Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING.....DEC. 21, 1863

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

PRIZES FOR EXEMPTION—TIME EXTENDED.—By an order from the Provost Marshal General, received on Saturday evening by the Enrollment Board of the 23d district, the time for hearing claims for exemption, under a former order, for alienage, non-residence, unsuitableness of age, and manifest permanent disability, also for election by parents, is extended to January 5, 1864. For no other cause will claims be heard until after the draft.

The Coming Draft.

It seems very doubtful whether the draft can be made as early as the 5th of January.

The time for examining claims to exemption for manifest permanent disability, alienage, non-residence, (which must be accompanied by certificate that the party is properly enrolled elsewhere,) and unsuitableness of age, having been extended till January 5th, it will be physically impossible for the Board of Enrollment to commence the draft on the same day.

After these cases are examined and decided upon, list of the persons (and also of all persons placed on the lists who were improperly omitted,) must be carefully prepared and forwarded to Washington for approval. The corrections are then made, before the draft. This will take time—from one to three or four weeks.

The Board in this district (22d,) are hard at work, and on Saturday night had examined fully a thousand cases. They take up cases in the following order, viz:

Monday 21st,	from 1100 to 1200.	
Tuesday 22d,	"	1200 to 1300.
Thursday 24th,	"	1300 to 1400.
Saturday 26th	"	1400 to 1500.
Monday 28th,	"	1500 to 1600.
Tuesday 29th,	"	1600 to 1700.
Wednesday 30th	"	1700 to 1800.
Thursday 31st,	"	1800 to 1900.
Saturday 2d,	"	1900 to 2000.
Monday 4d,	"	2000 to 2100.
Tuesday 4th,	"	2100 to 2200.
Wednesday 5th,	"	2200 to 2300.

Election by parent cases already filed will be heard on Wednesday, December 23d; other claims of this kind filed hereafter can be heard after January 5th, before the draft—but should be filed at once. In all cases of this kind, where one of the sons is enrolled in another district, it must be proved by the certificate of the proper Board of Enrollment.

Cases of Manifest Physical Disability, whatever their number, are examined at ten and two daily, before hearing other cases.

Persons who only Called, who have not answered, may yet be called, by leaving their names, sub-district, and number of the application with the clerks in the business office the day previous, that their papers may be searched for among those on hand.

As there are now 3,125 applications on file, it is probable not more than two hundred more can be reached, (even with the extension granted,) and they should be filed at once.

Exemptions under circular No. 100, of the Provost Marshal General, have been made in the following cases, viz:

Now in military service	1
Election of parent	44
Manifest permanent physical disability	190
Over 35 and married, or over 45	251
Under 20 years of age	27
Residing and enrolled elsewhere	11
Aliens who have not voted	267
In service 3d of March	46
Total exempt from the draft	838

The above is the result of the examination of more than a thousand applications.

The Provost Marshal of this (22d district) earnestly requests enrolling officers to report names previously omitted as promptly as possible—for the additional enrollment.

Political Nominations.

FIRST WARD, ALLEGHENY.—The Union voters of this Ward, held a meet ing at Washington Hall, on Saturday evening, the 19th inst., at which Mr. D. T. Johnston presided, and Mr. Geo. Thompson acted as Secretary.

The object of the meeting was to nominate candidates to be voted for at the primary election to be held on Saturday, the 26th inst. The following persons were placed in nomination: For Mayor—Simon Drum, A. C. Alexander. Director of the Poor—Robert White. Select Council—Samuel Biddle. Common Council—(Four to be elected)—John A. Caughey, Geo. W. Lyon, W. C. Stockton, David Nease, Thomas Smith, Wm. Dilworth, Jr., C. W. Benny, James Gordon, Edward Gregg. School Directors—Wm. Thompson, F. L. Snowden, Joslah King, P. B. Clark, John A. Scott. Judge of Elections—Saml. Thomson, David Nease. Inspectors—C. F. Ingham, John Dyer, Jr., W. H. Brown, Edward Barr. Assessor—Simeon Buford. Assistant Assessor—Alex. Glenn. John Siddons. Constable—Samuel Irvin.

SECOND WARD, CITY.—The following ticket was nominated in this Ward: Select Council—James Reed. Common Council—D. O'Neill, Thos. Steel. School Directors—W. Woods, John G. Martin, Wm. Means. Assessor—Thos. B. Davitt. Assistant Assessors—James Black, Thos. Simmons. Judge of Election—Wm. Owen. Inspector—John Marshall. Constable—John Herron. There was no opposition except for Common Council, and the balloting resulted as follows: D. O'Neill, 43; Thos. Steel, 30; Benj. Bakewell, Jr., 21; W. N. Ogden, 10. In explanation of the light vote, we may state that the polls were kept open but one hour.

