Pittsburgh Gazette.

THURSDAY MORNING.....JAN. 28, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Amendment of the Constitution.

The Convention which was called by the Central Committee on the amendment of the Constitution, met in Dr. Pressly's church, Allegheny, this morning at ten o'clock. A temporary organization was effected by calling Dr. John T. Pressly to the chair, and appointing Rev. Dr. Douglas Secretary. The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Sproul.

A committee on permanent organization, consisting of Revs. S. Collins and J. S. T. Milligan, and John Alexander, Esq., was then appointed.

Dr. Douglas stated that in accordance with the instructions given him by the Central Committee, he had corresponded with several distinguished Statesmen on the subject, but none of the replies received, with one exception, contained more than a thankful acknowledgment of the invitation and a regret that they could not be present. The following beautiful letter from Hon. Charles Sumner was then read:

SENATE CHAMBER, JAN. 22d, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR—Duties will keep me here, so that I cannot be with you to listen to the arguments and counsels by which you will inaugurate your new movement.

Let me say frankly that I know not if it be practicable to accomplish all the change in the Constitution which you propose; but I am sure that the discussion cannot be otherwise than advantageous.

It can never be out of season to explain and enforce moral dependence upon Almighty God, or to declare the liberty and equal rights of all men—in other words, to assert the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. Here are the two great commandments, which no Christian can forget. In one is the duty and grace of piety, and in the other the duty and grace of humanity.

Believe me, dear sir,

Very faithfully yours,

CHARLES SUMNER.

REV. JOHN DOUGLAS.

On motion, Dr. Sproul, Rev. S. Collins, John Alexander and Zadok Street, Esqs., were appointed a Committee to bring in resolutions—for the consideration of the Convention, and prepare a suitable memorial to Congress on the subject.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Anderson, the Convention engaged in devotional exercises.

A greater interest seems to be taken in this subject than we anticipated, owing to its comparative newness. The Convention is quite large, and every train and conveyance is bringing in additional members.

The Committee will report this afternoon, when some discussion may be expected.

We were informed that the Rev. Dr. McIlvaine, of Princeton, was in the Convention this morning.

Adjourned to meet this afternoon at two o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled in Dr. Pressly's church, on Wednesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by the Chairman, *pro tem*, Dr. Pressly. The Rev. A. M. Milligan presented the following letters from Drs. Tyng and Vinton.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19th, 1864.

My Dear Sir: I have no health now to enter into the great work which you propose. I shall rejoice to see our nation in its theory and its habit brought under the dominion of the Saviour, and the acknowledgment of his royal claims.

Your friend and brother,

REV. A. M. MILLIGAN. STEPHEN H. TYNG.

TRINITY CHURCH, NEW YORK, Jan. 20, 1864.

REV. A. M. MILLIGAN—*My Dear Sir:* Your note of the 16th inst., has received my profound attention; and while I rejoice that God has inspired so many faithful and loyal men to do just honor to his name and authority, by the endeavor to incorporate the Recognition of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Constitution of our country, at the same time, I am filled with regret that I can not be present at the Convention to be held in Allegheny City on the 27th inst., to consider this fundamental amendment. It is a blot on our National name that the United States of America is the only civilized nation on the Earth, which does not acknowledge God in its fundamental law. Even the spurious constitution of the rebellious States, has incorporated the recognition of the Supreme Being.

Other people have done the same. The coins of Europe, of Mexico, and of the South American States are stamped with *Dei Gratia*, but our coins are stamped with Liberty.

These are tokens of the principle on which the National Government is based; the national life sustained. Our "Liberty" will run into licentiousness and licentiousness, unless it be regulated and restrained by the fear and love of God. I would wish further, that the Lordship of Jesus Christ, to whom *all* power in Heaven and Earth is given, should be distinctly recognized in the Constitution of our dear land.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS VINTON.

The Committee on permanent organization made the following report:

For President, Mr. John Alexander, of Xenia, Ohio. For Vice Presidents, to preside in the order of their names: Mr. Jonathan Fulton of Pennsylvania. Mr. Zadok Street, of Ohio; and Dr. Sterrett, of Pittsburgh. For Secretary, Rev. N. R. Johnston, of Vermont. Financial Committee, Rev. John Douglas, D. D., John Dean, Mr. Daniel Ewer.

On motion, a committee of enrollment was appointment, consisting of Rev. Dr. Douglas, Rev. Mr. Peacock and Rev. Dr. Wilson. The Committee on resolutions asks leave to retire, when Rev. Dr. Gracey led in prayer at a throne of grace.

