Pittsburgh Gazette.

TUESDAY MORNING.....DEC. 22, 1863.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE

UNION CITY TICKET.

FOR MAYOR:
JAMES LOWRY, JR.
CITY CONTROLLER:
JOHN McCARGO.
CITY TREASURER:
WILLIAM EICHBAUM.

The Connellsville Railroad Election.

On Monday, Judge McCandless, of the United States Court, was engaged in hearing an application on behalf of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, to have the recent annual election of Directors of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad set aside. The circumstances upon which this application is based are already known to our readers. The main point is, the refusal of the Judges of the Election to receive the votes representing a large amount of stock, because it had not been entered upon the stock ledger. In this way, the proxy of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, representing 17,800 shares, had his vote rejected. The complainants, in their petition, say:

"The result of this misconduct on the part of the said Judges is that they have declared James Park, Jr., Thomas S. Blair, C. A. Markle, A. Miller, J. A. Caughey, Wm. S. Haven, H. B. Cox, W. Y. Taylor, Jos. R. Marston, Joel C. Strawn, Daniel R. Davidson and Geo. Nickle, to be elected Directors of said Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, although all those persons, except Taylor and Marston, received only a minority of the legal votes tendered at said election, and they refused to declare Wm. S. Bissell, William Bingham, John Fleming, Joseph Pennock, G. L. B. Fetterman, Wm. Baldwin, Cyrus Myers, Benjamin Deford, Wm. E. Murdock and Benjamin H. Latrobe, who they claim were really elected by said rejected votes, to act as Directors of the said Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company for one year ensuing the said 7th day of December, 1863, and until their successors shall be duly elected as provided by the charter of said Company, and commanding all persons to respect them as such.

Messrs. Ritchie and Latrobe appeared as counsel for complainant, and Messrs. Hamilton and Sewell for respondents.

The arguments had not been concluded when the Court adjourned.

Suit for Damages.

On Monday, in the District Court, before Judge Williams, the case of John Fielding vs the Pittsburgh and East Liberty Passenger Railway Company was taken up. The plaintiff brings an action for damages in consequence of injuries sustained by his son, a lad, who was run over by the Duquesne Steam Fire Engine, on Third street, near Wood, last summer. The history of the case is about as follows: An alarm of fire was raised, shortly after dark, and the Duquesne was started out without the horses, as the fire appeared to be close to the engine house. In descending third street and before reaching Wood, a man named Reams, who had hold of the rope, and a lad named Fielding, (son of the defendant in this case) both fell, and were run over by the engine—the former being killed, and the latter sustaining a fracture of the leg which rendered amputation necessary. The boy, we should judge, is fifteen or sixteen years of age, and has been at work helping to sustain his father's family. It is alleged that the accident happened in consequence of the negligence of the Railway Company, in not keeping in repair that part of the street lying between their tracks. The boy was placed on the stand, and testified that he tripped in a large hole in the street, between the rails, and there received his injuries. Another witness (a member of the Duquesne) was called and testified that the hole in question was about two feet wide, perhaps three long, and from six to eight inches deep. The witness stated that he had tripped in this hole himself, while running to a fire at night, and on returning he took the trouble to examine it. He stated, further, that the hole had been there for two or three months; that he witnessed the accident which resulted in the death of Reams and the injury of young Fielding; he saw the boy lying on the street, and made an effort to get up and that his foot lay within six inches of the hole alluded to. The testimony for the defense has not yet been heard. Messrs. John H. Hampton John Meller and D. W. Bell appear for the defense, and Messrs. Hancock and Keenan for the plaintiff.

Skates and Skating.

The Allegheny river this morning presented the spectacle of a river filled from bank to bank with floating ice, and this taken in connexion with the steady and increasing cold weather, gives us a guarantee that there will soon be ice in abundance, and that the healthful amusement of skating can be indulged in by the lads and lasses to their hearts' content. Now as to a secret of skating lies in having a good pair of skates, it is essential to know where to procure them, and we know of no one that we can more cheerfully recommend, or who has a better assortment, than our friend Mr. James Bown, No. 136 Wood street. His celebrated shell groove pattern, made wholly of cast steel, an warranted durable and reliable, are just the article; both for ladies and gentlemen, and would make a beautiful present for the holidays. Mr. Bown has skates of all patterns and makes, and his stock of sporting goods is one of the most complete in the city. Being a practical mechanic, he thoroughly understands how to select his assortment, so as to have nothing but the best on hand, and he sells at the lowest prices that goods of the same description can possibly be afforded at. Give him a call, and judge for yourselves.

