by the freedmen before emancipation; and collected from those properties, should be applied in some judicious way for the benefit of those who raised it. The whole subject will doubtless command the attentive consideration of Congress.

The important and responsible duty of securing and keeping, under the direction of the President and War Department, commutation money from drafted citizens, has been assigned by the Collectors of the Internal Revenue, at the instance of the Secretary of War. In the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury this money should be paid directly into the Treasury and drawn out upon requisitions for the purposes to which it is appropriated by Congress. The Secretary of War thought, however, that the other mode of collection and disbursements would be less burdensome to drafted men and more convenient for the payment of substitutes. His wishes were promptly complied with, and the whole matter is now submitted to Congress.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

Under a resolution of the Senate, adopted on the 12th of March last, the Secretary has taken measures for the preparation of the fullest statement possible, with existing means of information, of the foreign and domestic commerce of the United States, including that of the Pacific coast. The learning and ability of the gentlemen employed in this work warrant the expectation that a very instructive account will be obtained of the condition and prospects of our foreign commerce from and to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as overland, northward and southward, and of our internal and inter-State commerce, including the trade between loyal and rebel States, and between the bread producing and gold and silver producing districts of our country. The materials for a proper statement of this internal commerce must be sought in reports of State commissioners of statistics, of boards of trade, of railroad and canal companies, and occasional or periodical publications relating to trade and business. This is a department of statistics comparatively new and difficult of exploration, but no pains will be spared in the search, in the hope of being able to submit to Congress a result, of no insignificant value to the business community and to those charged with the duties of legislation and administration, which will itself suggest the action "necessary to enlarge and protect the important interests involved."

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY PRINTING.

Under the sanction of the acts relating to the subject, the Secretary has taken measures for preparing and printing fractional currency bonds and notes in the Treasury Department, with a degree of success which already assures decided economical advantages and warrants the expectation of satisfactory results.

SUB-REPORTS—RECOMMENDATIONS, ETC.

The Secretary has already invited attention to the reports of the Register, the Comptrollers, and the several Auditors.

The Report on Commerce and Navigation for the fiscal year 1862, prepared in the Register's office, has been greatly delayed by causes explained in his report. The same Report for the fiscal year 1863 is also nearly ready, and will be sent to Congress within the next month. Its important information will be found much better classified and arranged, and much more clearly stated, and therefore much more acceptable for use than heretofore. The Secretary suggests that it will promote the interests of commerce and expedite further reports if provision be made for the monthly, or at least semi-annual, publication of the returns of imports and exports.

The suggestion of the Second Comptroller that the salaries in the offices of the Comptrollers should be higher than in those of the Auditors, and that promotion should take place from the latter to the former, is respectfully commended to legislative consideration. If sanctioned by law, it will doubtless promote accuracy and promptitude in the revision of accounts.

The vast expenditures of the war in life and treasure, have devolved unexpected labors on the Auditors' Bureaus, and especially those of the Second and Third Auditors; and the difficulties, attendant on the organization of a proper force for the settlement of the suddenly accumulated accounts, have caused some delays, which the most strenuous efforts have been made, in vain, to avoid. It is hoped, however, that the accumulation will now be arrested and henceforth steadily reduced. The Secretary respectfully suggests that some provision be made by which officers of the department may be enabled to attend the armies and collect information, and especially in regard to the wounded, the missing, and the killed, which will facilitate the prompt settlement of the claims made in behalf of destitute families, and widows and orphans.

The Report of the Solicitor will exhibit the action of that officer in the certain persons formerly employed in the New York Custom House. The legislation of last session, the prompt dismissal of the guilty parties yet remaining in office, and the measure of prevention devised and adopted will, it is believed, sufficiently protect the government against the repetition of these or the commission of like frauds.

The Secretary renews the recommendation, submitted in his last report, of the purchase of the Merchant's Exchange in New York, now occupied under lease as a Custom-House.

The operations of the Coast Survey have been distinguished by even more than usual activity. On the northern coast the work has been vigorously prosecuted, notwithstanding the existence of the war; while, in compliance with applications from military and naval commanding parties, have been detailed for work on the Southern coast, on the rivers of the Western States, and, indeed, wherever their services could be made available. These three labors, of all importance cordially acknowledged by the officers to whom they have been rendered, the value of the survey, and the merits of those by whom it is conducted, receive fresh illustration.