It was suggested that Dr. M'Ilvaine, of Princeton, be invited to address the Convention this evening. The Doctor arose and stated that if the Constitution shall be amended, we must first agree on what amendments we want. This will more easily be known by a free interchange of sentiment than by an address from any one man.

Rev. Mr. Milligan said all the ancient nations had a god. In Rome universal toleration was decreed; hence she had her Pantheon. But the American nation has no religion. There "shall be no religious tests," the Constitution declares. He trusted, then, that the object of this Convention was to have the nation established on the "Rock of Ages."

Dr. J. M. Wilson said the hearts of the people must be engaged in this work. Very few have been brought to see that the duty is fundamental. The fault lies with the churches of the United States, for they can at any time control the policy of the United States. We must be brought to this point, that the Christian Religion is the safeguard of the nation.

The Committee on resolutions made their report. It is as follows:

Resolved, 1. That we deem it of very great importance in the present circumstances of our nation to secure such amendments to the Constitution of the United States as are contemplated in the call for this Convention.

2. That we are encouraged by the success thus far attending the efforts of the friends of this measure to persevere in the hope that with the blessing of God this effort will speedily result in the consummation of this great object.

3. That in the late proclamation of our worthy President, as suggested by the Senate of the United States, recommending the observance of days of fasting, humiliation and prayer, for the purpose of making confession of our sin which has provoked the Divine displeasure, and of imploring forgiveness through Jesus Christ; and days of thanksgiving for the purpose of making grateful acknowledgment of God's mercies, we have pleasing evidence that God is inclining the hearts of those who are in authority over us to recognize His hand in the disposal of the affairs of the nation, and to cherish a sense of our dependence upon Him.

They recommend the following memorial to Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

We, the petitioners, citizens of the United States, respectfully ask your honorable bodies to adopt measures consistent for the purpose of amending the preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America to read,

We, the people of the United States, recognizing the being and attributes of Almighty God, the divine authority of the Holy Scriptures, the law of God as a paramount rule, and Jesus the Messiah, the Saviour and Lord of all, in order to form a more perfect union, to secure the natural rights of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, etc.

And further, to introduce in such connection as may be thought proper, a clause, which shall render it impossible that a human being can be held in a state of bondage under the Constitution.

And your petitioners shall ever pray.

The first resolution was amended so as to read, "We deem it a matter of paramount interest to the life and prosperity, and permanency of our nation, that its Constitution be amended so as fully to express the Christian national character."

On motion, the word "bondage" in the petition to Congress was stricken out and the word "slavery" substituted.

On motion the words "in substance" were introduced after "to read," in the petition.

Rev. Dr. McIlvaine introduced the following amendment to the preamble:

We, the people of the United States, recognizing Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, his revealed will as the supreme law of the land, in order to constitute a Christian nation, and in order to secure the inalienable rights of all men to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness, form a more perfect union, etc.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention met again at seven o'clock. John Alexander, Esq., the President, occupied the Chair. Rev. Dr. McIlvaine led in prayer. The minutes of the afternoon session were read and approved. A collection was then taken up to defray expenses.

The Convention then proceeded to the consideration of Professor McIlvaine's amendment.

Dr. Pressly had a high regard for the motives which prompted Dr. McIlvaine to offer the amendment, namely, to promote harmony. But he doubted whether it would have the effect intended. The language would require explanation, and it would be much better to use plain language that would require no explanation. The original preamble was drawn with great care, and no one who believes the Bible can doubt its declarations. He would, therefore, oppose the amendment.

Dr. J. M. Wilson had a strong disposition to accede to the wishes of the author of the amendment. He could endorse it all, so far as it goes. But he could go for nothing that does not make a distinct recognition of Jesus Christ through whom alone we can approach unto God. He acknowledged no God but a God in Christ. He admitted that there was an implied recognition of the Saviour in the amendment, but it was not explicit enough.

Professor McIlvaine had little more to say than he had already said in support of the amendment. But he thought that in this day there might be some little concession made in the phraseology to which some may have been accustomed. We should not contend for the phraseology of our particular sect. Much might be gained by concession in securing the co-operation of those to whom certain phrases are not so familiar. He could not adopt language which he had heard in this discussion, and yet those who used it could adopt the language which he would use in its stead. He did not believe that it was the vocation of civil authority to recognize Christ as the Saviour of sinners. This little concession of phraseology would sacrifice no substance.

Rev. Mr. Crozier said we should seek to please God rather than men. "Whatsoever ye do, whether in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Rev. J. H. Peacock thought the expression "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" was as familiar to Old School Presbyterian as to the United Presbyterians. We are commanded to honor the son as we honor the father. Then why refuse to put his name in the Constitution of the United States.