Mr. Bown is also a practical machinist, and thorough workman, and any of our friends who may wish machines of any kind repaired, or put in good order, if they will give Mr. B. a trial, we are certain that he will render complete satisfaction.

Re-enlistment of Six Months' Men.—The following is the decision of the War Department in regard to the re-enlistment of six months' troops:

"In the case of six months' men, where three-fourths of a regiment or other organization re-enlist for three years, the men will receive the bounty of three hundred and two dollars, and the officers will be permitted to retain the rank held by them under the six months' term."

The foregoing is the principal of the plan fixed upon for the re-enlistment of all troops.

Jackson's Nullification Proclamation.—Major Allen Dunn, of Minersville, showed us a copy of President Jackson's Nullification Proclamation, yesterday, in a very curious form. It is imprinted on a handkerchief of the richest satin, and although it has been twenty-three years in the Major's possession, is as fresh and legible as if it had been executed yesterday. The Major proposes donating it to the great Western Sanitary Fair. The donation is a very appropriate and suggestive one, and we think from its beauty and rarity will command a high figure.

"What I saw at Jerusalem."—We would remind our readers that Dr. James Prestley will deliver his second lecture in his church, on Sixth street, this evening, at half-past seven o'clock. Subject: "What I saw at Jerusalem." As the Doctor's sight is both quick and penetrating, those who attend may expect to enjoy a rich entertainment. The proceeds are to be devoted to the cause of the Sabbath School.

The Ghost of Christmas.—The ghost will appear again on Christmas afternoon at the theatre. His ghostship usually appears at night, but Manager Henderson, who has a great affection for the "little folks," has prevailed upon the "mysterious spirit" to show himself on Christmas afternoon. There will be a great rush to see him on that occasion.

Coughs, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Colds, Influenza, Asthma, Catarrh, any irritation or soreness of the throat, instantly relieved by Brown's Bronchial Troches. To public Speakers and Singers, they are effectual in clearing and giving strength to the voice.

Assertion.—Mr. J. R. Butterfield was yesterday admitted to the bar on motion of J. W. Miller, Esq. We have since Mr. Butterfield passed a very creditable examination.

The Volunteer Movement—Allegheny City Fully Aroused.

We refer with pleasure to a call upon the citizens of our sister city to assemble en masse this evening, in the central square of the new Market House, to take action in regard to creating a city loan, sufficient to induce volunteering to the extent of the city quota under the call of the President.

Several large preliminary meetings have already been held in Allegheny, at which an expression of public sentiment has been given on this question. It is hoped that the meeting to-night will be so large as to give full expression to the will of the citizens.

In this connection, might we not urge some similar movement upon the attention of our readers on this side the river? Why should this city not follow the example of Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Allegheny? The time is short; prompt action, if any, should be taken. The question is of the deepest importance to every citizen.

The Draft.

To-day papers on file, numbered from 1,200 to 1,300, will be called at the Provost Marshal's Office, 93 Fourth street. Persons having tickets containing numbers as above had better be on hand, otherwise they will lose their turns.

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

Persons already 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.

The Reason Why.—Our readers may feel inclined to know our motives for persistently advocating a preference for the "Wheeler & Wilson," over all other Sewing Machines extant. We will here tell them at least one of the "reasons why." The "Wheeler & Wilson," is the only machine that is thoroughly adapted to all kinds of family sewing. Other instruments are found to work well on certain grades and classes of materials; but this operates with equal ease, neatness and precision on all fabrics, from the finest cambric to four thicknesses of the heaviest broadcloth. This, with a number of other characteristics, renders the Wheeler & Wilson Machine the one above all others suitable for presenting to either wife, daughter, sister, sweet-heart or friend. And this accounts for the stream of customers that now ebb and flow at the Wheeler & Wilson establishment, No. 27, Fifth street.

A Christmas or New Year's present of a Piano, would be very appropriate, in those days when the love of music is so generally cultivated. Those intending to make such a gift, will find it to their advantage to examine Mellor's new stock, expressly for the holidays. Elegant instruments from Chickering and Sons, Hazelton Bros., Jardine & Son, W. P. Emerson, and Miller, Gibson & Co's., manufactures may be seen in the assortment. Also piano and lower price ones—all tastes and circumstances can be suited. Remember, 81 Wood street.

Re-Enlisting.—The 29th regiment Pennsylvania volunteers, formerly commanded by Col. John K. Murphy, and now in charge of Col. Ricketts, is now on its way home to Philadelphia. Every man in the regiment, with the exception of Col. Ricketts, has re-enlisted for three years, and they now come home on a thirty days' furlough, to recruit to the full standard. The Substitence Committee expected the regiment to reach this city yesterday afternoon or last night.

