## OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

The New Railroad Bureau Bill and Free Railroad Law - The Constitutional Amendment-Change in the Time for Helding the Extra Assessments-Nicetown Lane Vacated-Locomotives Runming Through the City-Harrisburg Fostmaster-A New Military Law-Inereased Pay of Assessors-Salting Passenger Railway Tracks, Etc. Etc. [EVENING TELEGRAPH SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

HABBISBURG, January 29. The Legislature is just beginning to assume a business shape. The committees are at work. and are freely reporting bills, mostly of a trivial character. The only important bill on file is an act creating a Railroad Bureau, and providing for a free railroad law. Efforts have been made for the past three years to pass a similar bill, but for certain reasons it could never be forced beyond second reading. If the heavy railroad corporations in the State do not object, this bill, with some necessary amendments, will unquestionably pass. It establishes a Bureau which shall be charged with the execution of all laws that may be passed by the Legislature. respecting the creation and maintenance of railroads in this State, the chief officer of which shail be denominated the Comptroller of State Railroads, to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Comptroller is to be appointed for three years, at a salary of two thousand dollars per annum, with the privilege of employing all elerks necessary, at a salary not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars each per annum. The bill provides that companies for locating and con-structing railroads, under the provisions of this set, may be formed by any number of persons, not less than five. They are to name the places near which the railroad proposed to be ocated and constructed shall begin and terminate. The bill is quite lengthy, and very closely drawn. Should it becomes taw, several railroad enterprises will be commenced at once, in the middle and northwestern portions of the State. The market will then be flooded with all kinds of railroad stocks, and you may naturally anti-cipate another smash-up, equal, almost, to the famous oil stock fizzle. Let the people be warned in time.

There are quite a large number of railroad contractors here, old habilues of the "Third House," but whether they are lobbying for or against this bill I have not yet learned.

The Constitutional amendment, it is expected, will be pressed to a vote to-morrow. The discussion, so far, on both sides has taken a wide range. It will pass by a strict party vote. The bill providing for a change in the time

of holding the sessions of the Assessors for making extra assessments in your city, came up on second reading. The bill afters the time from 3 to 10 o'clock in the afternoon and evening to 10 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening. Mr. Quigley moved to strike out 6 o'clock in the evening, and insert 7 o'clock. Mr. Hood moved further to amend by inserting 8 o'clock. He gave as his reasons for the amendment that a large majority of mechanics and laboring men went to their work before 7 o'clock in the morning, and did not return to meir homes until after 6 o'clock. If this bill should pass in its present shape, it would deprive them of getting assessed. Mr. Freeborn said that the bill was designed to prevent a recurrence of the disgraceful riots which took place in one of your lower wards last fall, on the night of the extra assessment. Both amendments were rejected, and the bill passed finally. Mr. Glatz, from the Committee on Roads and Bridges, in the Senate, has introduced a bill opening Juniata avenue, and vacating Nicetown fame from the west line of the Old York Road to Fifteenth street. The title of the soil vacated is restored to the several owners of the ground. The gentlemen forming the Committee ap-

pointed to take testimony in regard to locomo isves running through your city, are the subject of much comment in the lobby, and even on the floor of the House. When Mr. Hood first intro-duced the bill on which this Committee was raised, Mr. Gregory informed the House that the former gentleman had taken an unfair advanonversation. a Both gentlemen manifested considerthunder. able feeling on the subject, leading many to lieve that there was "something in 1r." What will be the result of the investigation the Com-What mittee is now making remains to be seen, but it is believed that it will not amount to enough to require any further legislative action. Several of the members are making complaints against Postmaster Knipe. They allege that his clerks are not competent, and, in quence, they receive their letters very irreguiarly. One member has gone so far as to propose that all the House mail matter should be sent by express. Persons writing to members should be careful to add to the superscriptions, "Ho, of Reps.," or "Senate," as the case may be. They would be more promptly answered, and prevent their letters from being advertised, as is the case now in several instances. The Military Committee, in connection with the Adjutant-General and Auditor-General, are devising means to reorganize the volunteer military system in the State. It is understood that some military gentlemen in your city are preparing a bill somewhat similar to the New York law, which they intend to submit to the gentlemen who have charge of this matter. They had better hurry along, or they may be too late. The sleighing continues delightful. A gen-tleman just returned from Cambria county informs me that the snow was very heavy there on Sunday. The Ebensburg trains were delayed for several hours. The assessors of Philadelphia have a commit-tee here for the purpose of lobbying a bill for an increase of pay. They made the same effort last session, but failed, and they are not likely to be more successful this session. Mr. Subers suddenly sprang upon the House, this atternoon, a bill to prevent passenger rail-way companies, in your city, from salting their tracks, making the penalty for every offense one hundred dollars. Mr. Hood moved to strike out one hundred and insert five hun ice strike out one hundred and insert five hundred dollars, which was agreed to. Mr. Adair soid that the City Councils had the matter in charge, and would probably pass a similar bill at their next meeting, and he did not see any occasion for Legislative interference. Messes, Subers, Hood, and Quigley stated that Councils had had the subject before them for two or three years past, but had not yet, and proba-ble would not take any decisive action on it. would not take any decisive action on it. The bill passed finally without a dissenting voice, and will be sent to the Senate to-morrow AJAX.