Rev. A. M. Milligan would prefer the amendment to the original, if there were such addition as "Jesus Christ our Lord" or "Jesus Christ our King" or "Jesus the Prince of the Kings of the Earth."

Rev. Mr. Collins, was not satisfied with either the original or the amendment. The first clause of the amendment was better than the original, and he would call for a division when the vote is taken.

Rev. A. M. Milligan moved to amend the amendment by adding the words "government under the Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler of the nations," after the words "constitute a Christian."

Dr. Wilson thought the amendment just offered a rather awkward expression and he would vote against it.

The amendment to the amendment was carried.

The question then recurred on the amendment as amended.

Professor McIlvaine would vote for it. Mr. Collins was afraid it would give embarrassment. Mr. J. S. T. Milligan thought the order in the amendment was better than that suggested by Dr. Wilson. Rev. Mr. George, of Cincinnati, was afraid the amendment would divide the assembly. The order of the statements was not at all natural.

Dr. Wilson offered the following amendment to be inserted after the first clause in the preamble, "and acknowledging the Lord Jesus Christ as the Governor among the nations." This amendment was adopted.

The preamble as amended reads thus: Recognizing Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, and acknowledging the Lord Jesus Christ as the Governor among the nations, his revealed will as the supreme law of the land, in order to constitute a Christian government, and in order to secure the inalienable rights of all men to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness, and in order to form a more perfect union, &c.

A motion to adjourn to meet to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock, was lost.

Proceeded to the consideration of the last item in the petition. Pending this the Convention adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock, Rev. J. S. T. Milligan concluding by prayer.

The interest in the subject seemed to increase in the evening, as the church was crowded.

This morning the discussion will be on the subject of Slavery, and will likely be exciting.

Our Book Table.

POEMS. By Henry Petersen. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., Pittsburgh: For sale by R. S. Davis, 93 Wood street. 80pp. 12mo.

The dedication of this volume of poems informs us, that the author has spent his vocation in the humble walks of prose, before he was initiated into the art and mystery of the more ambitious labor of "building the lofty rhyme." Thus he inscribes it: "To the members of the hard-working, poorly rewarded editorial profession, who make so many reputations for others, and so few for themselves, this book is respectfully dedicated by One of the Craft." We have found much poetic feeling revealing itself in the somewhat composite order of architecture—if we may resume the figure introduced above—which the author indulges in the structure of the lyric pieces collected in this book. Many of these, referring to the war and its heroes, will be read with interest and pleasure. In its mechanical department, the book is all that the most fastidious reader, or the poet himself, could desire—and is highly creditable to the well-known publishing house whose imprint it bears.

THE CHARACTER OF THE GENTLEMAN. By Francis Lieber, Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, author of "Civil Liberty and Self-Government," etc. Third and much enlarged edition. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Pittsburgh: for sale by R. S. Davis, 93 Wood street. 121 pp. 16mo.

This excellent and truly valuable essay is from the pen of one of the most accomplished scholars of our time, whose name has, for many years past, been associated either as author or translator, editor or contributor, with a great number of important works—the the voluminous *Encyclo Americana* among the earliest, and probably a treatise on the *Laws of War*—already quoted as an authority—among the latest. This little book contains what was at first an address delivered to the students of Miami University, in 1846, but considerable additions having been made and notes added, we have now rather an essay than an address, though the form of the latter is still preserved. The slightly but this little work been esteemed by judicious readers, ever since its publication, that we are not surprised to find that it was reprinted in England; in 1859, with a preface, by E. N. Dingley, M. Ch. Oxon. Indeed, it is one of those books which ought to be reprinted very frequently—and we doubt not that it will be. This edition of it, however, seems to be *a ne plus ultra*, so far as regards typography. It is truly a beautiful specimen of the printer's art.

Thanksgiving Sermon.

During the temporary abence of the Rev. Dr. Paxton last summer and fall, the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh was supplied by the Rev. W. W. Eels, of Carlisle, a gentleman who endeared himself to the people as much by his kind and gentle manner in private life as by his deep piety and earnest eloquence of his public ministrations. His closing discourse was preached on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 26, and made a deep impression upon the minds and hearts of those who heard it. It was one of the most able and fearless expositions of the cause of our national troubles, and at the same time one of the most cheering and hopeful views of an ultimate triumph of the right that we have ever heard. We are glad to see that the discourse has been published by some gentleman of the congregation, and it is for sale by R. S. Davis, Wood street, for the benefit of the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society. Buy a copy, read it, and put it away that it may be read by those who shall live when this fearful war shall be only a matter of history.

Madame Bell's Entertainment.