Theatre.—The great dramatic romance of "Ambition," adapted from the french of Dumas, was produced at the theatre last evening in good style. The piece abounds in thrilling incidents, and the translator has faithfully preserved the ideas of the author. Mr. Procter, Little Sheild, was quite fine, while Miss Eberlie, Miss Annie Hyatt, Mr. Kames, Mr. Sefton, and others, performed their parts admirably. The same bill will be repeated this evening.

The Holman Opera Troupe.—The Holmans were greeted by a large and fashionable audience, at Masonic Hall, last evening. Every seat was occupied, and the aisles were supplied with chairs, benches, etc. The place was a perfect jam, and we did not venture to do more than "look in." We were informed, however, by competent judges, that the performance was highly creditable, and was well received by the audience. The troupe will appear again this evening.

C. O.—One of Mason and Hamlin's exquisite Cabinet Organs would be an appropriate Christmas offering to a musical friend. Sweet and powerful in tone, capable of the finest expression, simple in its mechanism, nothing within the means of almost everybody, they are sure to find their way into nearly every household. To see and hear them is to be convinced of their merits. Mellor, 81 Wood street, is the sole agent, and has just received a fine assortment for the Holidays. Go and see them.

Professor Kidd.—Professor Kidd was greeted with a large audience at Lafayette Hall last evening. His delineations and personations were better, in our opinion, than on any former occasion, when it was our pleasure to hear him. Few public speakers could make themselves as familiar with their subjects, as the Professor is with his pieces, they would speak with more ease and grace.

Important to Administrators and Trustees.—Those having trust funds in charge, either as administrators, executors, or trustees, will find an important notice, in our advertising columns, from Henry A. Weaver, Esq., Assessor of the District.

Holiday Books.—Toy books, and juveniles, Photograph albums, diaries for 1863 and these large engravings of Gen. Washington, Edward Everett and Washington Irving, at Frank Cases' News Depot, Chronicle Building.

Fairs.—The Youths' Aid Society will give a fair, for the benefit of the Unified State Sanitary Commission, at Neville Hall, on Tuesday evening, December 22d. Admittance, ten cents.

If you want to buy a fine Accordeon or a Flutina for a Christmas Gift, go to Mellor, 81 Wood street, who has one of the largest and most splendid assortments ever brought to this city.

Subscribe.—Subscriptions received, at the lowest prices for any of the magazines or papers, at Frank Cases' News Depot.

House and Lot for Sale, cheap for cash, in the Sixth Ward. See advertisement.

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.

Kin-he-ho-ho-aw—Indian Smoking Tobacco.—This Tobacco, used by the North American Indians, is manufactured from the finest quality of tobacco, and commingled with the most healthful and odoriferous Roots, Barks and Herbs, indigenous to the Rocky Mountains, in such proportion, as to impart to its distinctive character, and secure for it wherever it becomes known a hearty welcome. 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, an insight into the composition of their smoking tobacco, and a knowledge of the means by which the exquisite aroma is produced, which renders it so pleasing to the smoker, and so acceptable to those who are not. Smokers who once become acquainted with this tobacco will never be without it. Sold by all tobacconists and by the manufacturer, E. H. Hunt, 611 Chestnut street, Philadelphia. de18-1m

For Fall and Winter Wear.—The Summer's past, and by the morning's frost, we begin to apprehend, that fall and winter will shortly be upon us, and we must provide ourselves with the material to keep us comfortable. A nice fall suit, or a good and well-made overcoat 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 Federal street and Diamond Square, Allegheny. They have also supplied 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 stock of goods at the Merchant Tailoring establishment of Sam. Graham & Co., No. 64 Market street? If not, do so. 64 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. 64 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.

Dental Institute, No. 351 Penn street, is the place where you can get the best cheap dentistry in the city. Don't forget the place, No. 351 Penn street, near Hancock.

Kentucky Deller Appreciate.—Mrs. Anne Sants, of Louisville, Ky., says in a letter. "What in New York, this summer, I purchased by way of experiment some of Mrs. S. A. Allen's celebrated Hair Restorer and Zylobalsamum, which I have found valuable. I now write to have you send me a dozen of each by express, for the use of my friends." Sold by druggists everywhere. Depot 198 Greenwich street, New York.

Just Received and Ready for Sale.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, lately received by Messrs. John Wise & Co., Merchant Tailors, No. 146 Federal street, Allegheny. The stock of clothing consists of the finest variety of gents' pantaloons, 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.

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. 210.

Omnibus and carriage calls will be taken at the Omnibus office, No. 416 Penn street, day or night. All orders left at the above place will be promptly attended to. All calls must be paid in advance.

