole affair passed off in the gentlemanlike conduct, the motion happiest manner. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it one of the most successful entertainments of the sort ever given in this city. Some of the speeches made during the tier, Cauchon, Dickson, Dorion, Dunkin, Hatton, Foley, J. A. McDonald, J. S. Macevening were replete with practical sense and well-conceived ideas and suggestions, and we regret that the lateness of the hour at Mowat, Scobie, Street, Turcotte and Brown ; to cherish and foment a disposition which must, if continued, wean the affections of her subjects from her. Her Majesty will re-tury in about three weeks from Scotland, but not to London. Osborne, in all probability, will be occupied during the whole summer. Verily, we will have a political millenium in sion of Parliament, in a manner which excited Canada shortly. Speculations are rife as much laughter and applause. He said the to what the upshot of this will be. It is ad- House had been in a state of incubation for mitted by all parties that some change is nine months, and he considered that a gesta-necessary. A remedy must be found-what tion of nine weeks would have been ample to necessary. A remedy must be found—what that will be is the question. We are of opinion that a confederation of the provinces will be the panacea for our political difficul-ties. This, with each their own local govern-ment and the management of their own local affairs, with some "central authority," is the only cure that we think attainable for our political diseases. It is evident to the ment political diseases. It is evident to the most fact, before leaving England, accompanied a deputation to the Duke of Newcastle, when careless observer, that Representation by Population cannot be obtained. Lower Canahe informed his Grace that he would willingly dians fear, or affect to fear that their nation- relinquish his appointment to this colony, it ality would be destroyed, their religious in-stitutions interfered with, and their whole Seymour to rule over both colonies. His Excellency touched upon the free port quessocial fabric disturbed. It is of no use to argue with them on the absurdity of these tion, but expressed no opinion, looking upon it as a matter which the people of this colony, whom he characterised as the fears-they are inexotable. It may reasonably be expected, that each province having most intelligent and enterprising community for so limited a population he had ever seen, should alone decide. The Governor, judging prevaiing vice, but he has not been able utterly brought from the Payette River, a distance cheap. We have great hopes that this com- from the expression of his opinions last mittee will insugarate a better feeling and introduce something that will really be benenight, has evidently great faith in the future of these colonies. His reception was most flattering, and his remarks were loudly applauded throughout.

OUR MAY MEETINGS.

vestments for those whe have located loues and are putting up orushing mills. At the present time, however, the country is com-pletely overrun, and a great stampede is in-evitable. Many, it is thought, would leave is and Fereign Bible Society! With out-peted to arrive here shortly.

red the houses genera FREDERICK, July 8-No except the firing skirmishers sition of the rebels now rep position on the railroad be town and Middletown, which chow Mountain. Their for mated at 5,000. Since the lace business has been resum pel s eem confident that passed.

NEW YORK, July 9-Rep the rebel raid in Maryland a very contradictory. A Philadelphia telegram s from Baltimore was received the rebels occupy Frederick, ing back to the Monocacy. confirm this, and say a re Breckenridge, 12.000 strong tomac near Edward's Ferr the direction of Ubana. W force is not known. It is move to flank us. We a strength by reinforcements. WASHINGTON, July 9-T issued a proclamation appro adopted by Congress. The stance as follows : It prov pointment of a Profession each rebel State. As soon sistance to the United Stat pressed in such States, and of shall have sufficiently obedience to the Constitu the United States, the Gov rect the Marshal to enroll a zens of the United States State and require them t allegiance to the United S majority of the persons e the oath the Governor sha tion invite the loyal peopl elect delegates to a Conver a State Government. Citi tary service allowed to vol quarters for delegates. N held office or voluntarily the rebel usurpation shall for delegates, or serve as a vention. The Convention clare the submission of the stitution and laws of the L incorporate into the Const di-franchising all person offices, except ministerial the grade of Colonel, u Government; also a provis voluntary servitude and vidual-fieedom; also a p the recognition or paymen or sanctioned by the usu people of the State to vot Constitution so framed. be certified to by the Pres taining the assent of Con nise the Government so

ine soen