

Editorial Items.

TEN THOUSAND PAPERS WANTED.

Our Knoxville correspondent, in his letter published in this issue, presents some facts about the intellectual character and growth in culture of our army, especially as they were observed by him in the West, which deserved most attentive consideration.

A GIFTED AND USEFUL FAMILY.

In connection with the death of Prof. Hitchcock, of Amherst, and the late ineffectual call of Rev. Mr. Seelye, of Springfield, to President Smith's former charge in New York, it may be interesting to readers of the American Presby.

NEW PAPER IN OHIO.

The brethren of the other branch of the church in the extreme west and North-west, not being daunted by previous failures, have again undertaken the publication of a large weekly paper at Chicago, to be called The Presbyterian Era.

Rev. Dr. Cox preached a very able and interesting discourse at North Broad Street Church last Sabbath morning, on the difficult passage in Rom. 9: 3, "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ."

Rev. Dr. Tustin, of Washington, D. C., is supplying, gratuitously, a company of the Invalid Corps, stationed in that city with the regular ordinances of the Gospel.

Rev. J. J. Marks, D. D., author of the "Peninsula Campaign," will preach in North Broad Street Church next Sabbath morning, and present the cause of the American Tract Society, (Boston.)

THE NOON DAY PRAYER-MEETING, AND Y. M. C. A.

An unusual interest is apparent in Christians attending this excellent meeting. And an effort in which ought to be abundantly successful, is being made to increase the attendance, and the results, in the salvation of souls.

THE BIG WAGON.

THE REV. MR. McLEOD, of Reesville, begs leave to acknowledge a very handsome and substantial gift, from his people in East Whiteland, in the shape of a heavy team of three Pennsylvania horses, "loaded," in apostolic language, "with such things as were necessary," and of the very best quality.

Glasgow, Del., Feb. 27th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR.—Dear Sir:—You are, I know, always pleased to hear of the welfare of your friends; and this we might also infer from the frequent insertions of late in your excellent paper of the kind attentions of various congregations to their pastors.

While absent at a wedding he received an intimation that he would find company on his return home. On his arrival the face of a well known friend greeted him: and, conducting him into the parsonage, what was the surprise to find the parlors full of familiar faces and well known friends, who greeted him with the dear old tune of "Home, sweet Home."

Truly, dear sir, there is no higher pleasure than in the performance of kind actions, for so all seemed to feel on that evening; and the moral influence of that scene was of far higher value than material contributions.

In this way our people celebrated the 23d of February—a day of dear remembrances to every true American.

East Pembroke, N. Y., March 4th, 1864.

REV. J. W. MEARS, Dear Brother:—I wish to acknowledge from the young and hopeful Presbyterian church and society of Pembroke and Batavia, the very handsome donation of \$100.00, made to me at the hall of our academy, on the evening of February the 23d.

Very sincerely your brother, JOHN W. LANE.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

OF A DELEGATE IN THE POTOMAC ARMY. MR. EDITOR:—Moved by strong desire to do something for my country in her time of need, and lacking youthful vigor to wield a musket, I volunteered to labor for her noble defenders, in the service of the Christian Commission.

Friday, 25th, by the morning train, came in delegates from their several locations, to a meeting previously appointed, to report progress, and pray and consult together for the interests of their work.

Some at every station, many in all, who were known as Christians at home, coming into the army, timid, and with no strong Christian hand to lean upon, fell into the snare of trying to live religion silently; trying to retain the hope and comfort of the Christian, while neglecting to confess Christ before men; trying to gain the crown while shirking from the bearing of the cross. The experiment has failed as it al-

ways must. They have lost their evidence of acceptance of God. They are miserable. The word of the gospel comes to them now in the Spirit's power, the impatient tremble at the terrors of the Lord and submit their hearts to him, and break out in unwonted strains of praise, the sweeter praye, the purer are holy. This is the work in progress in the army of the Potomac through the labors of Christian Commission delegates.

When I was at home I had seriously feared that, while our army abounds in most exalted patriotism, their morals might deteriorate through the temptations of the camp. I desired earnestly to assist in throwing the shield of Christian influences around them, that when they should return at the close of the war, covered with glory by their principles and their achievements, they might not be so corrupted that we should fear their contamination as we would the plague.

LECTURE, by the Rev. A. M. Stewart, Chaplain of 102d Regiment, P. V., Army of the Potomac, to be delivered in the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, 22d Street, below Callowhill, on Friday evening, March 11th, 1864, at 7 o'clock, for the benefit of the Sabbath School. Subject.—The Camp, March and Battle Field. At the close of the lecture, Ex-Gov. Pollock will present fifty Bibles, for the use of the Bible Class in Chaplain Stewart's Regiment. Tickets 25 cents.

