

**A DEFAULTING COLONEL.**—The special Washington correspondent of the New York Times says, that the attorneys of Col. Schirmer, late commander of the Fifteenth New York Heavy Artillery, are making an effort to get their client pardoned or his sentence commuted. Schirmer was tried recently before a court-martial in Washington, and found guilty of enormous frauds upon the government while acting as Colonel of his regiment, and during the period when the regiment was being organized. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10,000, and to be imprisoned three years. He was arrested in July of last year, and confined in the Old Capitol prison for about five months; he was then released on parole and again imprisoned during the winter for two months. During all this time no charges and specifications had been preferred against him.—His case was brought before the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, and upon the statement of his indignant friends, one of the members of the House offered a resolution, upon which a fierce discussion arose, during which the memorable speeches of Winter Davis, Dawes, of Massachusetts, Kasson, of Iowa, and others were made, attacking Mr. Stanton for arbitrary arrests of Schirmer and others. Schirmer's case was then supposed to be one of injured innocence. The result of this trial shows that he was not imprisoned unjustly, notwithstanding any objections that may have been raised as to the form or anomalous continuance of the imprisonment. Schirmer's case is but the type of many of the arbitrary arrests and long imprisonments about which the Secretary of War was savagely attacked last winter in Congress, and by the Copperhead press.