C. Gill, Dentist, 343 Penn street, will attend to all business of his profession.

From Texas—What the Rebel Chiefs Are Doing—Condition of the People Under the Rebel Rule.

A despatch from Fort Smith, 15th inst., to the St. Louis *Democrat*, furnishes the following interesting information:

"A Mr. Taylor, a substantial farmer of Denton, Texas, arrived here to-day. He left Denton, which is one hundred miles south of Red river, on the 1st inst., and crossed Red river at Warren three days afterward. It was understood, when he left, that the Federals had possession of the entire coast, including Sabine Gulf, Galveston and Brownsville. Also, that a Federal force was ascending Red river, and were marching on Alexandria, where the rebel General Taylor awaited their attack. General Magruder has ordered the conscription throughout the state of a pledge, devoting the life, liberty and property of the citizens to the support of the Confederacy. Those who refuse to sign it are considered enemies and traitors, and treated as such. One-fourth of all the negroes have been conscripted and promised their freedom. The state is fairly crowded with slaves and refugees, taken there by rebel owners from states further east and north. No Confederate army in Texas, including the militia and conscripts, were generally at posts on the outskirts of the state. Kirby Smith is in command of the troops in Texas. He has at present left his headquarters at Shreveport to reinforce General Taylor, who is resisting the federal advance at Alexandria. Cooper was at Warren with two regiments of Choctaws and two or three companies of whites. The indians had just been temporarily disbanded and were going home with their arms.

Mr. Taylor has been travelling since July 4th last throughout the state of Texas. The Union sentiment in that state, from the best information, is strong, and would be expressed in immediate political action if the people could be protected by the Union army. There are in the brush throughout the state four or five thousand young men, mostly deserters from the rebel army. They are anxiously awaiting in their hiding places the approach of the northern army.

Alexandria, where the next battle is expected to occur, is directly south of Little Rock, on Red river. The entire country between here and Red river and Texas is well watered. Corn is plenty between here and Red river. In the valley of Red river there is an abundance of corn, beef, and pork. In eastern Texas there is plenty of corn, wheat, beef pork, and salt."

DIED:

Wilkins—On Monday morning, the 21st inst., Sidney, son of Henry and Sophia Wilkins, aged four years, eight months and twenty-one days.

The funeral will take place from the residence of H. B. Wilkins, McClure township, on Tuesday, the 24th instant, at 10 o'clock, a. m. Carriages will start from the corner of Seventh and Smithfield streets, Pittsburgh, at 9 o'clock, a. m.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

JOHN COCHRAN & BRO., Manufacturers of IRON RAILING, IRON VAULTS AND VAULT DOORS, WINDOW SHUTTERS, WINDOW GUARDS, &c., Nos. 28 SOUND and 86 THIRD STREET, bet. Wood and Market.

Have on hand a variety of new Patterns, fancy and plain, suitable for all purposes.

Particular attention paid to enclosing Grave Lots. Jobbing done at short notice. n26

N. HOLMES & SONS., Dealers in FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC BILLS OF EXCHANGE, CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT, BANK NOTES AND SPECIE, No. 57 MARKET STREET, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Collections made on all the principal cities throughout the United States. ap23

HENRY H. COLLINS, Forwarding and Commission Merchant and wholesale dealer in CHEESE, BUTTER, SEEDS, FISH, and Produce generally, No. 23 Wood st., Pittsburgh, Pa. 961

TANKS! TANKS! TANKS!

FOR CRUDE OR REFINED OILS,

Made to order. Also, AGITATORS and CONDENSING TANKS, for Refineries, for the Distilleries and Lead Factories. TANKS repaired, taken down and removed. All work warranted

H. T. PRICE & CO.,
MARION AVENUE,
Next to the Union Planing Mill, Allegheny;
Or address BOX 64, Allegheny Post Office.
de15:1y

PURVIANCE'S

PHOTOGRAPH ROOMS,

CORNER FIFTH AND MARKET STREETS,

(3d and 5d stories, over Richardson's Jewelry Store,)

PITTSBURGH, PA.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Of every size and style, plain or colored, from the popular Carte de Visite to Cabinet and life size.