During the last summer a number of rebels ran into Portland harbor in the night and seized the revenue cutter lying there, its commanding officer being sick on shore, and a portion of the crew absent on leave. They succeeded in leaving the harbor unobserved; but early in the morning the Collector of the Port, hearing of the affair, took instant measures for pursuit by chartering two passenger steamers, arming them with whatever could be most promptly obtained, and providing the necessary force of volunteers, citizens and soldiers. In a few hours the rebels had been compelled to abandon their prize, after setting her on fire, and being themselves taken prisoners. The value of this capture can best be estimated by the damage inflicted on commerce by the same rebels in the Tacony, a vessel very inferior to the one they had seized. The Secretary deeply regrets that the Collector no longer lives to read this acknowledgment of his prompt, energetic and judicious action.

The Report of the Board of Supervising Inspectors of steam vessels, to whose supervision Congress has wisely committed the employment of steam in water transportation, is herewith transmitted. The importance of its action may be inferred from the simple statement that there have been inspected during past year 933 steam-vessels, valued at $16,135,057,000, with an aggregate tonage of 495,000 tons, which have carried for longer or shorter distances 6,420,000 passengers. The Secretary invites attention to the suggestion of a safe system of signals, by sounds and lights, adapted to the use of steam vessels, whether in the merchant or national service; and which may perhaps, be extended so as to embrace sailing vessels also. Such signals, understood by all, might avert many disasters and be the means of many benefits, without at all interfering with any peculiar system required for special communication between vessels of the navy.

The Secretary renews the recommendation of his last report, that authority be given to sell the buildings erected, but not needed or used, for hospitals, and also such other buildings as are unoccupied or not required for the objects of their intended purpose.

The operations under the charge of the light-house bureau have been satisfactorily prosecuted during the year. The Cape Charles light-house, at the entrance of Chesapeake bay, was destroyed by guerrillas in August last. Its reconstruction is of great importance to commerce, and should be immediately authorized and provided for.

The light-house system of the United States, unlike those of commercial nations generally, is maintained wholly at our own cost. The Secretary suggests the expediency of providing for its support and enlargement hereafter, so far as treaty stipulations will permit, by a small duty on tonnage for light-house purposes. The benefits of the system accrue to a foreign as well as to American commerce, and its burdens should be apportioned accordingly.

In this report the Secretary necessarily omits many things, but he cannot omit the expression of his cordial appreciation of the zeal, intelligence, and fidelity which the officers of the department generally have brought to the discharge of their several duties. To their labors he sensibly feels and gratefully acknowledges that he is indebted, in great part, for the measure of success which has attended its administration.

Still less could he excuse himself should he omit to say how distinctly he recognizes, on looking back through the year, the tokens of that Divine Providence which has led our country through perils of every kind, safely and steadily under the guidance of a great Republic has at last reached a haven of safety.

MAY.

Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY MORNING.....DEC. 11, 1863.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Preparing for the January Draft.

Provost Marshal Foster and the Board of Enrollment of this district, having had the lists of the first class printed (very neatly, by the way,) and circulated throughout the district, commenced on Monday revising the enrollment, by receiving applications of those improperly enrolled for exemptions, and hearing their cases. About *seven hundred* applications have already been filed, and about three hundred heard and disposed of, the Board working at the rate of nearly a hundred per day, their sittings being some seven hours. The following table will show the number already recommended to be stricken from the list of those in the first class, subject to the January draft:

Cause of Exemption.	Dec. 7.	8th.	9th.	10th.	Tot.
Alienage	23	18	21	24	86
Over 35 and married	17	11	18	23	69
Manifest physical disability	7	9	15	20	51
Election of parents	3	5	4	6	18
Under 20 years of age	2	1	3	2	9
Non-residents	—	2	3	2	7
In service March 3d	—	—	8	—	8
Now in service	—	—	1	—	1
Total number exempted	58	46	71	77	247

The Board meets at ten o'clock and sits till five, adjourning an hour for dinner at one o'clock. At ten (and also at two) o'clock, the names of those asking exemption by choice of parents are first called and disposed of, as also those for "manifest permanent physical disability"—after which other applications are heard *in the order in which the papers were filed*. To-day (Friday) those numbered from 300 to 400 will be heard.

In order that our readers may understand what cases are *now* heard, and what are laid over until the persons are drafted, we give the following statement:

"Only Supports," &c.—These cases are not heard now and cannot be until the party is actually drafted. It will be well for those interested to remember that a *mother* (in the eyes of the law) is not a step-mother, mother-in-law, or a grandmother.

"Election of Parents."—Where two or more sons are subject to draft the father or widowed mother may elect which one shall be exempted. This claim must be put in *before* the draft, and will not avail after a draft is made. If one or more is enrolled in some other district, a certificate of the Board of Enrollment to that effect should accompany the paper. Those exempted from last draft for this cause need not file new papers now—their names will not go in the wheel in January.

