Pittsburgh Gazette.

SATURDAY MORNING.....FEB. 13, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Important Action of Draymen.

For some time past considerable complaint has been made of the manner in which the street has been blocked up, in the vicinity of the Duquesne depot—particularly by barrels of oil for shipment east. The draymen have been in the habit of unloading the oil whenever the agents of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company directed them, as most convenient to their cars, etc. The company had been fined for blocking up the street, but that mammoth corporation, as is well known, cares very little for a fine. It was determined, if possible, to correct the evil by reaching the draymen, and fining them for each and every offence. Accordingly, warrants were issued yesterday, by Mayor Lowry, for a number of draymen, who appeared, together with many of their friends, to answer the charge. The draymen explained to the Mayor that they were obliged to unload the oil just where the agent of the company directed them, or they would lose their drayage. After a full interchange of views, the draymen present, about fifty in number, entered into the following agreement:

"We, the undersigned draymen, wagoners, and carters, of the city of Pittsburgh, hereby pledge ourselves that we will not deliver, on the public streets, any oil to be carried over the Pennsylvania Railroad—with the understanding that the Mayor will rigidly enforce the ordinance prohibiting obstructions on the public streets, against all offenders."

All the draymen present signed the above, and the Mayor gave them to understand, distinctly, that he would hereafter inflict the penalty prescribed by ordinance (five dollars) for every violation. Two police officers will be stationed about the depot, to watch the operations there for a time, and the law will be strictly enforced without regard to persons. No fines were imposed or costs exacted in the present case, and it is to be hoped that no further trouble will be experienced by the draymen, the police, or the public.

Dr. Thomas Elliott.

We clip the following complimentary allusion from a late letter of C. C. Fulton, Esq., to the Baltimore *American*. We are pleased to learn that our old friend is in a position in which his many excellent qualities will be appreciated, and where he can ameliorate the condition of his suffering countrymen:

The steamer New York, which has been so long used as a truce boat, has carried to and from City Point *ninety-seven thousand* prisoners, and Capt. Chisholm and his amiable lady, with Surgeon Elliott, have witnessed many scenes of joy and gladness, as well as human misery, during their service on the James river. Whilst they are kind and attentive to the returning prisoners of the enemy, they meet with joy and gladness our own battle-worn heroes. Mrs. Chisholm has been a ministering angel to the sick and wounded; and the sympathizing and benevolent countenance of Surgeon Elliott is sufficient of itself, independent of his skill and devotion to his profession, and kindness of heart, to give hope and comfort to his patients. His reminiscences of the steamer New York were truly interesting. Mr. Gestry, of Philadelphia, one of the owners, was also on board, and with Capt. Chisholm extended the hospitalities of the boat with a liberal hand to his guests. Altogether, the trip was a most interesting one, and will long be remembered with pleasure by all of the pleasant little party who had the good fortune to be present.

The Tax on Petroleum.

The Philadelphia *Ledger*, after alluding to the great activity now manifested in the oil region—the formation of companies for the purpose of boring to greater depths, and the large amount of oil lands now being purchased, says: "The action of Congress on taxing crude petroleum is watched with some concern, for it is feared that if such a tax is imposed, it will greatly affect the quantity now exported to Europe. The petroleum trade had grown so extensive and profitable, that all the European sources of supply are now drawn upon, and by the last European advices 292 tons of it had been sent to London from the Black Sea, and about 60,000 barrels are contracted for. This shows the competition which will soon arise, and how carefully, therefore, the matter should be touched by Congress, so as not to injure a trade of so much importance.

The Chemistry of the Atmosphere.

Professor Ricnards' lecture and experiments upon the Chemistry of the Atmosphere, last evening, kept his large audience intensely interested and often astonished, as he unfolded before them, in a rapid series of beautiful illustrations and eloquent language, the wonders of the atmospheric ocean in which we live and move. We shall not attempt any description, but ask everybody to go and see for themselves.

This afternoon he gives a *matinee* for the benefit of the children, in which he will crowd as many of his most curious and brilliant experiments as possible. The doors will be open at one o'clock. Let the hall be filled with the little folks, for they will not be as likely to forget what they see and hear as we older people are.

Return of the 11th Pa. Veteran Volunteers.

This fine regiment of troops having re-enlisted for three years, arrived at Greensburg yesterday, at 11 o'clock a.m., numbering 775 man. The regiment has been in active service for over two years; it went out about 1,000 strong; the losses have been about 400, in killed, wounded and missing. Col. Richard Coulter commanded the Regiment, and if the record of the ELEVENTH, at Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Thornton's Gap, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, has not earned for its gallant Colonel his stars, he may well despair of ever earning them.