Mr. PURVIANCE would particularly call the attention of the AGED AND INFIRM to the easy accessibility of this establishment, being reached by a single short flight of stairs. Prices moderate, and satisfaction guaranteed. my23:1yeatw

MANHOOD! HOW LOST! HOW RESTORED!—Just published, in a sealed envelope. Price Six Cents. A Lecture on the Nature, Treatment and Radical Cure of Spermatorrhœa, or Seminal Weakness, Involuntary Emissions, Sexual Debility, and Impediments to Marriage generally; Nervousness, Consumption, Epilepsy and Fits; Mental and Physical Incapacity, resulting from Self-Abuse, &c., by DR. CULVERWELL, M. D., author of the "Green Book, &c. "A Boon to Thousands of Sufferers," sent under seal, in a plain envelope, to any address, post-paid, on receipt of six cents or two postage stamps, by DR. CH. J. C. KLINE, 127 Bowery, New York, Post Office Box 4586. se12:3m&w1m

Fine Perfumery.—Jaquin' celebrated American Perfumery compares favorably with the most exquisite of the imported articles. The following are particularly recommended:

RONDOLETIA, FOND LILY,
ROSE GERANIUM, PATCHOULY,
THIBET MUSK, JOCKEY CLUB,
HONEY SUCKLE.

For sale by SIMON JOHNSTON,
Corner Fourth and Smithfield streets.

A full assortment of FRENCH AND ENGLISH PERFUMERY, SOAPS AND FANCY GOODS, always on hand. de18

Eyes and Ear.

DR. BAELZ

Pays particular attention to the treatment of CHRONIC DISEASES, the EYE and EAR; operates on CATARACT, SQUINT EYES, for ARTIFICIAL PUPIL, inserts ARTIFICIAL EYES, and treats all INFLAMMATORY EYES; also HARD HEARING and all diseases affecting the Ear and leading to Deafness.

Office, 100 FIFTH STREET. my22:1yis

Christmas Goods!

CHOICE, BEAUTIFUL AND CHEAP.

ALBUMS, GOLD PENS AND CASES; LADIES' WORK BOXES, SATCHELS, PORTEMONNAIES, TOY BOOKS, INTELLECTUAL AND AMUSING GAMES, &c., &c., in great variety, at the new Book Store of

THOS. E. WAKEHAM,
de14 104 Federal street, Allegheny.

THIRD WARD UNPAID WATER RENTS, CITY, POOR AND BUSINESS TAX.—For 1863, are due and must be paid to assessors. Received at City Treasurer's Office, Fourth street, during business hours, or at my residence, No. 178 Webster street, opposite the Water Works, from 6 to 8 a. m. and 6 to 7 o'clock p. m.

de8:tf J. R. NEWHAM, Collector.

New Historical Work.

HISTORY OF CHARLES, THE BOLD DUKE OF BURGUNDY. By John Foster Kirk. 2 vols., 8vo., with portrait.

For sale by KAY & COMPANY,

de16 No. 55 Wood street.

New Crop Fruits.—London Extra Layer Raisins, by the pound or in quarter and half boxes; also, Recleaned Raisins, for cooking; Candied Citron, Orange and Lemon Peel, &c., for sale by JOHN A. BERGHAW,
de17 Corner Liberty and Hand streets.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1863.

GEN. ROSECRANS ASSIGNED A COMMAND.

In accordance with the recommendation of Gov. Dennison and Secretary Chase, alluded to some days ago, as well as with the wishes of leading radical Missourians, Gen. Rosecrans was to-day assigned the command of the Department of Missouri, vice Gen. Schofield, relieved.

GEN. CURTIS ASSIGNED A COMMAND IN KANSAS.

Kansas is erected into a separate Department, and Gen. Curtis is assigned to its command; and it is understood Gen. Schofield goes to Baltimore, though this does not yet seem to be wholly established. The triumph of the radical and of the Loyal League is thus complete.

The President has been for some time convinced of Gen. Curtis' innocency of the alleged cotton speculations, and he has thus taken the first opportunity to give him a new command.

THE CONSCRIPTION ACT.

It is pretty certain that the distinction of classes in the conscription bill will be abolished before Congress takes a recess for holidays, so that the draft, which comes early in January, may fall not simply upon men under thirty-five, but upon the whole able bodied adult male population of the country.

Gen. Schenck to-day offered such a bill in the House that it was unanimously approved by the Military Committee, and the Senate Committee, also, is understood to favor it. The House will resist any attempt to pass further amendments to the conscription law till after the recess, on the ground that the bill is imperfect now, and any hasty attempts to patch it are only likely to make matters worse. Clergymen are pretty certain to be exempted when the amendments are made, if the $300 clause is repealed, otherwise not. Statistics have been laid before the Committees, showing that one sixth of those exempted under the last draft, got off for being the only son of a widow—one worth great fortunes, whose widowed mothers happened to be living with them—were exempted under it. This will be carefully guarded in contemplated amendments.

Interesting Debate.