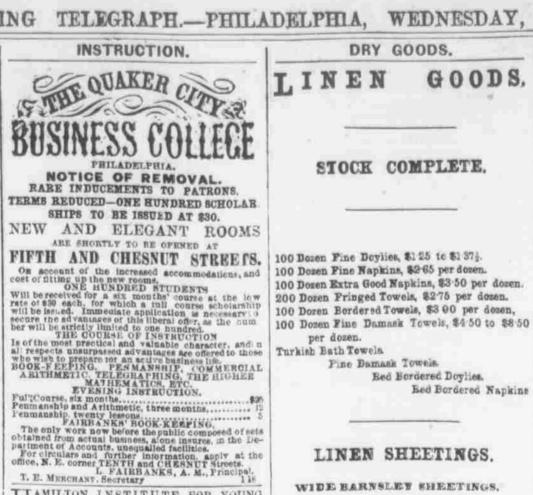
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General von Molthe and the Recent War. A Prassian staff officer at Berlin has sent to the Pall Mail Gazette the following notes on the late war and its master-spirit, General von Moltke:-

"General von Moltke is, by birth, a Mecklen burger, not a Holsteiner, as many suppose. He is about sixty years oid, very learned, very sparing of words, and very mild and courteous in demeanor. No instance is known in the army of his having spoken harshly to any one, and his criticism of the acts of subordinates seldom ssumes a severer form than that of telling then what he would have done if he had been in their what he would have done if he had been in shear place. He looks more like a professor or a clergyman than a soldier, with his clever, thoughtful, beardless face. Forty years age he accompanied General von Muffling to Turkey, witnessed the conclusion of the peace of Adrianople, and wrote a book on the Turco-Russian war, which is of great value to those engaged in military researches. He after-wards resided at Rome and other places, and rapidly acquired an extensive knowledge of the various languages of Europe. Napoleon I would doubtless have regarded him as an ideologue: Wellington would have appreciated him better. When King William I carried out the reorganization of the army, and thereby began the conflict with the Chamber, which in-sisted on a service of two years instead of three, General von Moltke secretly sympathized with the Ormsilium although as aciding he with the Opposition, although as a soldier he could not openly express his opinions on the subject. Since the 3d of September, 1814, the three years' service has been sanctioned by law in Prussia, It was, however, on economical grounds, tem-porarily reduced one year by Frederick Wil-liam II, with the proviso that the law should be recorded to as apone so the Generatory toold reverted to a soon as the Government should ind it necessary to do so. In the campaign of 1848-9 the present King observed that the Land-wehr regiments which had served only two years were not very effective, and hesitated to go ander fire. This gave hum the idea of increasing the service by another year, and the circumstance that the needle-gun had been introduced in 1847 strengthened his determination. It took nearly twenty years to make the use of this gan in the Prussian army general, for even in 1866 some of the Landwehr regiments, those, for instance, which fought at Langensalza, were armed with the old muzzle-loaders. It was considered that more time would be required to teach the soldier the use of the new gun than that of the old. Moreover, it was necessary that the discipling should be more strict, and the connection between the officers and pri-vates closer than formerly. The soldier was never to fire except by the order of his officer, and it was, besides, the duty of the latter to name the sight which was to be used according to distance. It was for these reasons that the three years' service was revived, and the con duct of the Prussian troops in the last campaign certainly showed that the plan was effective. General Moltke, however, has so good an opinion of the intelligence of the North German recruits, that he believes a two years' service would produce equally good results.

"It was immediately after the Gasieln nego-tiations that General Moltke began to prepare the plan for a war with Austria. Its object was, as every one knows, twofold:-First, to de end Silesia and Berlin, and second, to carry the war, if possible, into the enemy's territory. consequence of this plan was the establishment of two separate armies in Silesia and Saxony, which, on assuming the offensive, were to advance each in its own direction until they met. While the armies were separated from each other they were in danger of being attacked and beaten in detail, a danger to which the Crown Prince-whose men had to go through the narrow Saxo-Silesian passes, in some places so narrow that two men only could march abreast—was particularly exposed. The success of this plan obviously depended on a junction of the two armies, which almost seemed impos-sible, and was undoubtedly bizardous to the extreme. The result, however, justified the risk although there can be no doubt that Benedes's autoougn there can be no doubt that benedes a mistakes greatly contributed to the Prussian success. Benedek wished to do the counterpart of what Frederick the Great had done in the second Silesian war-to catch the enemy in his mouse-trap, as Carlyle describes it. But this time the mouse was stronger than the trap. "General von Molke." aids the Gazette, "is re-

ported to be just now on a visit to Switzerland. He has taken up his quarters at Giyon, a moun-tain village, at a considerable elevation, in the Canton du Vaud, and at a short distance from the eastern extremity of Lake Leman; and is said to be accompanied by his staff, all dressed



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One of the Great English Landholders, A prize essay in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal treats of the "Farming of Leicestershire," as showing the injurious effects of the English system of great landed estates. The Duke of Butland's estate extends over one-sixteenth of the whole county, comprises 39,000 acres, let to 1275 occupiers, mostly in farms of from fifty to seven hundred and fifty acres, and yields a rental of £100,000 per annum. The accumulation of land in one ownership is effected through the laws of entail and settlements, by which the division of estates among heirs is prevented. As a consequence, it is stated that Leicestershire owes its surpassing fertility and high mental to its native excellence of soil. rather than to any pains taken in its improvement.

-Bogumil Dawison is in Baltimore.

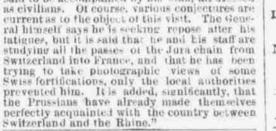
-Blot goes to Boston next week.

-Farragut is in Washington.

-Bitter-Sweet Holland has been made Superintendent of a Sunday School in Springfield.

-Professor Harvey is now presiding over the National Academy of Sciences in Washington.

-Mr. Charles Bamsey, after thirty years of journalism in St. Louis, retires, now that the Despatch and Evening News have consolidated.





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