AN ELEGANT FLAG.—A few of the friends of Knap's Independent Battery have ordered a fine Company Flag, which will be presented to the brave boys, are their departure. It is now on exhibition in Gillespie's show window, Wood street. Whether we regard the rich flag itself, or the historic reminiscences of the principal battles in which it has taken part, emblazoned in gilt letters on the stripes, the flag is one of the finest we have ever seen. It is a fitting standard for so brave a command.

The following is the inscription upon the flag: Knap's Pa. Battery, Presented by citizens of Allegheny, February, 1864. "Point of Rocks, Md.;" "Cedar Mountain, Va.;" "Sulphur Springs, Va.;" "Antietam, Md.;" "Chancellorville, Va.;" Gettysburg, Pa.;" "Wauhatchie, Tenn.;" "Lookout Mountain, Tenn.;" "Mission Ridge, Tenn.;" "Ringgold, Georgia."

IDENTIFIED.—The silver goblet found in the possession of one of the women whose arrest we have already mentioned, was yesterday identified as the property of C. W. Lewis, Esq., and was presented to him in 1854, in acknowledgment of the valuable services which he rendered during the prevalence of the cholera, which carried off so many of our citizens in the summer of that year. The goblet was stolen about two years and a half ago, and the inscription had been filed off. The women will have a further hearing today.

"BRADY'S DEER TALES, TRADITIONS AND ROMANCE OF BORDER AND REVOLUTIONARY TIMES."—Mr. J. W. Pittock, opposite the Postoffice, has received Number 6 of this popular series of books, which contains "Brady's Leap," "The Implacable Governor," "The Chieftain's Appeal," "Mrs. Slocum at Moore's Creek." These little books are neatly printed, and contain several illustrations.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLIES.—J. P. Hunt, Masonic Hall, Fifth street, and J. T. Sample, 85 Federal street, Allegheny, have received the Pictorial and other New York Weeklies for this and next week, among which will be found "Harper's Weekly," "Street and Smith's Weekly," the "Scottish American Journal," New York "Weekly Tribune," "Times," "Herald," "World," etc.

NINETY-THIRD PENNSYLVANIA VETERAN VOLUNTEERS.—This fine regiment is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Long, of Lebanon, Pa. Major John I. Nevin, of Sewickly, Pa., is next in rank. This fine regiment has re-enlisted for the war, and had a grand reception by its friends of that town. The regiment as re-enlisted numbers three hundred and ten men.

SOUTHERN FILES.—We are under obligation to our friend Capt. John Cassels, Provost Marshal at Fortress Monroe, for full files of Richmond papers up to the 10th inst. Capt. Cassels is an energetic and popular officer, and occupies a position of great responsibility.

The Christian Commission.

The operations of the United States Christian Commission are now so extended that they reach almost every portion of our armies. The following order, from Major General U. S. Grant, gives the Commission every facility for carrying on their operations:

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 72.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. Dec. 12, '63.

All officers holding commands in the Military Division of the Mississippi, are hereby required to extend every facility, not inconsistent with the public service, to all delegates of the U. S. Christian Commission, and aid them by every legitimate means in their power to the accomplishment of the benevolent and charitable purposes of the Commission.

Permission will at all times be granted by the proper military authorities to such delegates to pass to all points within the lines without hindrance or molestation.

The Commissary Department will at all times sell to such delegates, upon certificates similar to those given by officers, such stores as they may need for their own use.

Military telegraph lines will transmit for such delegates, at their expense, all messages relating to the business of the Commission.

The Quartermaster's Department will, upon application, furnish such delegates and their stores free transportation upon all government steamers and military railroads to and from such points within Military Divisions as their duties may require them to visit.

By order of MAJOR GENERAL U. S. GRANT.
GEO. K. LEET, Assistant A. G.
REV. E. P. SMITH, General Field Agent, U. S. Christian Commission.

The Commission is endeavoring to have large quantities of hospital stores at every available point where battles are likely to be fought, during the coming spring, and are now shipping supplies daily to Tennessee.

The following articles are most needed: Woolen shirts, drawers and socks, fruits in cans, butter, eggs, wines, brandy, and whisky.

Rev. E. P. Smith writes from Chattanooga: The whisky you sent us has done much good. After one of the engagements, at Lookout Valley, delegates arrived on the field with twelve bottles of Pittsburgh whisky as part of their stores. No stimulants were to be had anywhere, except what our delegates had with them. The next morning the Surgeon came to our delegates and told them they had saved eight men's lives by the supply of Pittsburgh whisky they were able to give to the men.

Rev. Smith also writes: Cannot you send us a large lot of arm slings. Men come into our rooms every day and ask us if we cannot give them an arm sling, holding up their shattered limb supported in a dirty handkerchief.

