Pittsburgh Gazette.

THURSDAY MORNING.....FEB. 18, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

The Bounty Bonds—The Act to Legalize their Issue.

We have been furnished with a copy of "an act relating to the payment of bounties to volunteers," offered by Mr. Glass, from the Committee on Military Affairs, and which passed the House yesterday, as stated in our telegraphic dispatches.

The first section legalizes all bonds, warrants, or certificates of indebtedness issued by the Commissioners or Commissioners and Controller of any county, or the corporate authorities of any city or borough or township of the State, for the payment of bounties to volunteers—and makes the issues as valid and binding as if full power had existed for the issues when made.

The second section legalizes and makes valid all payment of bounties to volunteers, by the Commissioners or corporate authorities named in section first, and all loans made by said authorities for such purpose.

The third section authorises and requires the several corporate authorities designated to execute and complete all agreements made by them for the payment of bounties to volunteers, or for refunding advancements made for that purpose, on condition that they should be refunded, according to the true tenor and meaning of such agreements; and the said authorities are further authorized to borrow money and issue bonds, with or without interest coupons, payable at such time as may be agreed upon, and to levy such taxes as may be necessary to meet the payment of the same.

Section fourth legalizes all assessments heretofore made of taxes for the purpose of paying bounties as aforesaid: provided that no private volunteer soldier or non-commissioned officer, or drafted militia man or conscripted man actually mustered into the service, or honorably discharged therefrom, shall be required to pay any of the taxes assessed in pursuance of this act.

The fifth section extends and applies the provisions of the act authorizing the collection of a relief tax for the families of volunteers, to the families of men who have been drafted or conscripted into the service; legalizes all arrangements made by the several counties of the State for the support of such families; and authorizes the Commissioners to borrow money for the purpose of extending the necessary aid and relief.

Section sixth authorizes the Commissioners of any county to borrow sufficient money to pay each volunteer from said county, who enlisted on or after the 27th of October, 1863, or who may hereafter enlist, a sum not exceeding $300; provided, that where city, borough or township authorities have already paid or commenced to raise funds to pay such bounties, they shall have power to borrow such sums as they may require, and if their respective quotas shall have been filled, then they shall be exempt from any tax levied by the county for the payment of bounties.

Section seventh provies that no bond shall be less than $100 in amount, and shall not be for a longer period then ten years.

Section eighth provides that where a part of the bounty has been paid by any township, city or borough, and the authorities thereof refuse to pay the remainder, then the difference between the amount paid and the full amount promised (not exceeding $300 to each volunteer) shall be paid by the county authorities, who shall assess and collect a tax on such defaulting townships, boroughs or cities, in such amounts as may be required to pay the balance due.

Section ninth authorizes the county treasurer to receive the money borrowed by the commissioners and pay the bounties to the volunteers.

The tenth section provides, that money borrowed by school directors, road commissioners or supervisors of cities, boroughs or townships, shall be paid to a treasurer of their own appointment, who shall give sufficient bonds for the proper payment of the bounties.

Section eleventh provides, that if any soldier entitled to receive a bounty, shall die before receiving the same, the money shall be paid to such person or persons as would be entitled to it under the laws of the United States.

The above are all the provisions contained in the act, carefully condensed and stripped of legal verbiage. It seems to meet every requirement, and will no doubt become a law, as soon as the Senate is organized.

Concert of "Ye Olden Time."

Our citizens will enjoy a rare musical treat on Saturday evening next, on the occasion of "ye olden time" concert for the benefit of the Subsistence Committee. The affair is in admirable hands—some of the best men in the city having volunteered to lend their aid and influence in this behalf. The dresses which will be used by the amateurs are now mostly collected, and have all been used to adorn the persons of those who led the fashions in days long gone by. This feature of the entertainment will be exceedingly interesting, as we are assured that no garments will be gotten up especially for the concert. Then the performers themselves, or at least part of them, will represent "ye olden time." It is hinted that the wives of some of our most respectable citizens will appear upon the stage—that Mrs. Judge ——— will play upon the harp, and Mrs. Major ——— will perform on the piano, etc. But perhaps we should not tell all we have heard, as it may be the intention to "surprise" those who attend the concert. It can do no harm to say, however, that already there is a rush for tickets, and those who desire to get forward seats should secure their admission cards before the evening of the concert. It is hoped—let us say it certain—that a large fund will thus be realized for the benefit of that noble institution, the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee.