"Two Brothers in Service."—These cases will be heard after the draft is made, and the applications should state the name of each brother, and the company and regiment he is in, as they must be sent to Washington city for examination by the War Department. Unless the brothers are "of the same family and household," this will not exempt. Commissioned officers do not count in this case.

"Conviction of Felony," exempts after the party is drafted. The application should be accompanied by a copy of the record, and the oaths of two citizens identifying the drafted man as the person so convicted. A subsequent pardon does not relieve the party of the disgrace of not being allowed to serve his country in the field.

"In Service March 3d, 1863."—All these are exempted and placed in the Third Class, on producing their discharges, and showing that they are the persons enrolled. This *should* be done before the draft, but may be done afterwards.

"Alien."—These should apply now, but if drafted their claim, if well founded, will exempt them. If already exempted for alienage they need not apply again. Those exempted for this cause from the July draft need not renew their applications.

"Over Forty-five and Under Twenty Years of Age."—These may apply now. In all cases, the age on *the first of July last* determines whether they are or are not liable. A man who was not twenty until July 1d, is not liable to draft; a man who became forty-five on the 2d of July is. Where a family record, certificate of birth or baptism, "waunderbuch," or other record can be produced, it saves time and trouble, to bring it, as it is the very best evidence of age. Those exempted on age last draft need not renew their application.

"Over Thirty-five and Married."—Read the paragraph above on the subject of age—it applies also to these cases. Those who were "over thirty-five and married" on the 1st of July are exempt—not those who have married since, or since become over thirty years of age. Those already exempted for this cause are in the Second Class, and need not apply again, as they are not affected by this draft.

"Non Residents."—This refers to those who did not reside in the district at the time of the last enrollment, or on the 1st of July last. They should apply now to be stricken off, and bring evidence (a certificate of the proper Board,) that they are enrolled at their proper residence. Those already exempted for this cause need not renew their applications.

"Now in Service."—The friends or relatives of this class of persons may have their names stricken off by filing proper evidence of the fact.

"Paid Commutation."—These, we are quite confident, will not be subjected to the coming draft, but the Board have received no positive order on the subject.

"Furnished Substitutes."—All this class are exempt for three years from the day they were drafted, and do not need to furnish evidence of the fact, which is already on the records of the Board of Enrollment.

"Physical Disability."—Some six or seven hundred men were exempted for physical disability. Of these the Board will recommend that all but about a hundred be stricken off the roll, their disability being of a permanent nature. The remainder, who do not exceed a hundred, will be examined after the draft, if they should be drafted—and exempted then, should the disability then exist—except in a few cases, (such as short-sightedness, &c.,) where the regulations have been changed since the July draft. None of those already exempted for physical disability need apply now; they cannot be heard. Other enrolled persons may be examined, where the disability is *manifest* and *permanent*. Men suffering from epilepsy, lung, liver or heart disease, or other affections of the kind, need not apply until drafted. Those having lost eyes or limbs, having fractured skulls or other bones, and similar cases, are examined daily at ten and two o'clock.

The Examinations (except cases of "choice of parents") will close on the 20th inst., but this will not preclude any having valid claims for exemption from having the benefit of them, should they be drafted.

Preparing Claims is a lucrative business to lawyers and claim agents, but it is not necessary to employ either. Any magistrate can make them out, and the whole expense need not exceed a dollar—where it pays more it swindles. This is plain language, but seems necessary to prevent imposition. The blanks cost ten cents, a stamp five cents—three oaths seventy-five cents—total ninety cents—and another dime is ample for the trouble of filling up the paper.

City Mortality.

Dr. A. G. McCandless, Physician to the Board of Health, reports the following deaths for the week commencing Nov. 30 and ending Dec. 5th:

Males..... 5 | White..... 15 | Total..... 17
Females .... 12 | Colored..... 2 |

Unknown, 2; Consumption, 2; Disease of the Heart, 1; Diffuse Cellulitis, 1; Pneumonia, 1; Catarrh Fever, 1; Measles, 1; Diptheria, 4; Croup, 2; Scarlet Fever, 1; Convulsions, 1.

COUNTERFEIT TREASURY NOTES.—Counterfeit twenty dollar U. S. Treasury notes are in circulation. Their general appearance is calculated to deceive, but a judge would at once detect them. The centre vignette of the Goddess of Liberty is very imperfectly done, but some parts will pass the closest scrutiny. The peculiar green ink of the genuine has not been imitated; it is much lighter in color, and is of inferior quality, not printing clearly.

SUICIDE.—A woman named Mrs. Henry Poland, residing at Oregon, Lancaster county, committed suicide a few days ago. After her husband had gone to his work in the morning, her children raised an alarm that they had lost their mother. Some of the neighbors instituted a search and found the unfortunate woman hanging to a beam in the cellar. She had been in a depressed state of mind for some time on account of bad health.