News of the Week.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, March 1.—The House joint resolution granting thanks to officers and soldiers who have re-enlisted, was passed without amendment. Mr. Buckalew made a minority report on the bill to repeal the Fugitive Slave law, which was ordered to be printed.

HOUSE.—Mr. Brandage offered a resolution, which was passed, fixing the 31st day of May, the Senate concurring, for the adjournment of Congress. The House resumed the consideration of the bill to establish a Bureau for Freedmen's Affairs. Mr. Knapp opposed and Mr. Price advocated the bill.

SENATE, March 2.—Mr. Wilson reported a new bill to equalize the pay of soldiers in the United States army. Mr. Sherman called up the bill to encourage emigration, and it was passed. A message was received from the new Committee of Conference of the Whiskey bill. Mr. Grimes introduced a bill to amend the act to establish and equalize the grade of line officers.

HOUSE.—A bill to develop the mineral resources of the public domain was referred. The House took up the bill defining the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims not to include any claim against the United States growing out of the destruction of property by the army and navy engaged in the suppression of the rebellion.

SENATE, March 3.—Mr. Wilson introduced the House joint resolution for the continuance of the payment of bounties to volunteers to April 1, as reported from the Committee on Military Affairs, with a letter from the Secretary of War, recommending that it be immediately passed. The resolution was passed without amendment.

HOUSE.—Mr. Wilson offered a resolution providing for 10,000 additional copies of Gen. Grant's military report, which was referred to the Committee on Printing. The House proceeded to the consideration of the adverse report on the resolution authorizing the Secretary to sell surplus gold. Mr. Stebbins proposed a resolution that the Secretary be authorized to sell any surplus gold on due notice, or use it in advance redemption of interest coupons.

exchange in surplus, save that on hand or hereafter received for customs; also that the Secretary be authorized to pay interest on the public debt in advance. A motion to lay the whole subject on the table was negatived, 54 to 78. The subject was then laid aside, and Mr. Morrill reported that the Whiskey Conference Committee could not agree. He said it was necessary for the House to recede from its disagreement to the Senate's amendments or lose the bill—the Senate would not agree to tax whiskey on hand—that point out of the way, an agreement might be made.

SENATE, March 4.—Mr. Sherman from the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing vote of the two Houses on the Revenue bill, reported that the Committee of the Senate was unable to agree with that of the House. He moved that the Senate recede from the amendments disagreed to by the House, which motion was adopted, by Yeas, 25; Nays, 11.

HOUSE.—A bill to establish mails to Brazil was offered and referred. The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions reported a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, tendering thanks to the surviving Revolutionary soldiers, twelve in number, and sincerely rejoicing that by the decree of Providence, their lives have been protracted beyond the period allotted to man.

SENATE, March 7.—Mr. Foote presented a petition from Eli Thayer, praying the passage of a law confiscating the lands of the Rebels and distributing them among Freedmen. The bill repealing all acts for the redemption of the Fugitive Slaves was made the special order for Wednesday next.

HOUSE.—Mr. Cox wanted the President to send in all possible information about exchange of prisoners. Objected to. A bill was reported requiring all sailing and steam vessels between the United States and foreign countries to carry the mails for such reasonable compensation as may be deemed proper, authorizing the Postmaster-General to contract for four years' carrying of the mail matter, other than letters, to the Pacific coast, by sea, &c. The bill passed.

THE WAR.

The important military events of the past week have been the expeditions of Gen. Sherman and Gen. Kilpatrick. The former is said to be returning, and the latter has given a full account of the expedition of Gen. Kilpatrick, because, in many respects it has been the most daring raid of the war. We do not altogether believe in these expeditions, because nothing of importance seems to be accomplished. The rebellion will certainly never be crushed in this way.

General Kilpatrick's Expedition.—The much-talked-of raid by Gen. Kilpatrick has ended with failure as the main result instead of being accomplished, but with success in cutting the railroads between Lee's army and Richmond, and the destruction of much property, stores, &c., and the actual shelling of Richmond.

Starting on Sunday at 3 a. m., from camp near Vicksburg, he had a cavalry force of 5,000 men, picked from his own and Gen. Merritt's and Gregg's Divisions, he proceeded to the Rapidan, crossing at Ely's Ford. From thence the column marched to Spotsylvania C. H., which place was reached without encountering any of the enemy.