An interesting debate sprung up in the House to-day, on the bill appropriating twenty millions for bounties to soldiers now volunteering. The Democrats at first opposed it, Brooks leading off. Schenck, Kelly and Lovejoy made capital little speeches for our side. Kelly was particularly happy, and called out hearty applause from the galleries. Mr. Cox tried to interrupt him with cat-hitches against conscription, and was silenced by a keen retort that brought down great applause. It was the liveliest little passage we have had yet this session. The bill was finally passed, many of the Democrats voting for it. The Democrats are manifestly trying to get over on the war platform.

Steamers between Boston and Rio Janeiro.

Informal negotiatiations for the establishment of a line of steamers between Boston and Rio Janeiro, has been commenced. Rev. J. C. Fletcher, formerly of Indiana, has just returned from Brazil, he has been arranging it on our part.

Legislature of Old Virginia assembled at Alexandria.

The Legislature of Old Virginia assembled at Alexandria, passed an act to-day providing for the election of delegates to a Convention, to meet in that city on the 13th of July next for the purpose of altering the Constitution. The object of the amendment is to rid the constitution of the clause prohibiting the Legislature from abolishing slavery, so as to free negroes exempted by the President's Proclamation from that institution. The votes for delegates will be required when challenged, to swear fealty to the United States and to the State of Virginia, as restored at Wheeling in 1861; and that they have not ever aided or comforted the rebellion.

Payment of the Missouri Home Guards.

Mr. McClurg's bill for the payment of the Missouri Home Guards, came up to-day from the Ways and Means Committee, and Mr. Blow proceeded against the opposition of party Democrats in getting it made the special order for to-morrow. The Democrats continue to display a state of disorganization, so remarkable, that the New York *World* of to-night, reads them a sharp editorial lecture about it.

The Obstructions at Charleston.

Capt. Boutelle, of the United States Coast Survey, writes from Charleston that the obstructions in the harbor there consist of a double line of piles across the channel, from Pinckney to the middle ground; from thence to Fort Johnson. There is an opening of two hundred feet. The piles are driven in seven fathoms of water, and can easily be demolished by rams, but the Captain says that nothing will be done until Dahlgren is removed.

Montgomery Blair.

The movement attempted to be inaugurated through the proposed action of the House administration caucus, against Montgomery Blair, seems likely to fail. The chairman of the caucus is unwilling to call it together, and the members seem to have a prudent recollection of a similar demonstration, once made against another Cabinet officer, in another wing of the Capitol. Some members still insist on the meeting of the caucus, but it will most likely be smothered.

Expenses of the Navy Department.

The Committee of Ways and Means called Commodore Smith, of the Construction Bureau, Navy Department, before them to-day, to ascertain if the estimates of that Department could not be reduced by giving out vessels on contract to private builders. The indications are that the estimates contained in the Naval Report will be materially cut down.

Gen. Rosecrans' appointment.

Gen. Rosecrans' appointment is proof that the President did not share in the slanderous attacks on that officer, and that the Secretary of War's enmity, and the malignant persecution attempted by one or two of his subordinates had to give way; and if Gen. Schofield is really appointed to Baltimore it will be the finishing touch that proves Mr. Lincoln the author of the whole arrangement.

Senator Sumner and the President's Message.

The statements that have crept into the papers that Senator Sumner fully endorses and adopts all the views in the President's Message, are unwarranted. He has, of course, expressed no dissatisfaction, but he could hardly be expected to give up so prompt views of his own, either in conflict with the President's, or supposed to be so.

Illinois Soldiers.

Mr. Farnesworth, of Illinois, has procured leave for all Illinois soldiers in the hospitals here to return home for their recovery. He has also procured permission for the 88th Illinois cavalry to return home to recruit, so soon as three-fourths of the regiment had agreed to be mustered in.

Letters sent in to Congress.

The President has sent letters from Cincinnati, Boston and New York Freedmen's Societies to Congress to-day.

Clay Smith's Resolutions.

The vote on Clay Smith's handsomely conceived resolutions the other day, split them fairly in two.

Gen. Butler's Appointment.

Gen. Butler has been formally assigned to the duty of exchanging prisoners, vice Meredith relieved. This does not interfere with the command of his department. Exchanges, it is said, will be resumed in a few days. The first negro was exchanged a day or two since.

The Twenty Million Appropriation.

An effort to prevent the payment of any of the twenty million appropriation for premiums to negroes. Prominent Democrats voted against the attempt, and for treating negroes like other soldiers.

To be Mustered Out.

A strong pressure is being made by officers in the field to have Gen. McClellan and other shelved officers mustered out of service, in order to open a way to promotion.

The $300 Exemption Clause.