PROF. ZUNDEL'S CLASS.—Mr. John Zundel's chorus singing class will meet, for the first rehearsal, this evening, at 7½ o'clock, in the room occupied by Curry's Normal Institute, on St. Clair street, and will continue without further notice every Tuesday and Friday evenings. Ladies' Harmony class will meet at the same place every day at two o'clock. Arrangement for private tuition on the organ can be made at the above named place.

A BOLD SCHOLAR.—A young man named Wm. Griggs, of Wayne township, Greene Co., has been arrested on a charge of stealing harness from Nathaniel Clark, of Waynesburg, a horse from R. M. Sayers, and also of [illegible] and clothing [illegible] Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] GEO. MITCHY.

The Hebrew Banquet.

The banquet given by the Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society, on Wednesday evening, at Lafayette Hall, was a most agreeable and successful affair. Three large tables had been prepared, extending nearly the entire length of the hall, with a fourth in front of the stage. These were most amply supplied with every delicacy and luxury of the season, and every seat was occupied by a guest.

The President, Mr. Louis Morganstern, called the assemblage to order at nine o'clock, and delivered a neat and appropriate opening address, in which he paid a high compliment to the Hebrew Ladies' for the patriotism and liberality which they had displayed on the present occasion.

Prof. Cohen followed in a very learned address, mainly upon the social and political history of the Jews.

The feast was most keenly relished and heartily enjoyed by the guests, and the best of humor pervaded the large assemblage. Toasts were offered, and among others, was one highly complimentary to President Lincoln, which was loudly applauded.

Mayor Scott, being present, responded to this toast, and was followed by Mr. Strauss in a few remarks.

At eleven o'clock the banquet was over, and the hall was cleared for dancing, and other social enjoyments.

A collection was taken up, during the evening, in aid of the Sanitary Commission, and the handsomesum of $700 was realized.

The following are the names of the Lady Managers: President, Mrs. Wm. Frank; Treasurer, Mrs. Regina Bierman; Trustees, Mrs. Abram Frowenfield, Mrs. Asher Frowenfield, Mrs. Rosenbach, Mrs. Wm. Armhold, and Mrs. Bareman.

The Draft in Indiana County.

On Tuesday evening last a public meeting was held in Indiana borough, for the purpose of taking measures for raising volunteer soldiers, and avoiding the draft. After full discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the citizens of the several election districts in this county be requested to hold public meetings, for the purpose of taking the votes of the citizens upon the subject of presenting an act of Assembly authorizing the County Commissioners to pay a bounty of $100 to new recruits, and $200 to those reenlisting, having been in the military service of the United States six months or upwards.

In pursuance of the above, a call has been issued requesting the citizens of each district in the county to meet at their respective places of holding elections, on Saturday next, to get an expression of the public will, and report the same at once to the Commissioners.

The Coal Fields of Butler and Mercer.

A meeting of the Directors of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, and of the parties interested in the large and rich coal fields east of Mercer, was held in West Greenville, on Tuesday last, for the purpose of taking measures for the construction of a railroad from that place, by the way of Mercer, to the neighborhood of Harrisville, in Butler county. It is asserted that the road will certainly be built, and that the engineers will commence the survey of the route in a few days. This project is one of importance and of great public advantage. It will develop the great coal region referred to—the largest and richest in north-western Pennsylvania—and add materially to the wealth of the country.

HEAVY ROBBERY.—On the night of the 29th ult., the store of McConkey & Bro., at Peach Bottom, York county, was robbed of about $1,600. The warroom was first broken open with a crow bar, whence the robbers entered the store, drilled the lock off the iron safe, and appropriated the money there, about $900 of it being specie.

KILLED.—Lieutenant John E. Hoffman, of the Third West Virginia Cavalry, was killed on the 25th instant, in a skirmish on the Rapidan. The deceased was a son of John H. Hoffman, Esq., of Morgantown, Va.

SPECIAL LOCALS.