Alabama.—The steamer Columbia, from New Orleans, brings news from Mobile. Our fleet opened a tremendous fire on Fort Powell on the morning of the 23d ult., and it was thought that it could not hold out long. The rebel ram Tennessee now lies under the protection of the guns of Port Morgan. The women and children of the rebel forces were removed from the city.

North Carolina.—Despatches from North Carolina say that Davis has given directions for the seizure of every important point in that State by the Confederate forces. This is interpreted as an indication that the Rebels, having worked out and worn out Virginia, are compelled to abandon that State and retreat to points nearer their base (if they have any) of supplies.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Secretary of War, in response to a note addressed to him by Senator Wilson, requesting his views regarding the joint resolution of the House to continue the payment of bounties to the 1st of April, says that in his opinion the requisite troops can be more expeditiously raised by continuing the payment of bounties than by any other means; second, that the present great exertions are being made in the several States to raise their quotas by volunteers, so as to avoid the draft, the people preferring that method of raising troops; third, that Generals Burnside and Hancock, and the State Legislatures and Executives, are earnestly requesting the continuance of the bounties until the 1st of April; fourth, that in his opinion the joint resolution of the House is wise and judicious, and that the speedy passage by the Senate would greatly promote the public welfare, and strengthen the military force more quickly and effectually than can be accomplished by any other mode.

complicated the purpose intended. Not a man was killed, only 11 were wounded, and captured. Gen. Custer's business was to make a diversion in favor of Kilpatrick, whose field was on the rebel right. Custer had 1,500 men and a section of artillery. He went through Madison Court-House on Monday, crossed the Rapidan and the Rivanna, and went within three miles of Charlottesville. There the rebels had hastily gathered a heavy force, and Custer wheeled about. Meantime, the rebel cavalry had gathered in his rear, to the number of a whole brigade, and felt sure of capturing his entire force, but by a series of brilliant movements, including some fine charges and sharp fighting, our men got safely off, having burnt the long bridge over the Rivanna, several mills and factories; taken 60 prisoners, many valuable horses, eight wagon-loads of stores, six caissons, two forges, &c. The horses belonged to the rebel army, and had been put out to board, so as to be in good condition for the Spring campaign.

Louisiana.—We have New Orleans dates to the 24th. The election was the absorbing topic. Mr. Hahn's majority is 1,000 over both his competitors; the vote of the State will be about 11,000, which is nearly one-third as much as the Presidential election of 1860. There is no war news; the Texas Army is quiet; a great expedition is being formed in New Orleans, but the destination is not disclosed. Washington's Birthday was grandly celebrated; Mrs. Banks gave a bal masque at the Opera House.

Mississippi.—A private letter, dated Memphis, Feb. 29, from an officer stationed at Vicksburg, says: "We hear nothing of a definite character from Gen. Sherman, but no doubt he has taken possession of Selma, Ala." It is said that Gen. Sherman captured five rebel gun-boats at Selma. We don't like to believe the following story is true, although it may be: On the 14th of February, a Company of the 1st Mississippi Union (colored) Infantry was surprised near Grand Lake, Miss., by a Company of rebel guerrillas wearing Union uniforms, and all but two were killed. Some of the negroes were pinned to the ground with bayonets; others had their brains knocked out, and others were shot through the head while on their knees begging for quarter. The guerrillas escaped without losing a man. This is reported upon the authority of the Clerk of the steamer Pringle.

Arkansas.—Gen. Steele has issued an address to the people of Arkansas, in which he says every effort will be afforded for the expression of their sentiments, and influenced by any consideration whatever, aside from those which affect their interests and the interests of their property in the election to be held on the 14th instant.

Gen. Sherman's Expedition.—Western dispatches are muddy as regards Sherman's movements, and little reliance can be placed upon their assertions. The most direct news is by an officer who arrived at Cairo yesterday from Vicksburg the 10th ult., bearing a dispatch from Gen. Sherman. When twelve miles east of Meridian, on the 11th, he says the enemy numbered only 7,000 or 8,000, and were much demoralized.

No fighting had occurred after passing Jackson, Miss. When Gen. Sherman was twelve miles west of Meridian, on the 14th ult., he sent part of his forces to Selma. Official news settles the question as to Gen. Sherman's occupation of Selma. The railroad between Jackson and Meridian has been totally destroyed. The latest advices are that part of Sherman's forces are still at Selma, and the remainder have fallen back to Meridian. The Memphis Bulletin of the 20th says: "We have intelligence, the correctness of which we can vouch for, that last Sunday week, at noon, Gen. Sherman entered Meridian with but little opposition. Folk hurriedly retreating before him for Memphis and Selma." Still further, a dispatch from Cairo states that when the steamer Mississippi on her way up, arrived at Vicksburg, a gentleman, formerly Captain of the steamer Scotland, just came in from Mobile, having escaped from the rebels, into whose army he had been conscripted, reported that when he left Mobile, Gen. Sherman was within forty miles of that place, and could easily taken it if he wanted to.