From Nashville Miss Murdock writes: "Can you send us some arm slings? We need them very much." The Christian Commission wish to have five thousand arm slings made up, to send to the armies in the West. In order that a number may be ready for any emergency, at every station of the Commission, persons or societies wishing to assist in making them up, can get material and patterns at the Commission Rooms, No. 76 Smithfield street, or at City Hall, on Wednesday afternoons.

Recruits.

The following recruits were enlisted by J. C. Sproul, U. S. Recruiting Agent, Fourth street, on February 12th, 1864:

Names.	Sub-dis. credit'd.	Enrolled
Barton, Wm F	Mauchester, 23d.	Not enrolled.
Stamatee, W J	Plum tp. 23d	do
Marks, Fred'k	Pitt tp, do	do
Ryan, Uriah	Plum tp, do	Penn tp, 23d.
Richey, Jas C	Plum tp, do	Not enrolled.
M'Keever, Robt	Law'ville, do	Lawren ville, 22d.
Wasson, Thos	Pitt tp, do	Wheeling, Va.
Wilson, Wm	Plum tp, do	Plum tp, 23d.
Gans, Frank	Pitt tp, do	2d ward, Pitts. 22d.
Dougherty, J C	Plum tp, do	Not enrolled.
Coon, David J	do do	do
Patterson, F R	do do	do
O'Conner, Mich	Pitt tp, do	do
Pack, Jacob	Footlipb'g, 24th	do
Snider, John	Plum tp, 23d.	Burrell tp, 22d.
Greer, Jas B	do do	do do
Art, Samuel	do do	do do
Seibler, Jacob	do do	do do
Barlan, Geo	do do	Not enrolled.
Jamison, Jno T	Law'ville, do	Indiana Bor. 21st
Leary, Wm C	Tarentum, 23d.	Not enrolled.
Mitchell, N D B	do do	do
Walker, Jas H	do do	do

James M'Cracken, published yesterday as credited to Moon township, 22d District, is credited to Moon township, Beaver county, 24th District

RECRUITS REJECTED.

David Stayzinzer, Jr., farmer, aged 18, born in Mercer county, Pa., disability.

David Stayzinzer, Sr., farmer, aged 42, born in Allegheny county, Pa., over age.

Frank Hall, farmer, aged 15, born in Allegheny county, Pa., under age.

Christian Miller, stonemaker, aged 43, born in Germany, over age.

John H. Hawkins, farmer, aged 19, born in Maryland, deficient in stature.

William Turner, carpenter, aged 44, born in Pittsburgh, Pa., over age.

Bounty Fund.

The following amounts have been paid in to J. C. M'Pherson, Treasurer of the Fourth Ward (Allegheny city) Bounty Fund

John Shuff	$ 25	Nicholas Fecke	40
Adam Shiba	20	John A Human	40
Jacob Down	20	John Peter	20
Henry Lang	40	David Beer	20
Theodore Miller	15	John Heisel	20
Mr. Bunk	10	Lewis Weinmann	20
H W Barbest	40	Henry Padick	20
F Stumagel	10	G Seidler	20
Fred Rittinan	20	T Herkman	20
Fred Schawecker	20	D Schutes	20
John Ritman	25	J Manke	20
Henry Hiner	10	A Ensing	20
John Rentz	40	G W Schafer	20
Louis Fisher	40	G Meyer	20
F Berhart	20	A Neeson	40
J Muller	20	J Neeson	40
Wm Beck	20	Christ Schulz	40
Bifell Cohan	20	Batter Stutz	40
C Ihekroger	20	Jacob Vieck	40
Carl Albreck	40	John Hartman	15
S M Ridan	20	W N Frauer	40
Matthew Cridge	40	Jacob S Neumayer	50
Martin Ley	40	W L Stenson	20
Jacob Bloid	40	C M French	40
Joseph Buker	40	Jesse W Carr	40
John Haslett	40	Am I previously rep	7825
George Bertelsen	40		
John Smith	40	Total	$9,85
Christ. Matts	25		

THE EASTERN WEEKLIES.—Mr. J. W. Pittock, opposite the Postoffice, has received the New York and other Eastern weeklies, religious, pictorial, etc., etc. Call for copies of The New York Independent, Wilkes' Spirit of the Times, and the Illustrated papers, for next week. Full files of all the leading Eastern papers always on the counter.

MRS. HENRY WOOD'S NEW BOOK, "*William Allair; or, Running Away to Sea,*" which is just published by Messrs. Peterson, is for sale at J. P. Hunt's, Masonic Hall, Fifth street, and at J. T. Sample's, 85 Federal street, Allegheny. Price 25 cents. Also, No. 6 of *Beadle's Dime Tales, Traditions, and Romance of Border and Revolutionary Times*, containing four stories and several illustrations.