THOMAS PARRY, Plain and Ornamental Slate Roofer, and dealer in Pennsylvania and Vermont slate of the best quality at low rates. Office at Alex. Laughlin's, near the Water Works, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.—Embroidering machines are not the thing for family sewing. Read the following:

One prominent defect of the double thread loop stitch is the waste of thread in forming it. Each yard of seam requires on an average 7½ yards of thread, or twice and one-half the amount required by the "lock stitch." An estimate may be easily made of the comparative expense of using the two. In the skirt manufactory of Messrs. Douglass & Sherwood, a day's work of ten hours for one person is estimated at 1,000 yards of straight seam, ten stitches to the inch, with the lock-stitch machines, which they use; this length of seam requires three thousand yards of cotton thread, and with the double thread chain or knitting-stitch machine, 7,500 yards would be required. The cost of 3,000 yards of cotton thread would be $1.35 at wholesale, and the cost of 7,500 yards would be $3.10, making a difference of $1.85 a day in this item alone, or more than $5,000 a year. Other thread or silk (at present prices at $11 per pound), the difference would be much greater. In shirt and collar manufacture, where the stitch is finer, and less length of seam is sewed, the difference per day is only about 75 cents in favor of the lock-stitch machines. In a manufactory like that of Winchester & Davies, where one hundred and sixty of these machines are used, the saving is $120 per day. The result is that the chain or knitting-stitch is not used on this work. In quilting, where silk is used, the difference each day would amount to more than two dollars and twenty-five cents on each machine.—*Scientific American.*

The Wheeler & Wilson is the best machine for family use. Office No. 27 Fifth street.

1wdtw

From Cairo.

CAIRO, Dec. 10.—The Memphis *Bulletin* says: Gen. Veatch and staff are busy mustering volunteer companies into service. Seven full companies were mustered in on the 7th, and as many more would be ready. General Veatch has extended the day of grace to the twelfth.

The steamer Sallie List arrived at Memphis from Arkansas river. She reports the steamer Dunn being fired into, on route for Duvall's Bluff, to Johnson Port. One major and a captain were wounded.

A skirmish occurred near Little Rock Railroad between a party of Federals, who were repairing the road, and a band of guerrillas, in which several were killed, and the guerrillas repulsed.

The steamer Fanny McBride sunk below Fort Pillow. Value $30,000.

The steamer McClellan arrived at New Orleans from Brazos, Texas Coast, bringing Gen. Banks and staff.

The Claim Bell arrived with 1,100 pkgs. of vegetables for Sanitary Commission.

Memphis cotton market inactive.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says: The following is the resolution which Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, gave notice on Monday in the House: Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled—two-thirds of both Houses concurring—that the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislature, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely: Article 13, Sec. 1.—Slavery being incompatible with a free government, is forever prohibited in this country, and involuntary servitude shall be permitted only as a punishment for crime. Sec. 2.—Congress shall have full power to enforce the foregoing section of this article by an appropriate Legislation.

An Important Bill—Formation of the Committees in Congress.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A special to the *Post*, dated Washington, 10th, says: Mr. Ashley will introduce into Congress an important bill at an early day, providing that the free States may recruit to fill their quotas in the rebel States, offering such bounties as they please.

It is supposed that Washburne, of Illinois, will be Chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the House, and Schenck Chairman of the Military Commission.

The Lloyd bonds case will come up in the Court of Claims to-day.

Fenton will probably be put on the Committee of Ways and Means if he desires.

The Interest on Indiana Stocks.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 10.—The July interest on Indiana stocks, which the State Agent, Auditor and Treasurer declined paying because the Legislature failed to make appropriations, will be paid after the 16th inst., at Winslow, Lamer & Co.'s Banking Office, New York, Governor Morton having arranged with them to advance the necessary funds; also for interest due January next.

THE Wheersbouts of John Morgan.

LOUISVILLE, December 10.—The *Journal* has advices which it credits, that the rebel General Morgan was in Cumberland county, Ky., on the morning of the 7th, in company with five of his officers, proceeding toward Dixie.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 7, 1863.

LOVEJOY'S BILL.

Lovejoy's bill, of which he gave notice the other day, to punish slaveholding, provides that all slaves freed by the Proclamation of the President of January 1st, or by acts of Congress shall be citizens, and competent to be witnesses in the courts of the United States. Whosever attempts to reduce any one so freed to slavery, is guilty of misdemeanor, and punished in a sum not less than two, nor more than ten thousand dollars, and imprisoned not less than one nor more than ten years.

FRAUDS.

In the Alexandria Quartermaster's operations continue to be discovered, and a story now is that they will reach millions of dollars. Measures are being taken for further investigations, and the matter will be probed to the bottom. Higher game than that yet caught is thought to be winged.

THE PRESIDENT'S AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.

Speculations as to the effect of the President's Amnesty Proclamation has alarmed some of the border State men, who incline to the belief that it will have a material effect in hastening peace. Its suggestions is attributed in some quarters to Secretary Chase.

THE RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

The Russian officers will visit the fortifications to-morrow.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

The President's careful silence on the Mexican question is a piece of comment in diplomatic circles. The Mexican Legation regard it as an intimation that he had nothing pleasant to say, and therefore in the present juncture of affairs at home, thought it best to say nothing at all.