Special advices by way of Washington say that after reaching Meridian, Sherman waited to hear from Smith's cavalry; no news came for three days; he had a short allowance of provisions; by a rapid march he turned Abbeville and Columbus, in the richest part of eastern Mississippi, where his army was sure to find an abundance of provisions. By this he turned his back upon Selma and Mobile, marched forward Logan, who had advanced to meet him, and, by an audacious stroke of strategy, placed himself at a distance of one hundred miles from Johnston's flank, now menaced by his advance. The dispatch says that the rumor spread concerning the attack upon Mobile and Selma by Sherman, was simply meant to divert public attention from the real object of the expedition, which aims at an invasion of Georgia somewhere between Trenton and Lafayette.

Col. Dahlgren had taken a negro to pilot him to Richmond. His detachment had rapidly moved across the country, destroying barns, forage and everything which could possibly be of service to the enemy. Pushing on as fast as he could, he reached Richmond as soon as possible. Col. Dahlgren discovered that his negro guide had betrayed him, and led him to Goodland instead of to Richmond, and Tuesday midnight found him miles in just the opposite direction from that which he wished to take. The negro was promptly hanged for his baseness.

The troops reached the outer fortifications early on Tuesday morning, and as the spies and houses of the city came in view, cheer upon cheer went up from our men. Riding rapidly towards the city, the Rebel lines were entered. The Rebels therein threw down their arms, and many of them surrendered, others taking to their heels.

There is no doubt that the men would have dashed upon and over anything that stood in their way, so enthusiastic had they become; but General Kilpatrick acted the wiser part, and as the shrill whistle of the locomotive told of the bringing up of reinforcements from Pickett's brigade, at Bottom's Bridge and vicinity, he reluctantly gave the order to move toward Mechanicsville.

The negroes generally were delighted, and many, in the presence of their owners, asked to be allowed to go along. A large number had gathered together, who cheerfully traded along with the cavalry, delighted at gaining their freedom. Occasionally Union families were encountered who gave valuable information and freely offered what they had to eat and drink.

This raid has been one of the most daring of the war, and but for the two fatalities mentioned would have proved a complete success. The men and horses have borne the hard marching remarkably well, the saddles not being removed during the trip, and but little sleep being given to the men.

Virginia.—Gen. Custer's cavalry expedition to the left of Lee's army has returned to the north side of the Rapidan, having accomplished the purpose intended. Not a man was killed, only 11 were wounded, and captured. Gen. Custer's business was to make a diversion in favor of Kilpatrick, whose field was on the rebel right. Custer had 1,500 men and a section of artillery. He went through Madison Court-House on Monday, crossed the Rapidan and the Rivanna, and went within three miles of Charlottesville. There the rebels had hastily gathered a heavy force, and Custer wheeled about. Meantime, the rebel cavalry had gathered in his rear, to the number of a whole brigade, and felt sure of capturing his entire force, but by a series of brilliant movements, including some fine charges and sharp fighting, our men got safely off, having burnt the long bridge over the Rivanna, several mills and factories; taken 60 prisoners, many valuable horses, eight wagon-loads of stores, six caissons, two forges, &c. The horses belonged to the rebel army, and had been put out to board, so as to be in good condition for the Spring campaign.

Gen. Butler has sentenced George M. Bane and W. H. W. Hodges of Portsmouth, Va., to hard labor at Hatteras, for fraudulent disposal of the funds of the Portsmouth Savings Bank and the Mechanics' Savings Bank of that city. Bane was cashier of the first named institution, and Hodges cashier of the latter. All the funds of the two banks, it seems, were sent to Richmond, and the two officers refused to divulge to the Bank Investigating Committee by whose authority the transfers were made. Gen. Butler has also ordered that the Rev. S. H. Wingfield be turned over to Col. Sawtelle to work for three months at cleaning the streets of Norfolk and Portsmouth. The clergyman is charged with being an avowed Secessionist.

Col. Fry has published an official order suspending the draft, and saying that a subsequent day will be announced for its resumption. It appears from a letter of the Commissioner of Pensions that only twelve of the Revolutionary soldiers are now living, whose ages range from 94 to 105 years, and whose pensions only amount to from \$24 to \$96 per annum. The President having approved and signed the bill amending of the Loan act of 1863, and the joint resolution extending the payment of bounties to the 1st of April, they have become laws.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The steamships Bremen, Canada, Halifax and City of New York have arrived, with European news to the 25th ult.