We have already called the attention of our readers to the musical and dramatic entertainment to be given by Madame Lizzie Bell, at Lafayette Hall, on Friday evening. Her object is to raise funds for the purpose of establishing an Orphans' Asylum in the city of New York, for the accommodation of the children of deceased volunteers. The cause is worthy of the hearty support of the patriotic and the humane, and we hope our citizens will extend a liberal patronage to this philanthropic lady. She will be assisted in the entertainment by Miss Beers, a young lady of fine vocal attainments. Madame Bell is also soliciting subscriptions to a fund of $10,000, to purchase a homestead for the Asylum, and has met with flattering success in all the cities with she has yet visited.

HARPER FOR FEBRUARY.—Mr. J. W. Pittock, opposite the Post-office, has received the February number of *Harper*, which appears to be quite an interesting one. The contents are of great variety,—historical, biographical, topographical, of the graver *sort*, and a plentiful supply of the lighter *sorts*, embracing essays, sketches, stories, (among these the continuation of "The Small House at Allington,") poetry, memoirs, miscellanies, etc., etc. More than half a dozen of these papers are illustrated.

PITT TOWNSHIP RELIEF.—At a meeting of the citizens of Pitt township, held at the Oakland school house, on Tuesday evening, the following Committee was appointed to distribute the county relief fund to soldiers' families: Allen Dunn, William Harrison, James Cassiday and Thomas McGonaghy. Persons entitled to relief will report to the Committee.

Volunteer Meeting at the Monongahela House.

A large meeting was held at the Monongahela House, the object of which was to adopt measures to fill the quota of men from Allegheny county demanded by the Government, by raising a bounty fund for volunteers, and thus avoid the necessity of a draft.

The meeting was called to order by electing Hon. Wm. F. Johnson President, and John Harper and S. P. Von Bonnhorst, Esqs., Secretaries.

Mr. Harper stated that the meeting had been called at the request of Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, commander of the 2d army corps, who has been authorized by the Government to recruit his corps to 50,000 men, for such duty as may be specially assigned them, and that with their permission Gen. Hancock would state the objects in view, and his desires in the matter.

General Hancock stated that he had special authority from Government to recruit the 2d Corps of the Army of the Potomac; that in this Corps Allegheny county had a direct interest, having already in the Corps two batteries, and part of a third. He stated further that in the last call for troops, Pennsylvania was further in arrears than any other State in the Union, except one, and that volunteering was less animated than in any other State. His object was to fill up the old organization. He expects to confine his labors to Pennsylvania. Philadelphia and other portions of the State were giving liberal local bounties. At Harrisburg on Monday evening last, a meeting was held, and it was agreed to give a local bounty of $200, to each volunteer. Other States are drawing off our men by the offer of large bounties. He advocated the procuring of skillful agents, who by offering sufficient bounty, would be able to procure enough to fill the required quota. He did not think the draft was prompt enough, even if the enrollment was complete. The men are wanted for early spring, and it is necessary to have the old regiments filled promptly. For prompt purposes one old regiment is equal to three new ones. They know the enemy's strength, and only ask for men to fill up their thinned ranks. The men required from this county are few, but it is important that the matter should be attended to promptly, as after the first of March, the matter will fall with greater weight upon our citizens. Under a liberal local bounty, the money will be left here with the families of the volunteers, while under the commutation act the money is taken from the community. The period is approaching when the Government bounty of $100 will be withdrawn. He earnestly appealed to the citizens to provide a liberal local bounty.

Mr. Joseph R. Hunter desired that his name should be put down for $100, and called upon the gentlemen present to subscribe according to their means, stating that immediate and prompt action was what was most to be desired, and was what would prove most effectual.

Mr. John Harper, Secretary, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the cities, boroughs, and election districts of Allegheny county be organized for the purpose of co-operation, into a military district, and that a committee of three be appointed for every sub-district, to call meetings and raise money from all enrolled citizens, for the purpose of paying bounties to volunteers, to avoid the draft, and to make up the quota of the same, said money being in addition to the bounty offered by Government.

The resolution was debated by Messrs. Harper, Pears, John Park, Jr., Hunter, Isaac Jones, Collins and others.

Mr. Herron moved to amend so as to read "all citizens, enrolled or not, be called upon to assist in raising the necessary funds."

Mr. Bakewell moved to appoint a committee to take into consideration the resolution and amendment and report immediately.

Mr. Von Bonnhorst moved that the committee have more time, and that they be requested to confer with the County Commissioners, and report this evening.

Mr. Scott stated that he lived in a district where all the men were beyond the age of conscription, and that unless the resolution was made general, so as to include "all citizens," his district, he feared, there would be many who would not subscribe a cent. He therefore supported Mr. Herron's amendment that all citizens should be called upon to assist in bearing the burden.

Col. Cooper thought that the County Commissioners should raise the money.