RUMORED CHANGE IN THE COMMAND OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The rumors of a change in the command of the Army of the Potomac is again current. They have probably this foundation: It is known that grave dissatisfaction exists with the authorities at Meade's late campaign, and also that the Secretary of War has not been disposed to regard him with favor ever since he let Lee across the Potomac after the battle of Gettysburg. It is known also that the authorities have been considering whose appointment to the command of that army would give the greatest promise of securing its earnest co-operation and activity, and that various names have been suggested and discussed. Beyond this it is not probable that anything is as yet certain. When Horace Greeley was here, he urged Thomas as the popular man, and his name receives favorable mention in many quarters. A thorough reorganization of the army is considered certain.

THE STOVED FRAUDULENT BONDS.

The case of the Floyd fraudulent bonds has begun to be argued in the Court of Claims. Judge Thomas, Caleb Cushing and Judge Curtis are the counsel.

TO BE QUIZZED.

Efforts are going to be made to oust Isherwood as Chief Engineer of the Navy, in consequence of his testimony in the Sickles cut off case.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

By the Agricultural report for the month just made it appears that the deficiencies in the corn crop for the present year, is nearly one hundred and thirty millions of bushels below what is required for home consumption. As the wants of the government for the army are so very large it is questioned whether the late military orders stopping the distillation of grain in Kentucky and Tennessee will not be extended to the great distilling States of Ohio and Illinois.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH IMPROVING.

The President's health is much improved. He saw visitors who had special business with him to-day.

THOMAS GIVES CREDIT TO ROSECRANS.

Certain war department officials are still very much exercised over the statement that Thomas gives Rosecrans credit for the plan of the late movements. They have but slight contradictions however.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED.

The House adjourned over till Monday, to give the Speaker time to form the committees.

ELECTION OF DR. CHANNING, CHAPLAIN.

The election of Dr. Channing, as Chaplain to-day, is as unexpected as it is radical. Channing is an out and out Abolitionist and Unitarian.

THE NATIONAL LOYAL LEAGUE.

The National Loyal League will remain in session a day or so yet. It is quite largely attended.

ARRIVED.

B. H. ARMSTRONG, Agent.

CITY OF ALLEGHENY,
Treasurer's Office, Dec. 1, 1863.

ALLEGHENY CITY COMPROMISE BONDS WANTED.—Parties holding Compromise Bonds of the City of Allegheny, Pa., are hereby notified that the Sinking Fund for 1863 will be invested in those Bonds at the lowest rates offered. Proposals received until SATURDAY, the 24 day of January, 1864.

By order of the Committee on Finance.

D. MACFERSON, City Treasurer.

PEARLASH—30 casks

XXXVIII CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 10, 1863.

SENATE.—Mr. Foster gave notice of a bill to encourage enlistments in the naval service, and credit such enlistments on the military quotas of the several States.

Mr. Sumner gave notice of a bill to repeal all acts for the rendition of fugitive slaves.

Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.—Mr. Fenton gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to facilitate the payment of bounties on account of deceased soldiers.

On motion of Mr. Washburne, it was resolved, that, when the House adjourned today, it be till Monday next.

Mr. Pendleton, of Ohio, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to admit to seats upon the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives members of the Cabinet, with the right to debate upon matters pertaining to the business of their departments, respectively.

The memorial of Thomas W. McLurg, of the Fourth District of Missouri, was referred to the Committee on Elections.

The Speaker laid before the House the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury on finances.

The House proceeded to the election of Chaplain. Eleven candidates were placed in nomination. Before the result was announced numerous gentleman changed their votes for the leading candidates, namely, Right Rev. Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, and Rev. W. H. Channing, of the Unitarian, Washington. Bishop Hopkins received 55 votes, and Mr. Channing 86. The other votes were scattered among the other candidates. Mr. Channing was declared elected.

The House adjourned till Monday.

The Capture of the Chesapeake.

NEW YORK, December 10.—The identity of the pirates who captured the steamer Chesapeake, of this city, is still unknown. It is believed that some of them have come from Canada to Portland, and there embarked on board for this port; they knew all the facts, and were therefore able to direct the operations of persons who joined them.

The steamer Potomac, belonging to H. B. Cunwell & Co., owners of the Chesapeake, will start to-day in pursuit.

The government has commissioned the Potomac, and she will be armed and furnished with a fighting crew at the Navy Yard.

ST. JOHNS, Dec. 10.—The Evening *Globe* gives the following concerning the capture of the Chesapeake. The schooner was matured here by confederate agents. Meetings were held and the passage money of parties to make the return, was paid through to New York. The one promised $500 each on steamers being safely taken into Wilmington. It was also arranged that in a store in New York each of the party was to select different times for a parcel containing a revolver, ammunition and a pair of hand-cuffs. It is believed the cargo was shipped by Confederate agents, and was very valuable to the South, and that it was arranged that she should be seized on this particular trip. The Chesapeake did not coal here, she coaled off the harbor and took on board Capt. Parker, formerly of the privateer Retribution, who took command.