Great Britain.—The privateer Tuscaloosa has been seized in Siltcock Bay, Cape Colony, by order of the British Government. In the English Parliament, further debates took place on the relations between England and the United States. Earl Russell tried to prove that the order given by him for detaining the rams, could not have been influenced by any representations of Mr. Adams. In another speech, Earl Russell stated that he had held out no hope that the English Government would change its opinion with regard to the damages done by the Alabama, but he had hoped that the Federal Government would modify its views.

In the English Parliament, Lord Palmerston had made a violent speech against the Austro-Prussian invasion of Schleswig. He declined saying what the English Government would do if the troops of the Allied Powers should enter Jutland. English papers circulate the report that French policy is setting in favor of Denmark.

The privateer Georgia has left the French port of Brest. It was again rumored that France would soon recognize the Southern Confederacy, but the report was not credited. The Great Eastern has been chartered to lay the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, in the Summer of 1865.

In the English Parliament, on February 23d, Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald moved for papers relative to the seizure of the rams in the Mersey. The motion was opposed by the Government, and rejected by 173 votes against 153.

A Reform Conference was held at Leeds, on Feb. 22d. Resolutions denunciatory of the conduct of the Government in respect to reform, advocating Mr. Baine's and Mr. Locke King's bills as part of the reform due, and in favor of the formation of a National Reform League, were passed.

France.—The French Government has officially contradicted the statement, that a French army of observation was to be placed upon the frontier.

The arrangements for the departure of Archduke Maximilian for Mexico, via Paris, are said to be completed. The Revue des Deux Mondes and the Siecle have come out in favor of Denmark.

Spain.—The Spanish Government has chartered seven steamers to convey 4,000 troops to re-enforce the Spanish army in Santo-Domingo.

The war in Germany.—The report of a battle between the Danes and the Prussians at Duppel, on Feb. 13, seems to be premature. The Danes, whose number is estimated at 40,000, were strengthening their defenses, and the Prussians preparing for an attack. It is said that the Prussians will occupy Jutland [the northernmost province of the mainland of the Danish monarchy] in case the Danes should continue to refuse the evacuation of the Island of Alesen. At Ekunund, a fight took place between a Danish monitor and the Austro-Prussian batteries, the monitor making a successful attempt to destroy the bridge erected by the Austro-Prussians. Thirty thousand Prussians have concentrated in the Sundevit, the district of Schleswig just opposite Alesen.

The Danes, according to the latest accounts, were still in possession of strong fortifications at Duppel, opposite the Island of Alesen. The allies attacked the Danish entrenchments on February 13. The proposed armistice has been rejected by Denmark no less than by Prussia and Austria. Denmark is still determined to prosecute the war, without, however, receiving any promise of assistance from abroad. The Austro-Prussian programme for compromising the Schleswig-Holstein question is published. It comprises a recognition of the integrity of the Danish monarchy, and the connection of Schleswig and Holstein with Denmark by a Personal Union. The minor German States are very indignant at Prussia for having occupied several towns in Holstein without previous authorization from the Federal Diet. Several complaints were therefore lodged at the Diet against Prussia. The principal minor States were to hold a Conference at Wuzburg, to determine what course they should pursue in view of the attitude of the two Great Powers. Danish war-vessels have received orders to capture not only the ships of Austria and Prussia, but also those of other German States.

On February 18, the Prussians were repulsed in a general attack upon the whole line of the Danish position. On February 19, all was quiet at Duppel. The Austro-Prussian troops have entered Jutland and occupied the town of Kolding.

An engagement between the Prussians and Danes took place at Duppel on Feb. 22. According to the account given by the London Times, the Prussians occupied the village, but were afterward dislodged with great loss. According to the Prussian account, they only made a reconnaissance, at which they met with a loss of 3 killed and 20 wounded.

The Conference proposed by England has been accepted by Austria and Prussia, but hostilities, in the meanwhile, will not be discontinued.

A Conference of the minor German States has been held at Warburg. It was resolved not to yield to the demands of the two great powers, not to sanction any Convention affecting the rights of the Duchies, and to insist on the exclusive right of the Federal Diet to decide on the succession question.

Mexico.—We have dates from Havana to the 27th, and from Mexico to Feb. 30th. The rebel Juarez has arrived at Monterey. The remainder of Urag's force, to the number of 7,000 or 8,000, have rendezvoused at Santa Anita and Colima, and it was thought that they would not dare to attack Guadalajara, which is occupied by 3,000 French and "Reactionaries." The report of an occupation of Zacatecas by the French was premature.