Mr. Bulger advocated raising volunteer subscriptions.

Mr. Ware objected to the issuing of bonds by the county, and advocated mass meetings so as to get up an enthusiasm and excitement.

Mr. Pears was in favor of the Commissioners issuing bonds, and stated that the citizens would take the bonds even though they know they would never be paid.

Mr. James Park, Jr., agreed with Mr. Pears, and said they would be the best legacy that a man could leave to his children.

Mr. Bakewell's motion to refer the resolution of Mr. Harper to a committee for immediate action, was amended so as to meet at the Board of Trade rooms at two o'clock this afternoon, and make a report.

The Chair then appointed Messrs. Thomas Bakewell, James Park, Jr., James Marshall, J. H. Shoenberger and John Harper as the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Bakewell, Gov. Johnson was added to the committee. Carried.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the Board of Trade rooms at two o'clock this afternoon, at which time a general attendance is requested.

Matchless Matches.

Mr. A. J. Griggs, who has been for the past four years manufacturing matches in our city, has on exhibition in the window of John P. Hunt, Masonic Hall building, a beautiful display of some of his manufactures. The principal feature in the exhibition is the ingenuity displayed in their general arrangement, and design. As they are arranged in the window they are made to represent the monuments of Washington, Clay and Jackson, together with a railroad tunnel in miniature. There is also a beautiful display of mottoed matches, each block having upon its face a separate and distinct motto, together with samples of every style of boxes for the use of dealers. These matches are known as the Iron City percussion matches, and as they will only be on exhibition during the remainder of this week, we would advise our readers to satisfy their curiosity by stopping at Mr. Hunt's Masonic Hall, Fifth street, and examining them. Next week they will be sent to Buffalo for exhibition, and donation to the Great Sanitary Fair to be held in that city, for the benefit of our soldiers.

Grand Promenade Concert and Ball.

On next Wednesday evening, a grand Promenade Concert and Ball, will be given at Concert Hall, by the young men's Terpsichorean Society, the proceeds of which will be handed over to the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee. The social position of the gentlemen who have allowed their names to be used in connection with the management, is a guarantee that it will be everything than can be desired, and when we take into consideration the praiseworthy object in view, we feel certain that the anticipations of the young men having the matter in charge, will be fully realized. A new feature—the Eastern Prelude, or Promenade—will be introduced, being a promenade in short dress, for purpose of social conversation until 10 o'clock, at which hour the dancing will commence. Tickets, and invitation cards for ladies can be obtained at the music store of Mr. C. C. Mellor, and of the principal business houses in the two cities.

THEATRE.—"Naomi, the Deserted," attracted a large audience to the theatre, last evening. Mrs. Waller has evidently infused into the principal character all that it is capable of receiving, yet, as a whole, the piece is far from being faultless. It will be repeated again this evening.

THE DRAFT.—A meeting of the citizens of the Sixth Ward will be held this evening, at the school house, to take action in reference to filling the quota of the ward, and avoiding the draft.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

GROVER & BAKER'S SEWING MACHINES have obtained the highest premium at every State, County, and Institute Fair held in 1863, as the best family and the best manufacturing machines, and for the best machine work.

A. F. CHATOUNY, General Agent,

18 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES for Colds, Coughs, Pulmonary and Asthmatic troubles, are highly recommended and prescribed by Physicians and Surgeons in the Army.

For sale by J. M. Fulton, Druggist, Fifth Street. d&w

GREAT bargains in Carpets, Oil Cloths, Rugs, Door Mats, &c., at J. Finch's, corner of Grant and Fifth streets.

NEW Spring Goods just received at J. Finch's, corner of Grant and Fifth streets.

C. SILL, Dentist, 348 Penn street, will attend to all business in his profession.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26, 1864.

EDITORS GAZETTE—The city has quite a martial appearance again. The barracks on the Park, the Battery, and in other places, are crowded with soldiers returning from General Grant's army, and bound to their respective homes in this State and New England, making this town a sort of oasis on their march. What with these, the troops bound to the war, and the usual number of "dummies" parading Broadway, about every third man is in uniform. New York is lamentably behind her sister cities in public receptions, bonfires and bell-ringing on the occasion of the arrival of her soldiers. The ladies, of course, have always been gushing towards those who go to shoot or to be shot, and their enthusiasm when regiments move up Broadway have frequently put the men to shame; but it is gratifying to know that the paucity of official ovations is fully made up by expressions—and forcible ones, too—of gratefulness to the soldiers by private parties, who let not their left hand know what their right hand doeth.