THIRD WARD, ALLEGHENY.—In this Ward the following gentlemen were named for nomination: Mayor—A. C. Alexander, Simon Drum. Select Council—Thos. N. Miller, Benj. Patterson. Common Council—James Campbell, John Tate, Jas. McBrier, Jacob Heckborn, Chas. Schleifer, Geo. P. Bellstein, Alderman—James Miller, Joshua Robinson, Robert Bell. Director of the Poor—Geo. Gerst. Assessors—Mathias McGonnigle, S. W. McGinnis. Constable—Michael Pool, David McKnight.

SIXTH WARD, CITY.—In this Ward the following names have been suggested for nomination: Select Council—W. H. Williams, John T. McLaughlin. Common Council—A. G. McCandless, John Redman, Alijah Hays, Chas. Jeremy, B. B. Hunnicutt. School Directors—W. W. Dickson, Wm. Callingwood, Thos. W. Wright, Job G. Patterson, Theodore Robbins. Assessor—Wm. Shore, James Chambers. Assistant Assessors—B. Lake, Joseph A. Butler, High Gormly. Constable—Wm. Shore. Judge of Election—T. Kerr, Wm. Barnhill. Inspector—Jarod M. Brush.

Something Worth Looking at.

The variety, brilliancy and immense number of Piano Fortes, exhibited at this time in their warerooms on Fifth street, by Messrs. H Kleber & Bro., presents a sight at once novel and interesting. Here is a rare opportunity for those who contemplate to enrich the home circle with a fine Piano Forte, or a Harmonium for a holiday gift. All tastes and all pockets can here be suited, from the rich toned and inimitable Steinway, to the plain and sweet toned and low-priced Tryan, of New York, Pianos. We also find here the charming Calenberg, New York, pianos—hardly distinguishable from the Steinway's; and, again, the elegant Miller & Co., Boston, and the popular Gabler, New York, Piano Fortes. In short, Pianos of every imaginable style and price, from $250 to $500. Purchasers will not overlook the excellent opportunity thus presented, for a comparison of the relative merits of the different instruments. If you would gladden the hearts of your loved ones, call at Kleber's and purchase one of their fine Piano Fortes.

Christmas Dinner for the Soldiers.

The Ladies of the Subsistance Committee will give a dinner on Christmas, to the soldiers in the hospital, those in camp, and the provost guard, in all about eight hundred. They respectfully ask the public for assistance in providing the dinner.

The following articles will be needed: Turkeys, chickens, oysters, butter, apples, potatoes, fruits in cans, eggs, pies, cakes, rolls, bread.

Persons sending contributions of fowls, are requested to send them on Wednesday morning, so they can be prepared by Christmas. City Hall will be open to receive contributions for the dinner, on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from nine to twelve o'clock.

LEG BROKEN.—A countryman named John Denny, residing two miles from Bakerstown, had his leg broken, on Saturday night last, by falling upon the street in the Third Ward, Allegheny. He was conveyed to the Mayor's office, where he was attended by Drs. Hamilton and Scroggs. He will be conveyed to his home to-day.

RECREATION INSTITUTE.—It will be seen by an advertisement in another column that the later session of this most excellent school commences on January 4th. Parents desiring a good place where their sons and daughters will be kept safe and carefully educated, will not be disappointed by patronizing the Excelsior Institute.

Our Book Table.

PERILOUS TIMES. A Sermon Delivered before the Synod of Pittsburgh, in Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 20th, 1863. By W. D. Howard, D. D., Moderator. Published by request of the Synod.—For sale at the Book Stores in Pittsburgh and Allegheny.

The text chosen by the eloquent and patriotic preacher, is, of course, 2d Timothy, 3: 1—as the above title would itself suggest. We have read the sermon, which is truly one for the times, with warm appreciation—and would certainly, had we participated in the earlier pleasure of those who heard it preached, have joined them in saying "Imprimatur." We are now full of hope that the mighty power of the Christian Church, all over the land, will be arrayed against the gigantic sin which brought on this wicked rebellion,—for eminent ministers of all denominations are now frequently found speaking and writing such confessions as the following, on the 28th page of this Sermon; which no christian minister or christian man—no man whatever who has ordinary sensibility and has learned to rejoice in the truth—can read unmoved, without at least the starting of a responsive tear:

"I do believe my hearers, (and I say it with unutterable sorrow,) I do believe the church and the ministry have not been faithful to their great trust. We have been afraid to do our duty—afraid, lest we should lose our friends, and lose our places, and want a piece of bread. I do believe, my brethren, the time will come when we will look back with astonishment, and shame, and grief, at what we have done, and at what we have not done, as the representatives of the Holy Saviour."

We have great pleasure in commending this truly impressive and profitable discourse to our readers.