LATER—The Chesapeake is reported to be near Cape Sable.

RIVER INTELLIGENCE.

The river is still receding, slowly at this point, with but little over three feet reported on the Glass House rock—rising. The weather continues raw and cloudy and the indications are favorable to snow.

Business seems to be all or suspended at the levee as there was not a solitary boat in port last evening. The Satsoma cleared for Louisville, with all the freight she could take on the present stage of water and a fair cabin, whence she departed.

The Julia, from Zanesville, was due in twight and will probably be found at the wharf this morning. The Lou Scott and Starlight, are also due.

Capt. Thomas Rogers, late of the Jennie Rogers, reached home on Tuesday, direct from New Orleans, via New York. Capt. R. said the Jennie's hull was in New Orleans, and the Rogers Capt. Ratchelor, is undergoing a thorough repair at Morphis & Saunday.

"We have a sad accident to report, says the Cincinnati Commercial of Tuesday. The city after the Lady Pike left for Memphis on Saturday night, the mate Mr. Fred Wattson, after giving orders to his second mate and watchman, walked to the after part of the boat, since which time he has not been seen or heard from. It is feared he fell overboard and was drowned. Mr. W. was an expert swimmer, and, in the event of his falling overboard, may have succeeded in reaching the shore. He resided in Rochester, Penn., where he has a family.

A collision occurred a few days since between the steamers Effie Deans and the Hunttress, near the mouth of Cumberland river, the Effie Deans was run into by the steamer Hunttress, which boat struck the Deans on the larboard side, near the bow, breaking sixteen timbers. The Lone Dunn will go on the docks at St. Louis for repairs.

We see it stated that on the new Louisville and Cincinnati mailboat general Boyle is completed, the Major Anderson is to pass into the hands of Captain Sam Brown, late of the St Patrick and others, to ply in the Wheeling and Pittsburgh trade.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 10.—Flour firm at $5 [illegible] for Extra Family. Wheat dull, sales 45,000 bu at $1.40@1.45 for fair to prime red, and $1.50@1.60 for Kentucky White. Corn dull, old $1.15. Oats in good demand at 70@72c. Whisky firm at 95@96c.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Cotton is nothing decided change at 70@72c. Flour better at 10@15c. Sales Extra State $7.30@7.35; Extra Ohio $7.40@7.50; a shade firmer at 7.50@7.60. Wheat is higher, and in better demand, at $1.41@1.45 for Chicago Spring, $1.46@1.48 for Milwaukee Club, $1.46@1.48 for Winter Red Western, and $1.50@1.62 for Amber Michigan. Barley a shade firmer at $1.30@1.35 for Canada and Western. Pork dull and nominal demand at $13.62@13.75 in store closing at the latter price, $13.50 for mess, and $13.00@13.25 for mixed Western, deliverable from the 20th to the 20th of February, buyers option, $14.00 the lot on same terms. Lard dull and heavy, sales at 7.50@7.60c. Sugar very dull. Molasses quiet. Petroleum irregular and unsettled; Refined in bond 47c. Rice quiet, and prices nominally unchanged. Bacon Sides moderately active. Lard dull and heavy at 11½@12c, the latter an extreme. Butter firm at 30@35c for Ohio.

New York Stock and Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Money easy at 6@7c. Sterling decidedly firmer at 160@165 for first class bills. Gold irregular, opening at 12[illegible], advancing to 12[illegible], and closing firm at 12[illegible], closing at 12[illegible]. Government Stocks firm. 5-20s, coupons, 105½; 7-30's 107½. 1-Year Certificates 99[illegible].

Stocks quiet and firm but active.

Mo. 6's	[illegible]	Erie	71½
N. Y. C.	132	Hudson	129
Erie	70½	C. & N. W.	90
Reading	115½	Pit. Ft. W. & C.	81
M. C.	125½	A. & T. H.	54
M. S.	79½	C. & A.	97

New York Wool Market.

NEW YORK, December 10.—The public sale of damaged Cape Wool, this morning, was not very largely attended; but there was still enough present to invite competition. The prices realized were very high and exceeded expectations. The wool was held for and on account of underwriters. The semi-offerings sold at prices varying from 22 to 30c per pound, for that in tubs, and the loose wool, which was very badly damaged, at 4½@6c ⅌ ℔.

AMUSEMENTS.

PITTSBURGH THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager.....WM. HEMMINGS.
Treasurer.....H. OVERMYER.