The death of Mr. Foster, the musical composer, has cast a universal gloom over this city, and particularly over the musical profession. I hear of resolutions of respect for the deceased by the minstrels and concertizers here, as well as elsewhere, among whom, of course, he was best known. But this expression of personal regard does not stop here. Suggestions for the erection of a monument to his memory are made by our newspapers, which are eagerly adopted by the citizens, and unless Pittsburgh moves early, she will find a rival for this honor.

Miss Cora L. V. Hatch, since a certain young man "spoke out in meeting," has been drawing immense crowds at her establishment, thousands of people being drawn thither out of a morbid desire to hear a little more in the same line, reasonably expecting that there is more. A strong police force was ordered to the scene night before last, but it was not needed, the people, like Socrates of old, being all ears.

The political market is quiet. The different ward organizations of the Union party have pretty generally renominated Honest Old Abe for the Presidency in 1864, and the Central Republican Union, comprising the entire city, have followed suit with great unanimity. The *Herald's* continued appeal for Fernando Wood to withdraw from the contest, I have yet to meet the Union man who would deposit his ballot without wincing, against the hero of Bonelson and Vicksburg, but honest men think they are pretty certain to do right in not following the *Herald's* advice; and I guess in the long run, such a course would win.

Our German friends, as is natural, are patriotic on the Holstein question, and hold meetings regularly, to further their national cause. Many have been held recently in Brooklyn and Hoboken, where the Teutons have shown by their eloquent speeches, that they are not always heavy and soggy. A considerable fund has been raised, and a committee appointed to proceed to the Fatherland, to ascertain the best means of laying out said fund, and what future action on their part will most conduce to the national honor.

Pittsburgh dispatches have been received here to the effect that the stoppage of the operative on the Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne railroad "still continues, and the loss to the road is $20,000 per diem." These are published in the same column with others (of the same date), announcing that the affair has been amicably adjusted, and trains are running through regularly. There is a disposition on the part of some of our croakers (constantly having the Philadelphia *Inquirer* specially, for the resignation of Senator White, and the election returns from the Old Keystone in their mind's eye,) to consider Pennsylvania telegrams as beautifully calculated to leave a man in a hazy labyrinth of uncertainty. However, people are taking it for granted that the difficulty is at an end, and the temporary abatement of business in the offices of the road, which has hitherto been fixed, there was many who would not subscribe a cent. He therefore supported Mr. Herron's amendment that all citizens should be called upon to assist in bearing the burden.

Col. Cooper thought that the County Commissioners should raise the money.

Mr. Bulger advocated raising volunteer subscriptions.

Mr. Ware objected to the issuing of bonds by the county, and advocated mass meetings so as to get up an enthusiasm and excitement.

Mr. Pears was in favor of the Commissioners issuing bonds, and stated that the citizens would take the bonds even though they know they would never be paid.

Mr. James Park, Jr., agreed with Mr. Pears, and said they would be the best legacy that a man could leave to his children.

Mr. Bakewell's motion to refer the resolution of Mr. Harper to a committee for immediate action, was amended so as to meet at the Board of Trade rooms at two o'clock this afternoon, and make a report.

The Chair then appointed Messrs. Thomas Bakewell, James Park, Jr., James Marshall, J. H. Shoenberger and John Harper as the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Bakewell, Gov. Johnson was added to the committee. Carried.

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THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 27, 1864.

THE REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE.

The following synopsis of correspondence relating to the removal of the restrictions on trade in Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee, announced in last night's dispatches, will be generally interesting:

Under date of 11th of January Mr. Chase wrote a letter to Henry T. Blow, of St. Louis, referring to his having called on Senator Gratz Brown and himself, on the subject of removing trade restrictions, and saying: I venture to suggest the expediency of your conferring with other members of the delegation, both in the Senate and House, and of communicating to me your united views upon the question, whether in case of the removal of the restrictions on trade in the State of Missouri there will be any serious danger that supplies will be furnished to the enemies of the government beyond her limits. And upon the further question: Whether there are now any rebel organizations within the State, the existence of which makes a continuance of restrictions expedient. I addressed a letter to the commanding general to-day, asking his opinion on this question, and also whether there are any other States, or parts of States, in which restrictions may be either wholly or partially removed. To this letter Mr. Blow replied the next day saying, that he had been unable, through sickness, to assemble the delegation, but that all fears of the rebels again being able to enter Missouri had vanished, and that in his opinion every restriction could be removed from the trade of the State at once. He treated the matter, however, as merely preliminary to the opening of free trade along the entire length of the Mississippi river, and said the feeble and dispirited condition of their disbanding armies, and the cheering evidences of returning loyalty in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Louisiana, heralded the rapid approach of the hour when the government can, with proper regard for both honor and safety of the nation, again allow free trade on the Mississippi from its source to its mouth. And goes on to urge, that though regulations may still be necessary to keep the rebels from getting supplies, the fullest protection should be given to all loyal men who desire to trade or enter upon the cultivation of abandoned plantations, and concludes with the suggestion, that the amount of cotton likely to be liberated by thus opening trade would be as valuable as turning foreign exchange in our favor, and tending to keep down the price of gold.