WAS HE SUCCESSFUL? A Novel. By Richard B. Kimball, author of "St. Leger," "Undercurrents," "Romance of Student Life," etc. New York: Carleton. Pittsburgh: for sale by Henry Miner, 71 and 73 Fifth street. 407pp, 12mo.

This story, of which we have already seen some portions in one of our monthlies, where it stood the test of serial publication most satisfactorily, will, we venture to predict, become one of the most popular books of the season. Six months hence, it will be a superfluous question to ask the author's publisher's—"Was it successful?" The book is a history of the career of a certain "Hiram Meeker"—the model of a promising, pious boy and young man,—yet a selfish, cold-hearted, or rather heartless, male flirt—a money-worshipper and a successful money-getter. After "Hiram Meeker" has served a 'successful' apprenticeship to 'business' in two Connecticut villages, he comes to New York to enter there on an equally 'successful' career as a merchant, for he has ability and plausibility, application and calculation—in a word, he has every thing but heart. After winning the affections, too, of more than half-a-dozen young ladies, and having jilted them one after another, or by two or three at a time, he at last marries a woman as selfish as himself, and as shrewish withal, as if she had cultivated the conjugal affection with the greatest assiduity. But we shall say no more about this piquant book, which displays such a knowledge of the world, and of the world's ways,—but leave it in the eager hands of its readers. Perhaps even the little we have said may have led many to guess already how they will find their own hearts answering the question—"Was he successful?"

LIGHT OF SHADOWED PATHS. By T. S. Arthur, author of "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," "Steps Towards Heaven," "What Can Woman Do," "Golden Grains," etc. New York: Carleton. Pittsburgh: for sale by Henry Miner, fifth street, (next door to the Post Office.) 365pp. 12mo.

In these days in which we live there are many "shadowed paths" over all the land—paths whose shadows have fallen on them so deep and so far, that neither the golden effulgence of the summer's sun, nor the silvery radiance of the full-orbed moon, can dispel them, or even cheer them with a portion of light. Light of a still diviner essence it must be that will penetrate the gloom of the dark chasm that has fallen around so many bereaved ones. But such diviner light there is—and ready, too, ever ready, to shine forth and bless all with that most blessed spirit, which is the "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." In the book whose title is written above, many will find the guide to the true light—to the divine light-fountain—the existence and healthe power of which we have just indicated. Those who have read the author's previous works will readily anticipate how earnestly, how fervidly he would write under the influence of a beautiful and inspiring theme, like that which forms the central idea around which the heart moves, and towards which he directs the radii of his own purpose and the reader's thought throughout this volume.

SCIENCE FOR THE SCHOOL AND FAMILY. PART II. CHEMISTRY. By Worthington Hooker, M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Yale College. Author of "Human Physiology," etc. "Child's Book of Nature," "Natural History," etc.: Illustrated by numerous engravings. New York: Harper & Brothers. Pittsburgh: For sale by Henry Miner, Fifth street, (next door to the Post Office.) 435pp. 12mo.

This arrangement of this work on Chemistry seems to be well adapted to *teach the science*; it is not such as would do, chosen, if the book were designed for occasional reference, and not for continuous study. Dr. Hooker gives very satisfactory reasons for the arrangement he has chosen, and, we doubt not, every teacher's experience will corroborate his statements as to the advantages of his method. He arranges his work work as follows: First the four elements,—oxygen, nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen, and their combinations with each other; then the heavy metals and their oxyds, the alkalis and earths and their metals, next, the laws of chemical affinity, equivalents and symbols, heat, light, electricity and magnetism; and finally, organic chemistry. This book includes all the chemistry, says the author, which a well informed person should know, and it is so arranged that the simplest topics come first, and are followed by those of more difficulty. The volume is handsomely printed, well illustrated, and bound, and uniform in the same neat and substantial manner as Messrs. Harpers' school books usually are.

HUSKS.—COLONEL FLOYD'S WARS.—By Marion Harland. New York: Sheldon & Co. Pittsburgh: R. S. Davis, 83 Wood street. 256pp. 12mo.

Few novels of a didactic character reach the degree of excellence attained in these and some of the previous stories by Marion Harland. In the two tales embraced in the present volume, we have abundant evidences of her talent and skill in constructing the plots and managing the details, so as to bring out the salient points of her characters; to maintain, with continual accessions of interest, her hold on her readers; and from first to last to develope and accomplish a high moral purpose. Her style is easy and fluent and pure throughout we consider Marion Harland one of the most agreeable and entertaining writers of our time—a conclusion to which the volume before us will, we think, bring as many as may read it.

Movement in the Right Direction.

A meeting of the Union citizens of the First Ward, Allegheny, was held, pursuant to public notice, on Saturday evening. The primary object was the suggestion of names of persons for the respective Ward offices, to be voted for at the ensuing primary meetings.