Representations to Military Committees in both Houses, from all parts of the country, seem about equally divided on the subject of retaining or repealing the three hundred dollar clause.

Bids Taken.

At the opening of bids for flour to-day at the Commissary Department all number two flour offered at eight dollars and twenty cents and under, was taken.

Removal of the Secretary of the Navy.

A delegation of ship owners and others from New York is here for the purpose of urging the President to remove the present Secretary of the Navy.

A Bill to Consolidate Volunteers and Regulars.

A strong movement is likely to be made this session to consolidate regulars and volunteers.

John Morgan in Richmond.

Richmond papers chronicle the arrival there of John Morgan.

Secretary Chase

has gone to New York. It is stated that he means to negotiate another fifty million loan.

Personal.

The President has signed the bill for a medal to Gen. Grant.

Gen. Morrill.

Gen. Morrill succeeds to the command of Gen. Buford's cavalry.

XLVIIIth Congress—First Session.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 21.

House.—The Speaker laid before the House a letter addressed to the President from the Freedman's Aid Society of Boston, New York and Cincinnati. Referred to the Committee on Emancipation.

A message was received from the President informing the House he had approved and signed the joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Grant and the armies under him, and for gold medals, &c.

Mr. Underwood, of Kentucky, had his vote recorded in the affirmative on Green Clay Smith's resolution adopted on Friday.

On motion of Mr. Dawes, of Mass., the documentary evidence in the various contested elections was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Blair, of Mo., from the Committee on Ways and Means, introduced a bill appropriating $700,000 to carry into effect the act of March, 1862, for pay, bounty, and pensions, to be officers of men actually employed in the Western or Department of Missouri.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, objected to the consideration of the bill at this time.

Mr. King, of Mo., advised the passage of the bill. Further debate ensued, when the bill was made the special order for to-day at three o'clock.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, from the Military Committee, reported a bill repealing the third and tenth sections of the enrollment act, so that the second classes of persons to be drafted shall be consolidated into one. This to take effect on and after its passage. Objection being made to the consideration of Schenck's report at this time, he temporarily withdrew it.

Mr. Yeaman, of Ky., offered a series of resolutions, setting forth that a conspiracy of persons exists, and assuming to be a government of the Confederate States, for the purpose of withdrawing said States from the Federal Union, and by that, this does not affect the political franchise of such States; and that the citizens thereof, one at any time assume their civil government on the only condition, that their Constitution is Republican, and that it is sufficient for those who are loyal, and qualified by the Election Laws, to organize and put in motion the machinery of said State, and that the people thereof, by a majority of the votes cast, are entitled to be recognized as the only loyal people thereof, and that the action of the President in the premises is approved.

Mr. Holman moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was lost by a vote of 69 to 86. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, introduced a bill, which was referred, providing a provisional government in the military district of the insurgent States, and authorizing the loyal citizens thereof to organize a government, republican in form, and for other purposes.

Mr. Schenck introduced a bill to create a bureau of Military Justice. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Ashley offered a resolution, granting the use of this hall for a public meeting of the Freeman's Relief Association.

Mr. Cox, objected, and this by the rules of the House, precluded further action on the resolution to-day.

Mr. Schenck moved the suspension of the rules in order to take up the report, and act upon the bill to consolidate the two classes in the enrollment act into one; ayes 63, nays 50. The rules were not suspended. A two-third vote being necessary.

Mr. Miller, of Pa., offered a resolution respectfully requesting the President to promptly instruct those having charge of the exchange of prisoners to propose to the so-called Confederate Confederacy, to exchange white man for white man, leaving all other questions, including that relating to negro prisoners, to be disposed of hereafter, so that the suffering white men may be restored to the service of the Government, their friends, and their firesides. The House refused by a vote of 73 against 85 to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Washburne, of Ill., offered a substitute for the above, declaring that the House approve of the measures taken by the Administration for the exchange of prisoners now held by the enemy in Southern prisons, and recommending that the same course be pursued for a fair exchange of all our soldiers now held by the rebels. The question was taken and Mr. Washburne's substitute was adopted by 87 against 63.

A long discussion ensued on the bill appropriating twenty millions for bounties for volunteers.

Senate.—Mr. Dixon introduced various petitions, praying for the amendment of the enrollment act, so as to allow ministers of the Gospel may be regarded as non-combatants, and be employed in the service as Chaplains.

Mr. Harlan presented a petition of the citizens of Iowa, praying for the total abolition of slavery.

Mr. Wilson gave notice of a bill to make it illegal for any member of Congress to act as a Commissioner in any case in which the United States is interested.