In reply to Secretary Chase's letter, making similar inquiries of the military authorities, Halleck replies, saying: "I am of the opinion that restrictions on trade in the States of Missouri and Kentucky, may now be safely removed. In regard to the States of Tennessee and West Virginia, I desire to consult by letter with the Commanding Generals of the Departments to which they belong, before expressing any opinion."

Messrs. Boyd, Loan, McClurg, Scott, King, and Rollins, of Missouri, in reply to the inquiries propounded by Secretary Chase, in his letter to Mr. Blow, said: "We have no hesitation in saying that the organized bands of the enemy exist in Missouri, and that in our opinion, restrictions on trade of the State can be removed without disadvantage to us or advantage to the rebels, and add that they cannot see how any supplies can get through Missouri to the army in Arkansas, and indorse this and other views expressed in Blow's letter.

Senators Gratz Brown and Henderson reply, saying that they concur in urging the immediate removal of restrictions in Missouri, and trust that it will be initiative of such relaxation on all checks and limitations upon trade not contraband of war, and speedily restore the commercial relations of our business men with those citizens of the Valley of the Mississippi, reduced to national control.

Under date of January 25, the Secretary of War writes, approving Halleck's opinion as to restrictions on trade in the States of Missouri and Kentucky, but saying nothing whatsoever of the other States, concerning which, Halleck wanted further information.

Gen. Rand, of Cincinnati, of the house of Chambers, Stevens & Co., representing near 600 memorialists of the Cincinnati business firms, and the representatives of West Virginia, Missouri, and other border States had an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury to-day on the removal of trade restrictions, and express themselves highly pleased with the results.

DEBATE ON PAYMENT OF STATE MILITIA.

When the proposition to reimburse Pennsylvania for the expenses incurred in calling out the militia was under discussion, recently, in the House, objection was made on the ground that several other States had also similar claims, and that the legislation on the subject should embrace all claims. The Ways and Means Committee have accordingly agreed upon, and Mr. Pendleton is shortly to introduce a resolution providing for the payment of ten millions of dollars to the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Ohio, etc., including all border States affected, in proper proportion, for expenses of militia called out to aid in repelling invasions.

GARRETT DAVIS.

The indications of to-day's debate in the Senate differed from those of yesterday as to the probable cessure of Garrett Davis, the general tenor of the speeches to-day being in his favor. Mr. Henry S. Lane made an impassioned appeal for free speech, and said that though differing as widely as the poles from Mr. Davis' position, he knew him to be loyal, and had seen him serving in the ranks at Cincinnati, and now of his eight or nine nephews in the service, etc. This speech produced a decided impression. Mr. Hale made one in a similar direction, and Messrs. Fessenden and Anthony took the same view. Mr. Morrill was for the vote of censure, and made an able speech.

MR. KENNAY,

the delegate from Utah, made an onslaught on Fernando Wood, classing him among the aiders and abettors of the rebellion, and said if he was a full member he would move to expel him from the House.

Fernando replied, by pitching into mormonism, polygamy, etc., and called this war a hellish crusade.

Mr. Kennay rejoined by asking if it was a hellish war for a man to defend his country, or his wife and children.

Some one on our side ended the discussion by suggesting that the twin relics of barbarism as laid down in the Chicago platform had been abusing each other through their representative on the floor long enough.

SUSPENSION OF WORK.

The amendment contemplating the suspension of work on the Cap, tol and Treasury extension, was voted down previous to the passage of the Deficiency bill to-day.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

A section was added to the bill appropriating $10,000 to build machine shops at Key West, for the repair of naval machinery. There were but four nays on the passage of the bill in the House to-day.

NEW CORPS COMMANDER.

Gen. Barnes who is up from Norfolk on invitation of Gen. Meade, says that he is going to have command of a corps in the Army of the Potomac.

GEN. M'CLERNAND.

The friends of Gen. McClernand this afternoon denied the report that he had been ordered to report for active duty to Gen. Banks. They admit, however, that the President has decided to put McClernand speedily in active service somewhere, of course, but it is not probable that he will be assigned anywhere in Grant's department.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING REPORT.