After this preliminary object had been accomplished, a Ward meeting was organized by calling Moses Boreland to the chair, and the following preamble and resolutions submitted for the consideration of the meeting.

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has issued his Proclamation calling for 300,000 men, to fill up the ranks of our war-worn regiments, and to aid in finishing this accursed rebellion, which call will be filled by a draft, to take place on the 5th day of January, 1864, unless sooner met by voluntary enlistment. And,

WHEREAS, We believe in sustaining our government in its efforts to suppress the rebellion, and are ready to yield the last man, and contribute the last dollar, if necessary, therefore,

Resolved, By the Union people of the First Ward, that the citizens of Allegheny should take immediate measures to call upon the Councils of this city to negotiate a loan sufficient to pay a city bounty of at least two hundred dollars to each volunteer willing to enlist in the national service, from this city, in order to fill our quota of the 300,000 men now called for by the President.

Resolved, That as property holders and tax payers, we will cheerfully pay our share of the tax necessary to meet such obligation.

The resolutions were discussed at length, and subsequently carried unanimously. A very commendable unanimity prevails the people, in regard to this great public question; all classes of the people seem to think it desirable that an earnest and speedy effort shall be made to raise the quota by voluntary enlistment, stimulated by municipal bounties, rather than necessitate a resort to the inexorable draft.

We have conversed with several of the six months men, whose period of service is now about up, and learn that probably two-thirds of these will re-enlist, provided suitable inducements are offered by the citizens.

We learn that a movement is on foot to call a city mass meeting in Allegheny city, to take action on this subject of a city bounty.

GODEY FOR JANUARY.—This attractive "Lady's Book" commences the new year with a splendidly illustrated number—no less than two steel-plate engravings, besides the usual double-page fashion plate, and an immense number of wood cuts.

—For sale by J. W. Pittock, opposite the Postoffice, J. J. Case, Chronicle Building, J. P. Hunt, Masonic Hall, Fifth street, and by J. T. Sample, 85 Federal street, Allegheny.

SOLDIERS' SPECIAL NOTICE.—Do your duty to yourselves, protect your health, use Holloway's Pills and Ointment. For Wounds, Sores, Bowel Complaints and Fevers, they are a perfect safeguard. Full directions how to use them with every box. Only 25 cents. d10.

The Draft in Birmingham.

An adjourned meeting of the citizens of Birmingham was held on Saturday evening, to hear the reports of the committees appointed at a previous meeting, to wait upon the enrolled men of the borough, and the manufacturers, to solicit subscriptions to enable the borough to offer an additional bounty of $300 to volunteers.

The committee to wait upon the enrolled men reported that they called upon eighty-one of those enrolled, and had obtained subscriptions amounting to $3,325—being more than average of $40 each. The committee to wait on the manufacturers reported that they had received promises of subscriptions amounting to $1,755.

The above reports indicated a total subscription of $5,080, whereas the amount required to give each man an additional bounty of $200 (providing the quota should be filled by volunteers) would be $19,000.

On motion of Mr. Pears, the committee to wait on the enrolled men was increased to twenty, and the meeting adjourned until Wednesday evening, to hear their report.

Acknowledgments.

The Great Western Sanitary Fair now being held at Cincinnati, acknowledge the receipt of the following donations from Pittsburgh:

The Committee on Coal, in response to applications in Pittsburgh, have received the following subscriptions, and the coal is now arriving at the landing. A number of Pittsburgh coal merchants are now in our city, whose subscriptions will, no doubt, make the amount 5,000 bushels. Their names and amount will be published as soon as received:

A. D. Smith & Bros., 500 bushels; James McGrew & Co., 500 bushels; Capt. R. C. Gray, 500 bushels; D. A. & M. S. McDonald, 500 bushels; Thomas Fawcett, 200 bushels; steamer Petrel, 150 bushels; M. Bailey & Co., 200 bushels; Jos. P. Haigh, 450 bushels; Duncan, Cornell & Co., 500 bushels.

Mr. S. D. Dithridge, Pittsburgh, donates four boxes of his flint glass lamp chimneys, valued $50 40, and painted boxes.

Messrs. Atterbury, Reddick & Co., Pittsburgh, donates two dozen patent reflector lanterns.

TO-NIGHT.—Our readers will remember that this is the opening night of the celebrated Holman Opera Troupe, at Masonic Hall, where the entire strength of the company will appear in the Bohemian Girl.

The enchanting, and favorite air of this, the most beautiful of Balf's compositions, are quite familiar to all our music lovers, but how much more are they enjoyed when rendered in English by such a prima donna as the peer of other stilds pronounce Miss Sallie Holman. Many seats were engaged on Saturday. Another opportunity is offered this morning from 11 to 1, on application at the Box Office.