Farewell benefit of Mr. R. E. J. MILES, the equestrian artiste, who will appear as "Horne, the Hunter," and "Mazeppa."

THIS (Friday) EVENING,

Will be presented, the melo-dramatic spectacle of

BERNE, THE HUNTER;
Or, THE FOREST FIEND AND DEMON HORSE!

Horne.....R. E. J. Miles.
Lynwood.....G. S. Kames.
Shadoch.....J. O. Sefton.
Mabel.....Annie Electie.
The Demon Horse.....Hiawatha.

To conclude with the first act of

MAZEPPA; or, THE WILD HORSE OF TARTARY
Mazeppa.....R. E. J. Miles.
The Wild Horse.....Watamah.

CONCERT HALL.

SIX NIGHTS ONLY.

Commencing Monday, Dec. 14th, 1863.

MORNINGSTAR'S

MINSTRELS AND CORNET BAND!

SIXTEEN GIFTED ARTISTS!

In a grand

SORIE DE AFRIQUE!

EACH EVENING.

For particulars see Programmes.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ALLEGHENY.—The Board of Directors have this day called on an assessment of Fifty Per Cent. of the Capital Stock of "The First National Bank of Allegheny," payable on the 17th inst., at the office of the Mechanics' Savings' Bank, Allegheny.

T. H. KEVIN, President.

OFFICE OF THE CITIZENS INSURANCE CO.,
Pittsburgh, Dec. 10th, 1863.

AN ELECTION FOR THIRTEEN DIRECTORS OF THIS COMPANY, to serve during the ensuing year, will be held at this office on MONDAY, the 21st inst., between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 p. m.

SAMUEL BEA, Secretary.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LECTURES.

DR. J. G. HOLLAND,

(TIMOTHY TITCOMB,)

The popular author and lecturer, will deliver the third lecture of the course under the auspices of the Mercantile Library Association, at

LAFAYETTE HALL,

On Monday Evening, Dec. 14th, 1863.

SUBJECT—THE NATIONAL HEART.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Co. will run a special train from Turtle Creek, on the night of each lecture of the course, if sufficient encouragement is given by the residents along the road.

Tickets 50 cents, to be had at the Music and Book Stores, Library Rooms, and at the Hall Door.

Doors open at 7; Reading to commence at 7½.

W. H. KNOX, GEORGE W. WEYMAN,
SAMUEL A. LONG, THOMAS BAKEWELL, Jr.,
WILLIAM W. WARD, HENRY M. ATWOOD,
Lecture Committee.

PITTSBURGH SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Office and Depository, 59 Fourth Street, Between Wood and Market Streets.

PRESIDENT—THOMAS BAKEWELL.

SECRETARY—JOSEPH R. HUNTER.

TREASURER—JAMES PARK, Jr.

Contributions of money and goods solicited.

Stores sent to all parts of the army.

Information furnished in relation to the sick and wounded in the Camps and Hospitals.

The freight on goods donated is paid here.

Address,

PITTSBURGH SANITARY COMMITTEE.

UNION PRIMARY MEETINGS.—The Union voters of the City of Allegheny are invited to meet at their respective places for holding elections, on SATURDAY, 26th instant, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock p. m., and vote by ballot for—

One citizen for Mayor;
One citizen for Director of the Poor;
and also for candidates for the respective Ward offices.

The Judges of the Primary Elections will meet at the Town Hall, on MONDAY, 28th inst., at 11 o'clock a. m., and sum up the vote of the respective precincts, the person having the highest vote to be the nominee of the party.

Officers of Election are instructed to refuse all votes offered by those who voted against the Union State Ticket in October last.

By order of the Executive Committee.

J. G. COFFIN, Chairman.
J. WRIGHT, Secretary.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE—The Annual Assessment List for 1863, containing Taxes on Gold and Silver Plate, Carriages, &c., and License Duties in the 8th Division of the 22d Ward, District, comprising the 6th, 7th and 8th Wards of the City of Pittsburgh, and Fifth Township, excepting that part north of Penn street, has been received from the Assessor, and the Taxes are now due. I will receive the Taxes as aforesaid, at the office of Andrew BUTLER, No. 128 Wylie street, from the 21st day of December, until the 15th day of January, 1864, inclusive, between the hours of 1 and 5 p. m., after which time the penalties prescribed by the law will be exacted.

JOHN A. SERGEANT,
Deputy Collector 4th Division, 22d District.

THE REV. D. L. DEMPSEY, D. D., will deliver his celebrated reply to BISHOP HOPKINS' DEFENCE OF AMERICAN SLAVERY AT SIXTH COMMON M. E. CHURCH, Alleg