The annual report of Mr. Defrees, Superintendent of the public printing, has been issued. It shows that the work of the government printing office is nearly three times that performed last year. This increase is attributed to necessities growing out of the war, and requires a large addition to the buildings, machinery, and materials. The records, carefully kept, show that the establishment has saved the Government since 1861 nearly $600,000. The disbursements for 1863 amount to over $1,400,000. It suggests a great saving by omitting to print many documents which are of no general utility, but which Congress continues to order in large numbers

THE POOR OF NORFOLK.

The Government has for some time been supplying the poor of Norfolk with rations. It having come to Gen. Butler's knowledge that some of those receiving the bounty were trading it off to procure luxuries, and that while thus cheating the Government, they made no secret of their hatred of the Government and the abuse of its officers, he has detailed Capt. Geo. P. Edgar, of his staff, to investigate the matter and correct the abuses.

HENRY WINTER DAVIS

has prepared a series of resolutions bearing partially on the system of reconstruction as initiated in Louisiana. They begin by reciting Banks' proclamation, and maintain that no system of reconstruction can properly be instituted without the sanction of Congress. They will be introduced at the earliest fitting opportunity, and coming from that quarter are likely to produce a decided impression.

REFUSAL TO DELIVER GOVERNMENT GOODS.

It is stated that Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express has refused to deliver government goods in Washington Territory, unless the charges were paid in gold. The agent gave as a reason that his instructions were to take no order on the government for money.

DISCOVERIES IN NEW YORK.

Discoveries made last week in New York of arms and ammunition of war, sent over from England, were concealed in boxes of blankets. They were left in bond without being opened, and was intended, of course, to reship them and run the blockade.

N. Y. CUSTOM HOUSE INVESTIGATION.

The New York Custom House Surveyor, Dennison, was before the Committee on Expenditures to-day. Secretary Chase has agents at work investigating the same matter and it affords the Committee every facility.

JEWELRY COMMITTEE.

The committee of jewelers representing some of the extensive importing houses in this country, among them Tiffany & Co. and Ball, Black & Co., are here to procure, if possible, a reduction of the tax on precious stones.

SANITARY FAIR.

A Sanitary Fair was opened here this evening. The crowd in attendance was two or three times as large as could gain admission. Speeches were made by Senator Pomeroy, President of the fair, and others.

ORDNANCE INVESTIGATION.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War began to-day on the subject of Ordnance. Gen. Ramsey was before them as a witness.

GEN. LOAN

Made the opening speech before the Election Committee in his case to-day.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 27, 1864.

Persons who left Knoxville, on Saturday, report skirmishing between our cavalry, and that of Longstreet. No doubt is felt but that we can hold Knoxville.

Gov. Johnson issued a proclamation this morning for the election of county officers in the counties under the federal power. Disloyal persons will not be permitted to vote, and a very rigid oath will be prescribed.

T. S. M.

Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Assistant Secretary of the Navy to-day addressed the following letter to Messrs. Oliphant & Co., of New York:

Navy Department, Jan. 27.—DEAR SIR: After our conversation on Monday, I met Mr. Baird, your engineer, at the Astor House, as agreed upon, and he then handed me your note of the 25th inst., naming $12,000, and $300 per day after two weeks detention, as the price which the owners of Kin Kong require to cover expenses before permitting that vessel to run against the Sutaw. I handed your note to Captain Comstock for Mr. Bulmer, the previous understanding that those gentlemen were to make an attempt to obtain by subscription the sum necessary to pay the expenses of the Kin Kong. I am informed that the amount is considered excessive, and that considerable difficulty will be found in obtaining it. I understand, however, the circumstances under which the offer of the opposite of American Company. That error should be left free, provided the truth were left free to combat it. Truth was the proper sanatorial weapon to use against the fallacies of Mr. Davis. Freedom of debate should be maintained at all hazards.

Mr. Powell, of Ky., said he was gratified at the language of the Senator from New Hampshire. The proposed action was calculated to strike down free speech and free press. When the matter was fully sifted it would be found there was no occasion for the dismissal or rebuke of his colleague—unless, indeed, it was because he entertained an opinion inimical to those of the Democratic party. The Senator who feared to sound the alarm of mal-administration on the part of the Government, was less than a rascal, and deserved no seat here. It was a patriotic duty imposed upon the Senatory. Mr. Powell then proceeded in a lengthy analysis of the resolutions of Mr. Davis, contending that the policy therein recommended, if inaugurated, would be of all others the most distasteful to the rebels. He animadverted also upon the policy of the President, and that one-tenth of the people should shape a future State government as a measure as subservive to the principle that majorities should rule.

Mr. Lane, of Ind., had known the Senator as long as he had known himself. He was true and brave and he would take the interpretation of the meaning and purport of his resolution in preference to that of others. He would not vote for his expulsion or censure. He would not strike down free speech here. The party in power owed their position to free