LAND FOR SALE.—The Morgan Robertson farm, at West Elizabeth, one of the finest farms of the Monongahela valley, is offered for sale. It contains 187 acres, of which about 30 is excellent coal land. It fronts one third of a mile along the river, and is a beautiful location. Particulars may be learned from Thos. J. Keenan, Attorney, 81 Diamond street. See advertisement.

REV. PROV. RICHARDS will preach in the 1st Baptist Church, corner of Third and Grant streets, Sunday evening, at 7 o'clock. Those who have heard his interesting and beautiful lectures during the week, will be pleased to know that he is equally at home in the pulpit as in the lecture-room. Those desiring to hear him will find a cordial welcome to the church.

"WILLIE HAS GONE TO THE WAR," and "Song of all Songs." The above songs, with chorus, by the late Stephen C. Foster, are for sale by Charlotte Blume, 53 Fifth street.

THE NEW YORK MUSICAL REVIEW AND WORLD OF FASHION, ONGHAM.—The recent improvements introduced by Messrs. Mason & Hamlin into their Harmoniums, have increased wonderfully the popularity of instruments of this class. Admirers of true Organ music, of sustained harmonies, are no longer confined to the asthmatic or *weak-lunged Melodeon*, or the noisy, ear-tearing Reed-Organ. An instrument is now obtainable, which is much more under the control of the performer, is capable of producing the softest tones, and yet possesses many times the power of any Melodeon. As the Mason & Hamlin instruments having these new improvements (we may specify as particularly valuable the Automatic Swell) are *sui generis*, like those of no other maker, and since there are other instruments called Harmoniums without these excellencies, Messrs. Mason & Hamlin have adopted and copyrighted the name of "Cabinet Organs" as their special trade-mark.

"As we have said, the great advantages possessed by these Cabinet Organs make them very desirable for the drawing-room, and they are rapidly becoming a necessity for the family. The low price at which they are afforded, brings them within the means of almost every household; and, as lovers of music, we welcome the popularity they have already attained."

Mason & Hamlin's sole agent in this city is Mr. C. C. Mellor, No. 81 Wood street, at whose warerooms a varied stock of Cabinet Organs may always be found.

PIANOS.—We direct the attention of those persons wishing to furnish their houses with that, in these days indispensable instrument, a Piano, to the splendid assortment to be found at Mr. Mellor's Music Rooms, No. 81 Wood street. Besides his large stock of new Pianos, from the factories of Chickering, Hallet, Davis & Co., Hallet, Cuming & Co., Haselton, Jardine, Emerson, &c., ranging in price from $225 to $850, and including one of Chickering's superb Grand Pianos, he has an assortment of second hand pianos, that no doubt would answer well for learners, at prices from $150 to $40.

The Ohio Converted into a Slackwater.

To the Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

GENTLEMEN—The Louisville Board of Trade has issued a circular calling a convention of delegates, as suggested by the Board of Trade of this city, to meet in Louisville on the 24th instant, to consider the subject of the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio. In connection with this subject, a gentleman of Wheeling has submitted, through the Wheeling *Intelligencer*, the following questions:

"Would slackwater navigation of the Ohio river be an improvement? Would not the pools freeze sooner, and remain frozen longer? Could we ever have freight as cheap as we now do when the river is in good stage? If not, would it be an improvement to tax the heavy shipments in the Spring, in order to secure low rates on the lighter shipments of the Summer? How about accidents in or to the locks in the active business season? Would rafts and flatboats be as well accommodated as at present? In the spring rush would they be locked or go over the dams? Would the water be as good for family use in the cities and towns on the river? These and other questions should be satisfactorily answered before the slackwater plan is adopted."

Every one of these questions is pertinent and to the point, and if they cannot be satisfactorily answered, certainly the slackwater system of improvement ought not to be attempted. I propose to take them up seriatim.

1. "*Would slackwater navigation of the Ohio be an improvement?*"

This question, indeed, covers the whole ground, and would have come in better as the last, instead of being the first. But as it may be treated in the way of a comparison between the practical working of a deep channel and a shoal one—a gentle current and a swift one—a permanent and reliable navigation and a fitful and uncertain one—I shall meet it in that way. If deep water is better adapted to navigation than shallow water—if a gentle current can be overcome with a less expenditure of power, and of fuel, and money than a rapid one—if eleven months' navigation in the year is more desirable than five or six—then the question may be most confidently answered in the affirmative. So much for the general question. Now the interrogator descends to particulars, and very important ones they are. He asks:

2. "*Would not the pools freeze sooner, and remain longer frozen?*

Unquestionably they would be sheeted over with ice somewhat sooner than the river would be in its natural condition; but not much. In the natural state of the river there are many long deep pools, in which the water, when low, is quite slack, almost as much so as if there were dams. But suppose this effect should follow the erection of dams, would it be detrimental to navigation or otherwise? Would not these quiet, fixed sheets of ice upon the pools be far less obstructive to navigation than the wild, drifting fields of ice, such as we have often seen upon the setting in of hard frost? Let those sheets once become immovable, and then the numerous boats navigating the river would easily keep a channel open; so that nothing but exceedingly severe weather would permanently obstruct navigation:

3. "*Would we ever have freight as cheap as we now do when the river is in a good stage?*"

Yes, always, and cheaper too. Suppose the tolls upon goods should be from one to two cents per hundred pounds between Pittsburgh and Louisville, or vice versa, (and that would be ample,) that would be so much; and suppose it should take one-third more time to make a trip down and back; that would be no much more. Set these two items down on the debit side. Now consider that, in the present condition of the river, it requires as much power to carry three hundred tons from Louisville to Pittsburgh as it would to carry a thousand tons between the same points on a slackwater. And the same rule applies to the down trip, for the reason that boats are adapted, not to slackwater, not to deep water navigation, but are constructed and supplied with power to contend with the strong opposing current that must be overcome in the ascending navigation. It is on the same principle that a man hitches four or six horses to a wagon—not because he has to haul it over a level road, or down a mountain side—but because he knows that he has to ascend a mountain side; and this ascending grade is his guide, the basis of his estimate, in loading his wagon. Take away the mountain, and he could carry twice as much at the same expense, or haul the same load with two horses. Now, those who propose to slackwater the river, propose *to remove the mountain*. They propose to make *the lifting power of the locks* do the work that is now done by the labor force and the labor expenditure of steam. A little reflection upon these simple principles will serve to convince any man, who is open to conviction, that, were the Ohio converted into a good slackwater, the cost of every kind, from coal to the most finished fabrics, could and would be carried cheaper than they have ever been carried. The toll on coal ought not to exceed ten cents per ton from Pittsburgh to Louisville.

4. "*If not, would it be an improvement to tax the heavy shipments in the spring, in order to secure low rates on the lighter shipments of the summer?*"

This question is closely connected with the third, and is already answered by the removal of the predicate. I shall, therefore, merely remark in this connection, that the coal business would be mainly prosecuted in the summer, when the water was low, for then the current of the river would be the slackest; and for that by virtue of the slacker the better, especially for returning with empty barges, if, indeed, they would be returned *empty*.

5. *How about accidents in or to the locks in the active business season?*

All human operations are liable to accidents, and consequent interruptions; but there are few things more susceptible of being guarded against such contingencies than canal or slackwater locks.

6. "*Would rafts and flat boats be as well accommodated as at present?*"

As for rafts, all I need to say is, that at times we see them navigated out of the tributaries of the Allegheny—far up which they are nearly all constructed—there is always water enough in the Ohio to carry them safely over the proposed dams. When the river is at a stage of ten feet above low water, there will be very little difference between the levels of the water above and below the dams. At about 10 feet the inclined plane of the river would be restored, when there would be no difference at all occasioned by the dam. At such times even heavy laden coal boats could go over the dams in safety. But, were the river converted into a slackwater, that method of carrying coal would be abandoned, simply because it would not pay. Barges could be towed back too cheaply to warrant the purchase and fitting out of unwieldy "broadhorns."

7. "*In the Spring rush, would they* [rafts and flatboats] *be locked, or go over the dams?*"

Why, my dear sir, there would then be no "Spring rush." That would be the very time when there would be the least inducement to "rush" upon the river with anything except timber and lumber—rafts. Of them I have already spoken. But suppose the river should be on the way when the water was too low to go over the dams in safety, they could be locked through like anything else. The toll on such things ought to be only nominal.

8. "*Would the water be as good for family use in the cities and towns on the river?*"

Not only as good, but better. The dams, by deepening the water, and keeping the now steaming, reeking bars deeply covered, would prevent very much of that which now spoils the water, especially those quick-growing, quick-decaying water grass and weeds, now so abundant in the summer season upon the numerous bars of mud and gravel. The notion that motion purifies water, is a mistake, to demonstrate which I need only point to the Allegheny, with its deep, quiet pools and short intervening ripples, and the Susquehanna, which goes fretting, and purling, and boiling, throughout its whole course from the mountains to the tide water. Both drain the same region, for their head branches interlock extensively; but while the first is pure, pellucid and sweet, the other is foul and offensive.