OIL DESTROYED IN PHILADELPHIA.—A fire occurred in Philadelphia on Friday afternoon last, resulting in the destruction of Shobber & Co.'s oil warehouse, South Delaware Avenue: There were 1,500 barrels of oil destroyed, belonging to Messrs. Forsythe & Co., of this city. Messrs. Craw, of Philadelphia, and Messrs. Magnire & Campbell, of Boston. The oil was valued at $30,000, and was insured. The total damage of the fire was $50,000.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

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.

THE DRAFT.—We do not mean the draft that is to be obviated in this State by liberal subscriptions to the bounty fund, but that more interesting draft that is now taking place from the pockets of our citizens who are buying gifts for the holidays. The sales of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines for this purpose alone, at 27 Fifth street, during the past week, from our own positive knowledge, foot up a fabulous amount, and we feel sure that it is so. Thousands of the most sensible ladies in the land to-day bless the name of Wheeler & Wilson for the benefits derived from the use of the universally admirable and in all respects unapproachable Sewing Machine; and, from present appearances, the number of wives, mothers, daughter, sisters and others on that Christmas holiday will add to this long list, will amount to thousands. This universal preference for the Wheeler & Wilson Machine is based upon the fact that it is a strictly first class machine, and not a dubious experiment, as too many find other machines in the market to be, to their sorrow. The permanent supremacy of this great Machine could, in fact, be scarcely be supplanted than you could supplant the North star, or upset a mountain. Again we say to all, call at their sale rooms and see the variety of works which can be done on these machines.

KIK-WE-NO-NO-AW—INDIAN SMOKING TOBACCO.—This Tobacco, used by the North American Indians, is manufactured from the finest quality of tobacco, and, combined with the most healthful and odorous Roots, Barks and Herbs, indigenous to the Rocky Mountains, in such proportion, as to impart to its disciples unusual strength, and recuperation for it wherever it becomes known a beverage. A long residence among the Indians of the Rocky Mountains, insured an acquaintance with their habits, customs, and modes of life, and among other things, near Fairfax Station, an attack was made on the pickets of the first cavalry division at this place. One of our pickets was gobbled up and their raid ended.

The recent rains have made the roads almost impassable, especially for artillery.

Citizens here tell us that we are soon to evacuate their town, but no signs of such movements are apparent.

Credible witnesses, just from Richmond, state that our prisoners there are better fed than their own people, and much better than they would be were it not that the great majority of the citizens of the Confederacy must be kept from our knowledge. Fresh beef is now four dollars per pound, and fresh bread three dollars and fifty cents per loaf, such as made occasionally are the very thing, and we do not know of any place where our readers would suit themselves better than at Messrs. W. H. McGee & Co's clothing establishment, corner of Fifth street and Diamond Square, Allegheny. They have also received a complete assortment of gentlemen's furnishing goods, and a great variety of new patterns for waistcoating, &c.

GENTLEMEN, have you examined the fall and winter styles of good clothing at Graham's Tailoring establishment of Sam. Graham & Co., No. 54 Market street?

A fresh supply of goods every week.

Have you examined the prices of goods at the Merchant Tailoring establishment of Sam. Graham & Co., No. 54 Market street; if not, it is now time you would, and save 20 per cent. in your clothing bill.

Every garment warranted a perfect fit.

SAMUEL GRAHAM, GEO. MCCANDLESS.

EDITORIAL OPINION.—The following we take from this week's *United Presbyterian*, one of the most influential religious papers in the West. Speaking of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine it says: "This is unquestionably the best sewing machine for family purposes now in the market, and is more in demand than any other. It is the one which we can most unqualifiedly recommend, and for this reason have selected it as a premium." Itwl4wd.

JUST RECEIVED AND READY FOR SALE.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, lately received by Messrs. John Wise & Co., Merchant Tailors, No. 145 Federal street, Allegheny. The stock of clothing consists of the finest variety of gents' pant aloons, vests, coats and overcoats. The style of patterns is tasteful and fashionable. We would invite all of our readers to give the above gentlemen a call.

OMNIBUS and carriage calls will be taken at the Omnibus office, No. 410 Penn street, day or night. All orders left at the above place will be promptly attended to. All calls must be paid in advance.

DENTAL INSTITUTE, No. 251 Penn street, is the place where you can get the best and cheapest dentistry in the city. Don't forget the place, No. 251 Penn street, near Hance's.

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, AND THE LUNG DISORDERS, use "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*," having proved their efficacy by a test of many years. daw

C. SILL, Dentist, 248 Penn street, will attend to all business of his profession.

MARRIED:

SEYDEL—BRAUN.—At the residence of the bride's father, December 8th, 1863, by the Rev. Bigby, D. D., Mr. EMIL F. SYDEL, of Cincinnati, to Miss CAROLINE LAJEANN BRAUN, of this city.