Mr. Morgan submitted a joint resolution, calling upon the Secretary of War for the names of all the officers and men of the regular army, who have deserted or resigned between the 1st of Dec. 1860, and Dec. 1863. Adopted.

Mr. Foote offered a similar resolution relative to the navy.

The pending question being on the postponement of the resolution of Mr. Sumner, embody the proposed rules of the Senate beyond continued discussions, and favored the postponement of action. Mr. Sumner said it was difficult to resist the application urged with so much pertinacity by the gentleman from Delaware, yet that gentleman enjoyed the most ample opportunity of considering it, and it was due the Senator that it should be acted upon without delay, and before the holidays. He should deem it his duty to press it to a vote.

On motion of Mr. Wilson the bill to increase the bounty and pay of volunteers, was taken up. The Committee's amendment allowing soldiers to re-enlist in other regiments of the service coming first under consideration, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Wilson explained, in October last, when it was found the draft for 300,000 men was inefficient to meet the wants of the War Department, a bounty of $400 to veterans and $300 to others was offered, and this bill was designed to carry out the pledge thus made. Nine millions had then been received from commutation, and this was now augmented to twelve millions.

Mr. Wilson acknowledges the necessity of exercising great care with regard to the depletion of the treasury, and to keeping the credit of the Government intact. It had always been thought more difficult to obtain money than men. He wanted the currency of the country to be sound, and her credit good. Yet we must keep our pledges made to enlisted men. Their enlistments were numerous, not only in the Northern States, but in the Southwest. East Tennessee has recruited 3,500 men. Texas had furnished two regiments, and Arkansas had also furnished a substantial addition to their force. Such recruits should be dealt with according to promise. He was in favor of the commutation clause, and for the payment of the bounties proposed.

Mr. Harris did not favor the amendment of the committee as it stood, and thought it would stop all recruiting after the 5th of January.

Mr. Lane, of Indiana, said we could not fill our armies with conscripts alone. There were 3,000,000 men subject to draft at this time, and of this number on the basis of the receipts of the last draft but 434,000 could be brought into the field. If this entire enrollment were taken and out of this number from 20,000 to 30,000 would be deserters, and had more than filled their quota, and could be depended on under any circumstances to furnish her full share without resort to the draft.

Mr. Corwin moved to strike out the words January 5, and insert till the next draft, not later than February 1st. Lost.

Mr. Howard moved to strike out 15 in the committee's amendment and insert 20 as the bounty for obtaining enlistments of veterans.

A conversational debate was participated in by Messrs. Wilson, Howe and Fessenden.

On motion of Mr. Sherman the Senate adjourned.

Affairs in Arkansas.

St. Louis Dec. 21.—A special to the *Democrat*, from Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 20th, says:

An attack was made on our outposts near Fort Gibson, on the 17th inst., by Cloudwalts. His forces are stated to have been sixteen hundred. He was repulsed and fell back, taking part of his force across the Arkansas, below Fort Gibson, and moving northeast.

The 30th Wisconsin cavalry has just returned from a successful reconnoissance southward. They went within 15 miles of Red River, but finding that the enemy had changed their position since the last advices, were unable to proceed any further. On their return there was constant skirmishing for over a hundred miles, strong bodies of the enemy being posted at all the cross-roads, to intercept them. They cut their way through some places. They evaded other hosts by taking blind mountain passes. Their loss is trifling. Among the prisoners captured, is the notorious Andy Lake, who boasts of having killed over sabundred Union citizens with his own hands.

Information has been received that two-thirds of Kirby Smith's force are preparing to attack Little Rock; the balance anticipating McNeal's forces will be drawn away to reinforce Gen. Steele, and fall on Fort Smith.

A communication from the Cherokee Chief, McGuratin, says the Choctaws will not rejoin Cooper. They desire an interview with McNeil, and says the tribe are disposed for peace.

Our advance headquarters are at Waldron. Our forces frequently push down towards Washington, constantly annoying Price's left flank.

Lee's Army Being Reinforced—The Rain Atlanta.

New York, Dec. 21.—A letter from Bealton Station, Virginia, to the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, says: "I have heard a report, said to be brought in by a contraband who recently left Gordonsville, and succeeded in escaping to our lines, that a day or two before he left a Louisiana regiment, and also the Jeff. Davis legion, had arrived there, and that the rebel authorities are sending to Gen. Lee all the troops they can collect from various points, with the intention of making an attack on the Army of the Potomac."

The Philadelphia *North American*, of this morning, says the ram Atlanta is refitted and put in order, and is likely to be only less formidable than the Ironsides. The tail of the navy yard is that she will go down to Charleston to take the place of the lost Weehawken. The Atlanta is more like the Ironsides than any