As my views, written and published several years ago, have, within a few weeks, been republished through the columns of the *Gazette*, on the general subject of this improvement, I shall at present pursue it no further. I hope I have succeeded in answering satisfactorily the questions of my unknown friend; and if I have thrown any light upon this important subject I shall feel myself well compensated. Very respectfully, J. C.

Allegheny City, Feb. 12.

SOLDIERS' SERIAL 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.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment are now retailed, owing to the high price of drugs, &c., at 50 cents, 75 cents, and $1,10 per box or pot.

For sale in Pittsburgh, Pa., by B. L. Fahnestock & Co.

For sale also at Fulton's Drug Store, Fifth street.

FEBRUARY.—Now is the time to buy your Valentines—the most beautiful assortment in the city, to be seen at Frank Case's News Depot, Chronicle Building, Fifth street.

MAGAZINES.—All the Magazines for February, can be had at Frank Case's News Depot. Subscriptions received at the lowest prices.

VALENTINES! VALENTINES!—Call and look over the beautiful array of Valentines at Frank Case's News Depot, Fifth street.

COMIC and Sentimental Valentines in endless variety, at Frank Case's News Depot.

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

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 12, 1864

GENERAL BUTLER AND WOOD'S INVESTIGATING PROPOSITION.

The following paragraphs are taken from a private letter from Gen. Butler to a member of the House, who had written to him concerning Fernando Wood's proposition to investigate some of his, Butler's, doings: "I will rely on your friendship always to vote in favor of having any official act of mine investigated. Such investigation will show mistakes, blunders and failures of judgment innumerable, and for those I must suffer, but I fear nothing else. I should even be willing for them to be investigated by Fernando Wood, were it not for the maxim, 'set a thief to catch a thief.'"

CONSCRIPTION BILL PASSED.

The House finally passed the Conscription Bill to-day, after considerable fruitless filibustering on the part of the Democrats. The bill is unchanged except in minor details. The two classes are consolidated. Negroes are drafted, as explained in last night's dispatches. Commutation as formerly. The bill of course goes back to the Senate for concurrence in amendments, and it is not impossible that a Committee of Conference may yet be needed to settle some of the differences.

THE CONSCRIPTION BILL.

The following is a fuller synopsis of the Conscription Bill as it passed the House. No exemptions whatever are allowed, except for mental or physical debility, or two years' previous service in the army or navy: Negroes, slave and free, are to be drafted, and loyal masters are to receive one hundred dollars bounty, only in case the slave is freed forever. Commissioners are to be appointed in each slave State now in the Union to fix the price of the slave drafted, which, in no case, shall exceed $300. Furnishing a substitute exempts only for the time the substitute is not liable to draft. The commutation is fixed at three hundred dollars, which exempts only as long as the names then in the wheel are not exhausted. Noncombatants from conscientious opinions will be allowed to serve in the hospitals and in charge of freedmen. If the first draft fails to produce the required numbers, a second is to follow. Sections 19 and 20 of the present law are repealed. The payment of bounties are extended to loyal masters of negroes now in the service. The vote on the bill was—ayes 91; nayes, 55.

DEFICIENCIES TO BE SUPPLIED IN OUR ARMIES.

The Secretary of War submitted additional estimates of deficiencies to the Senate to-day, amounting to over $80,000,000, of which the following are some of the principal items: the deficiency in arms and ordnance is $7,700,000; deficiency in medical instruments and dressings $1,300,000; deficiency in hospital stores, bedding, &c., $1,200,000; deficiency in citizen physicians and medicines $183,000; deficiency in subsistence of volunteers and drafted men $5,824,000; deficiency in quartermasters' supplies $18,300,000; deficiency in barracks and quarters $3,500,000; deficiency in transportation $30,000,000; deficiency in incidentals in the Quartermaster's Department $2,000,000; deficiency in clothing, camp and garrison equipage, $7,000,000.

THE DUTY ON WOOL.

A delegation from Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania are here urging upon Congress the necessity of raising the duty on wool brought from foreign countries. The present duty upon such wool is but five cents, by some singular construction of law, when it should be nine cents. These representatives say that our producers cannot compete with those of Australia, Cape of Good Hope, and South America, under this construction. They, therefore, ask that the tariff be placed at ten cents per pound on imported wool, in order to protect ourselves. Thus far they have met with much favorable consideration.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The House Judiciary Committee will, at the earliest opportunity, report a bill to amend the Constitution so as to prohibit slavery throughout the limits of the United States, which is similar in provisions to propositions of this sort already in the Senate. It is considered perfectly certain that a two-thirds vote for such an amendment can easily be secured in both Houses, and both bodies are practically in harmony as to the manner of accomplishing the work.

MACHINERY OF THE PENSACOLA.