HONEY PECTORAL

A sure remedy for Chronic or common COUGHS, COLDS, HOARSENESS, SORE THROAT.

To public speakers it is invaluable. To persons debilitated by long standing Cough or Consumption, it reaches at both Cough and debility.

Prepared and for sale by GEO. A. KELLY, corner Ohio and Federal streets. d8tf In Market House, Allegheny.

BASKET WILLOW—[illegible] bdls. now landing, for sale by ISAIAH COLE & CO.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 19, 1863.

PERSONAL.

Brig. Gen. Orme has been appointed commandant of the Post at Chicago.

Governor Morton, of Indiana, is here connected with the enlistment of troops in his State and other matters.

LEE'S ARMY.

Lee's army lies in its old position at Orange Court House, with cavalry videttes up to the Rapidan.

GEN. BUFORD'S FUNERAL.

Gen. Buford is to have an imposing military funeral to-morrow. The President and the Heads of the Departments are to attend.

OFFICIAL RECEPTION.

The President gives an official reception to-morrow night, to which the Russian officers are invited.

SURGEON GENERAL HAMMOND

There are rumors that Surgeon General Hammond is likely to be soon mustered out of service, but it cannot be traced to any authentic source.

TAX ON WHISKEY.

All sorts of rumors are set afloat by whiskey speculators about the prospective taxation. The last is that it is to be reduced instead of being raised.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSCRIPTION ACT.

The general questions of amendments to the Conscription has been receiving a large share of the attention of the Military Committee of both Houses.

OUR PICKETS DRIVEN IN.

A few guerrillas drove in our picket at Fairfax Station to-day. Rumors of the affair have exaggerated it into a serious riot, but these reports are unfounded.

ENROLLMENT OF NEGRO TROOPS.

Gen. Butler has commenced the enrolment of all the able-bodied negroes in his Department, with a view, doubtless, to conscription.

THE BOUNTY FOR ENLISTMENTS.

The Senate Military Committee have reported in favor of allowing the bounty of $400 only to the 5th of January, 1864, after that no bounty will be allowed substitutes, and only one hundred dollars to drafted or conscripted men.

SLAVERY DEAD IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

Maj. G. L. Stearns, Commissioner for negro recruiting, is here on business with the War Department. He speaks of slavery as being practically dead in Middle Tennessee where he has been last recruiting, and he thinks its tenure might very easily be destroyed also about Memphis and Western Tennessee.

THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Saulsbury came to the rescue of his colleague Mr. Bayard, in the Senate to-day, to attempt staving off the necessity for his taking the oath. It will not avail them, however, as the oath will have to be taken, or their seats in the Senate vacated.

THE THREE HUNDRED CLAUSE.

It can be by no means considered settled, that the three hundred dollar clause is to be repealed. Mr. Wilson, himself, said to-day that he doubted its propriety, and it is certain opposition will be made to it in the House by members who will argue that it is really more favorable to the poor man than any clause in the bill.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

There were but thirty-one members and Senators at the Democratic caucus last night. Fernando Wood was present, but said nothing. Those in favor of a change of front in the party are laboring with him. The object of the caucus was to unite the Democracy on a platform of opposition to the administration.

GOVERNOR DOTY,

of Utah, has been sent for by telegraph by the President, and is expected here daily on business connected with that territory. A movement will probably be made to admit Utah as a State at this session, and Gov. Doty who is one of the ablest of the territorial Governors yet held to have been sent for to counsel in the affairs of state among the Mormons. Gov. Doty was formerly a resident and Governor of Wisconsin. In the absence of the Governor, Amos Reed, Secretary of the Territory, will be acting Governor.

MONTGOMERY BLAIR.

The feeling against Montgomery Blair, which has hitherto been confined chiefly to complaints, seems now likely to be organized into a systematic movement. A call has been made in due form, on the chairman of the administration caucus, to summon another meeting, to consider Blair's relation to the administration, and decide whether it is proper to represent to the President the necessity for removing him. There is reason to doubt, how ever, whether the movement will have any practical result.

INCREASE OF SOLDIERS' PAY.

All sorts of propositions for increasing the pay of private soldiers to sixteen dollars a month, fifteen dollars a month and twenty-five a month, are already thrown upon Congress, and no propositions are said to be coming to raise the pay of officers twenty per cent. Petitions also come in rapidly for the increase of pay for certain classes of soldiers. If any increase is made it will be uniform. It is understood that the Military Committee have decided that much, and further that they are decidedly favorable to some increase.

DISCONTENT IN THE NAVAL COMMITTEE.

