

UNION LEAGUE.

The State Union League for Massachusetts held a meeting in this city, last week, to select delegates to the National League, which meets in December.

The *Transcript* gives the annexed sketch of a speech by Gen. Butler on the occasion :

“ Gen Butler addressed the meeting at length, taking ground with those who believe the seceded States have annihilated themselves as States, while the power of the General Government still remains intact over their territory. He opposed the position of a member of the Cabinet that the rebel commonwealths, by throwing down their arms, should be received into the Union, with unimpaired rights, and with their old local institutions. His reasons for dictating terms, before allowing incorporation into the Union of these heretofore hostile sections, sprang from considerations vitally affecting the interests and safety of the nation.

If the Confederate States are readmitted, and their representatives take their seats in Congress—before some radical change is effected—what guaranty is there that the Federal national debt will not be repudiated, or made to stand upon the alternative that the Confederate debt must likewise be paid? Let this question come before Congress, and all the appliances of corruption would be set in motion to secure such a decision as would place the Federal and rebel indebtedness upon the same footing.

Gen. Butler contended that the rebel States must be regarded as destroyed, or it would be almost impossible to choose another President, for the reason that no candidate likely to be selected would receive such a support in the North as to give him a majority of the whole electoral college, constituted of all the States both loyal and rebel. Transfer the question to the House of Representatives, where each Commonwealth casts only one vote, and a majority of such votes is required, and the difficulty will be greatly increased. The policy of safety and justice was to ‘restore’ the Union in the South only as fast as the principles of freedom and loyalty are extended over the now rebel domain.”