Mr. Deckerson, in examination before the House Committee to-day, made an exceedingly plausible statement concerning the engines of the Pensacola, and the members of the Committee expressed themselves very favorably impressed. He insists that the machinery of the Pensacola is a success. Other engineers, who are yet to be examined, will testify, with equal directness, that it is an utter failure.

RAILROAD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.

The offending railroad Presidents of the mismanaged line between Washington and civilization, are to be brought before the House Select Committee next week, to show cause why the new railroad should not be built North from the Capital, or decent accommodations furnished on the one that is built.

GOV. BUCKINGHAM,

of Connecticut, is here, seeking permission for the Louisianians who enlisted in Connecticut regiments shortly after Gen. Butler's army arrived at New Orleans, to re-enlist with the rest of the respective regiments, as veteran volunteers. The Department has already, peremptorily refused similar requests from Ohio and other troops.

CONNECTICUT CAMPAIGN.

The first notes of the approaching Connecticut campaign already begin to be heard here. It comes in April, and will undoubtedly be hotly contested. Gov. Buckingam is considered certain, is to be a candidate again.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH BRAZIL.

The House Postoffice Committee will report a bill favoring the establishment of steam communication with Brazil, and with government subsidies to keep up the lines of steamers to the ports named at either terminus of the route.

SALARY OF THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

Grant's salary as Lieutenant General, under the bill now before Congress, would be between $13,000 and $14,000. By putting him in that position it would give him command over seventy Major Generals.

CUMBERLAND GAP.

The Government is not in possession of any facts warranting the belief that Cumberland Gap has been cut off, or that most of East Tennessee is in possession of the rebels.

LEAGUE ISLAND.

A Committee goes to Philadelphia and Chester to-night, to look into the League Island question.

LAPMAN'S DICTIONARY.

The House to-day authorized a new edition of Lanman's Congressional Dictionary.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL.

The Senate was at work nearly all day on the Deficiency Bill, and held no executive session.

DISMISSED FROM SERVICE.

Col. Swain, of "Scott's 900," has been dismissed from service for disobedience.

PENSIONED.

John Burns, of Gettysburg, is to have a pension of eight dollars per month.

FROM KNOXVILLE.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

KNOXVILLE, Feb. 12.

The last three days have been fraught with all the interest that reports and counter-reports, marches and countermarches, could give them. Our cavalry skirmishes at the front, which is only twelve miles out, amount to nothing. We drive the enemy one mile and then fall back two, exchange twelve of our men for a dozen rebels, and so it goes.

Yesterday it seemed to be understood that Longstreet had thrown a large body of infantry across the French Broad, and was marching toward Graunel's Cross Road, which is twelve miles from Knoxville. It was a query whether his intention was to close in on Knoxville, or to make good his connection with Johnston, or to cut off our communications, by river, with Chattanooga.

Yesterday we were all astir. Troops were moving up to a late hour last night, and everything indicated that a crisis was at hand; but this morning the troops were back in their old quarters, and the conclusion is we marched up the hill and down again. I will not venture any predictions for the future. Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof. However, if the estimates our authorities have of Longstreet's forces be correct, no fears need be entertained for the safety of Knoxville.

The report which we received from the North, that Gen. Schofield is on his way to this department, excites no special enthusiasm in the army. He may congratulate himself on one thing, however. The minds of the men whom he comes to command are well prepared for a change. Gen. Foster, accompanied by his physician, will start North in a few days. For some time past his old wound has been very afflicting, and his surgeons say it will be necessary to amputate the limb. It is feared the operation will prove fatal, unless performed very soon. He was unfortunate in being placed over a department at the very time his former commander was at the heighth of his popularity, and still more unfortunate in being placed in a command which required arduous labor and continued field duty, for both of which, his physical disability most effectually disqualified him. Gen. Foster has won few laurels in the army of the Ohio.

It seems to be understood here that the 9th army corps, which has nearly all re-elisted, will be sent to New York soon, and that Gen. Burnside is to recruit it up to the number of 50,000, for some special expedition.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

CHATTANOOGA VIA NASHVILLE, Feb. 12.—There was a great affray in Johnston's army on the 9th. The 2d Kentucky regiment refused en masse to be conscripted, and were placed under guard by the 30th Alabama. Col. Woodover, Major Lewis and three Captains of the 2d Kentucky, fired their revolvers into the Alabama regiment, killing and wounding forty two. Both regiments broke in disorder.

The Thirteenth Kentucky arrived yesterday, including Lieut. Chas. Allen, formerly of Stonewall Jackson's staff.

One thousand and twenty seven deserters came into our lines.

Gen. Cheatham's Tennessee division has gone south to keep the men from deserting.