The old differences and views between Mr. Hale, Chairman of the Naval Committee, and Mr. Grimes, the most active working member on the same Committee, culminated to-day in request of the latter to be released from further service on the Committee. As Mr. Hale is Chairman, and in a chronic state of quarrelling with the Navy Department, it has therefore to rely mainly on Mr. Grimes. His request produced a decided fluttering. The Senate debated and pleaded off, and finally postponed the decision as to whether he would excuse him till next week. Mr. Hale's explanation yesterday about his taking a fee of three thousand dollars, as a lawyer, for getting a man out of the Old Capitol, is not considered as wholly freeing him from blame, as is generally discussed here. The question resolves itself into this: Did he get three thousand dollars for his influence as a Senator, or for his influence as a lawyer? If the latter, it is said, he must have been regarded a better lawyer than his friends ever supposed him.

From Cairo.

CAIRO, Dec. 19.—The steamer Belle of Memphis arrived this morning under guard. She was seized at Memphis by the military authorities, charged with landing a passenger at other than at a military port, she was afterwards captured with a carpet sack filled with percussion caps for the rebels. Persons in Memphis who furnished caps also, have been arrested and their stock taken possession of.

Little Rock advices of the 6th, state that the fear of an attack on Little Rock is no longer entertained.

The rebel Gen. McCrea, who has been ranging between Arkansas and White rivers, was attacked some time since at Jacksonport, by Col. Black, of Twenty-third Missouri. The enemy was repulsed. Col. Black captured three pieces of artillery.

Gen. Carr has assumed command of the Second Division of the Army of Arkansas.

Four hundred and sixty-six bales of cotton were sold in Memphis on the 16th. Prices unchanged. Receipts of 87 bales.

The Steamer Prima Donna Sunk

WHEELING, Dec. 19.—The steamer Prima Donna struck a sunken coal barge eighteen miles below here this morning. She sank to the cabin floor. No lives were lost.

The Atlantic Cable.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Advices by the Australasian say it is thought the Atlantic Cable will not be laid next year on account of expense. It is to be tried.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Secretary Seward's Diplomatic Report—Dispatches from Gen. Grant—Rebel Deserters Taking the Oath of Allegiance—The Recent Guerrilla Raid—The Rumors of General Meade's Removal.

WASHINGTON Dec. 19.—Mr. Seward's diplomatic report will be ready for the press in a day or two.

The *Evening Star* has the following: The authorities here have dispatches from General Grant at Chattagoona, dated last night at 9 o'clock. They do not indicate any recent change in the state of affairs the e. General Grant is in constant and direct telegraphic communication with General Foster at Knoxville, and had there been fighting between Gen. Longstreet's forces and ours, as the press dispatches from Cincinnati state, our forces pursuing him, Gen. Grant would doubtless have sent such dispatches here. The fact that he has said nothing about such an engagement indicates the belief that the statements via Cincinnati, referred to above, are much exaggerated.

Two hundred and twelve rebel deserters were sent from the old capital prison, this morning, to Philadelphia, to take the oath of allegiance. This makes 418 who have been sent to the same place, this week, for the same purpose.

The Washington correspondent of the *Post*, Dec. 18th, says: The raid of the guerrillas Mosby, upon the Fairfax Court House, startled this community, and causes some anxiety at the War Department. It is a sample of what may be expected during the winter, unless Gen. Meade falls back near Washington or strengthens his communications. The army will be compelled to fall back if those raids continue, and it is probable that Gen. Meade has contemplated a retrograde movement for some time.

The rumors of the removal of Gen. Meade have died out, and it is generally believed that he will remain in command for the winter. The fact that Gen. Meade occupied a perfectly independent position, and offered to resign again and again, has helped him very much with the President. He has boldly defended his recent campaign, not even asking for lenient judgment upon it.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates of Virginia, at Alexandria, agreed last night on a bill calling a convention for abolishing slavery in that State, which will be passed tomorrow.

The funeral of Maj. Gen. Buford took place this afternoon, and was largely attended. Eight Major Generals acted as pall bearers. President Lincoln attended the services.

The report of the commission appointed by the Navy Department, consisting of three chief engineers, who have made careful experiments for five months, showing the practicability of using petroleum or hydro carbon oils, for the purpose of generating steam, has been issued, and proved satisfactorily. It is said by those who have seen it that the results show a great saving, not only for a merchant steamer but a man naval steamer.

It is understood that a majority of the Committee on Military Affairs in the House are opposed to the repealing of the commutation clause in the enrollment act, as reported from the Senate. Some of the friends of the bill intention to offer an amendment authorizing enlistment in the rebel States, to be credited to the quotas of the State for which the officers procure the recruits, whether white or black.

Members of Congress are receiving large numbers of letters containing suggestions and opinions relative to the proposed change in the enrollment act.

Out of 1051 applicants for commissions in negro regiments, 560 have been recommended for appointments, viz: Colonels, 3; lieutenant Colonels, 10; Majors, 23; Captains, 104; First Lieutenants, 193; Second lieutenants, 265.