Longstreet is still being reinforced, but makes no demonstration.

It is said Morgan's raid is to be through Northern Alabama, West Tennessee and into Kentucky.

The 1st Ohio Sharpshooters are still burying the dead at Chickamauga. Over six hundred have been already interred by them.

The railroad is open, and trains are running to Knoxville.

The river at London is crossed by a ferry.

Veterans are returning rapidly to the army. The 17th Ohio have re-enlisted.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 12, 1864.

SENATE.—On motion of Mr. Lane, of Indiana, the Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the present law, and regulating the Supreme Court as to confine its decisions to matters of law only.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden, of Me., the Senate took up the House Deficiency Bill as reported from the Senate Finance Committee especially for amendments, with a few slight exceptions, was agreed to. It strikes out all the House provision for an increase of clerical force of the departments, and authorizes the appointment in the various bureaus for a term not exceeding one year after the close of the rebellion, of about 1000 clerks and employees of various grades. The Senate's amendment appropriates an amount necessary to pay the salaries of additional employees to the 30th of June, 1864, and provides for the employment of females instead of males, at a salary not exceeding $500 per year. It also repeals the act limiting the office of Assistant Register of the Treasury to one year.

Certain amendments from the Naval Committee were concurred in. They appropriate $150,000 for repairs of the Norfolk Navy Yard, and $144,000 for 16 feet the Inclined plane of the Pensacola. Pending the question on the amendments, which were adopted, appropriating eighty millions for deficiencies in the quartermaster's, ordnance and commissary bureaus, Mr. Sumner moved to strike out the clause in safety, which, on equal directness, that it is an utter failure.

On motion, Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, from the Committee on Commerce, reported the Senate bill which was passed, re-establishing the principal port of entry for the District of Champlain, at Plattsburg, N. Y.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Senate enrollment bill as amended by the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, suggested that the bill shall lie over till Monday, in order to give further time for examination.

The amendments being much confused, Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, explained that the public exigencies were so pressing that he could not give an hour. He moved the previous question, and then explained the amendments and substitute, concluding by an appeal to the friends of the country to pass the bill, that the army may be recruited and the Government sustained.

Mr. Harding, of Kentucky, desired to address the House.

Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, proposed that the gentleman from Kentucky should by general consent be allowed half an hour for that purpose, but Mr. Schenck objected.

Opposition to further proceedings on the bill was manifested.

Mr. Rogers, of New York, moved to reconsider the vote by which, in the earlier stage of the proceedings, the House had agreed to adjourn till Monday. The motion was laid on the table—yeas, 100; nays, 40.

Mr. Harding, of Kentucky, moved that the House adjourn. No quorum voting, the question was taken by yeas and nays, and determined in the negative.

It was now half-past four o'clock.

Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, asked leave of absence till Monday, but afterwards withdrew his request.

Mr. Wadsworth, of Kentucky, moved that the bill and amendments be laid on the table. The question was determined in the negative.

The House then proceeded to vote on the amendments to the Senate bill.

The House then voted on the following amendment, adopted by the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union:

All the able-bodied male persons of African descent, between the ages of twenty and forty, whether citizens or non-residents of the United States, shall be enrolled, according to the provisions of the act to which this is a supplement, and shall form a part of the national forces; and when a slave of a loyal master shall be drafted and mustered into the service of the United States, his master shall receive a certificate thereof and a bounty of $100, now payable by law, for each drafted man shall be paid to the person whom such drafted person owes service or labor at the time of their muster into the service of the United States. On freeing the person, the Secretary of War shall appoint a commission in such of the slave States as are represented in Congress, charged to award a just compensation, not exceeding $300, to each loyal person to whom the colored volunteer may owe service, who may volunteer into the service of the United States, payable out of the commutation money, upon the master freeing the slave. The above was agreed to by 84 to 57.

The House having agreed to the committee's amendment to the bill, Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, submitted a substitute, which was agreed to, and the original bill as thus amended, was passed by 93 to 60. The bill as passed, provides that the quota of each ward of a city, town, township, precinct, or election district of a county, where the same is divided into towns, townships, &c., shall be as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of men resident therein, subject to draft, and taking into the act as far as practicable, the number which has been previously furnished, and in ascertaining; and in filling said quota, there shall also be taken into account the number of men who have heretofore entered the naval service, whose names are upon the enrollment list as already returned to the Provost Marshal General: any person enrolled under the provisions of this act who may hereafter be so enrolled, may furnish at any time previous to the draft an acceptable substitute, who is not liable to draft, at any time in the military or naval services. Such persons furnishing a substitute shall be exempt from draft during the time for which the substitute shall be exempt from draft, not, however, exceeding the time for which such substitute