Thirty gentlemen were present at the complementary dinner to Speaker Colfax, last night. They were composed of the leading prominent journals of the county, and were of various political opinions. It was a pleasant and harmonious gathering. Samuel Wilkeson, Esq., presided, and with a facility for delivery his remarks proposed a statement which elicited from Mr. Colfax a brief, appropriate, eloquent and patriotic speech, in which he said that of the House of Representatives he was newspaper men for Speaker, Clerk and Postmaster, a good share for the profession; and in the Senate it was nearly the same way, viz: The present Secretary, Forney, and Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Brown coming in for the highest honors.

Escape of Two Officers from Libby Prison—The Fate of the Union Prisoners at Richmond—A Sweeping Conscription—Jeff. Davis to Command the Southern Army, and March on the North.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The *Herald's* Fortress Monroe letter reports the escape from Libby prison, and arrival in our lines of Capt. N. F. Ansell, 1st Indiana volunteers, and J. E. Skelton, 17th Iowa. The first was captured on the 3d of May last, near Rome, Ga., with Colonel Streight's command, on his famous raid through Alabama. The latter was taken at Jackson, Miss.

The *Herald's* special, dated Culpepper Court House, Va., Dec. 18, says: Simultaneously with the recent raid by Col. Mosby under date of the 10th inst., we have intelligence that a raid was made on the pickets of the first cavalry division at this place. One of our pickets was gobbled up and their raid ended.

The recent rains have made the roads almost impassable, especially for artillery.

Citizens here tell us that we are soon to evacuate their town, but no signs of such movements are apparent.

Credible witnesses, just from Richmond, state that our prisoners there are better fed than their own people, and much better than they would be were it not that the great majority of the citizens of the Confederacy must be kept from our knowledge. Fresh beef is now four dollars per pound, and fresh bread three dollars and fifty cents per loaf, such as made occasionally are the very thing, and the consequence is, that thousands must starve or go into the army and divide their rations with their families. It has been determined by the Rebels to conscript every man between the ages of fifteen and fifty-five, inclusive, for one last desperate and decisive effort in favor of the Confederacy. The attempt will probably be made upon Washington and the destruction of the North. In this conscription both negroes and whites are to be included, and they are also to be thrown into the same ranks together indiscriminately.

With this immense mongrel army Jeff Davis means to precipitate himself upon Washington, Pennsylvania or Ohio, perhaps all three, commanding in person. He will endeavor to stimulate the passions of these hordes by most extravagant stories of fancied wrongs, suffered at our hands by the Southern people, and by the most fabulous promises of plunder to be obtained through the victories which shall be gained in Northern towns and cities.

The Chesapeake at Halifax—Popular Tumult—Escape of the Pirates.

HALIFAX, Dec. 19, 10 p. m.—At one o'clock this afternoon the steamer Chesapeake, and the prisoners on board, were delivered over to the Government. Upon the arrival of the boat containing the prisoners, at Queen's wharf, the excitement became intense, and the prisoners were seized by a boat's crew in the ship and hurried off by the crowd in attendance. Upon the Government officers moving to arrest the prisoners under a warrant, they were seized and hold by prominent citizens, and rendered powerless to perform their duties. The crowd finally succeeded in getting the pirates off in a small boat, which forthwith moved down the bay. The affair caused the greatest excitement throughout the city. What course the authorities will pursue in the matter, it is impossible to say. The pirates now are at liberty, scattered throughout the province.

National Banks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The necessary papers have been issued from the Treasury Department, for the establishment of a National Bank at New Orleans, with a capital of half a million of dollars, under the national currency act. Also for a third Bank at St. Louis, with a capital of $1,000,000, with the privilege and prospect of increasing it to $3,000,000. The National Bank of this city, will commence to-morrow, with the issue of notes recently prepared by the Treasury Department for circulation by such institutions. Only $80,000 of the $500,000,000 of the 5-20 loan remain unchanged.

A Murderer hung by a Vigilance Committee.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—The following dispatch was received from Los Angeles today: Charles Watkins, indicted for murder by a special grand jury yesterday, was brought into court this morning, and plead guilty, when a vigilance committee entered the court room in large numbers and took the prisoner from the custody of the sheriff, and hung him. Watkins was an Englishman and a Mormon, his parents residing in Salt Lake City. He is known to have killed three men in this State, and confessed six other murders.

Wheat for Liverpool.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19.—Sailed—ships Lawrence, Liverpool, carrying 35,000 sacks of wheat, and S. C. Grant, Liverpool, with 39,000 sacks of wheat.

From New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 9.—The United States gunboat Kanawha has arrived here with the vessel captured while bound for Havana from Mobile. Her cargo consists of 240 bales of