Meeting in the First Ward.

At an adjourned meeting of the citizens of the First Ward, held for the purpose of taking measures to procure recruits to fill the quota of the Ward, it was resolved that the Block Committees be instructed to renew their efforts to procure subscriptions and to report at an adjourned meeting to be held at the school house on Friday evening.

The Block committees reported having subscriptions to the amount of six thousand dollars.

It was resolved that each enrolled man should be called on, and requested to subscribe.

Seven recruits were reported as mustered into the service, and credited to the quota of the Ward.

Every enrolled man of the Ward is requested to be present at the meeting on Friday night.

Child Abducted.

Last evening a little son of Ald. Jones, of the Fifth Ward, was abducted from the home of its parents, by a Welsh woman, who had formerly been in the employ of the family as a domestic. The woman lately became addicted to drinking, and was dismissed by the Alderman. She was subsequently arrested by the police for drunkenness, and had just been discharged from jail. She said she would have revenge upon the Alderman for discharging her, and threatened to kill or drown the child. As the woman has been ascertained to be degraded in her character, and violent when drunk, the parents are necessarily filled with alarm in reference to the safety of the child. The threat to kill it was probably an idle threat, but as the child is in delicate health it is feared that it may suffer from exposure to the cold. The Mayor was notified of the abduction, and the police were at once instructed to use every effort to arrest the woman and secure the child if possible.

Arrest of an Alleged Thief.

A detective from Philadelphia arrived in the city last night, with a photograph of a man who is charged with larceny in Philadelphia. The likeness was recognized by Chief of Police Long, and the "original" was found serving in the capacity of bar keeper at Vierhaller's saloon, Fifth street, where he had been employed for about three weeks. He gave his name as Wm. Hodges, and was arrested then and there, and locked up for a hearing, which will take place before Mayor Lowry this morning.

THANKS.—Mr. Bagley, member of the Notes from Butler county, will please accept our thanks for valuable public documents.

The cast in to-day's paper, headed, "They die hideously.—No more welcome article to the housekeeper, storekeeper or farmer can well be conceived of.

Meeting in the Sixth Ward—Volunteer Bounty Fund.

An adjourned meeting of citizens of the Sixth Ward was held at the School house on Wednesday evening, Mr. Jacob H. Walter in the chair, and Mr. Andrew Burns acting as Secretary. The different block Committees, appointed by the Executive Committee, were called upon to report after which the following resolution was adopted, being the same adopted at a previous meeting with slight amendment.

Resolved, That a sufficient amount of money be raised in this ward, by a subscription of forty dollars from residents, for the purpose of paying $200 each to a sufficient number of volunteers to fill the quota of the Ward in the impending draft. In the event of being unable to procure the number of volunteers required, that the funds remaining on hand be appropriated, first, to paying $200 to those drafted men who have contributed to the fund;

The following committees were authorized to canvass the respective blocks at once, and report to an adjourned meeting of the citizens, to be held on Saturday evening next, at seven o'clock, at which it is expected there will be a general attendance of citizens:

1st block, Vine to Tannehill, Thos. Cluley and George Bolton.

2d block, Tannehill to Crawford, F. Goodan, W. P. Little.

3d block, Crawford to Fulton, Robt. McAdams, Wm. Dodds.

4th block, Fulton to Townsend, Wm. Burke, D. O'Donovan.

5th block, Townsend to Logan, Theodore Robins, Ewart Arthurs.

6th block, Logan to Bim, Charles Jeremy, J. D. Strous.

7th block, Bim to Congress, A. M'Donald, J. G. Patterson.

8th block, Congress to Washington, Thos. Kerr, John B. Campbell.

9th block, Washington to Federal, Jos. A. Butler, John Phillips.

10th block, Federal to Chatham, John Phillips, J. W. Woodcock.

Movement of Troops.

We learned last evening, from the Subsistence Committee, that the 40th regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers was momentarily expected in this city, and they were consequently arranging to give them a "warm" reception. We are also informed that the 28th Pennsylvania and the 1st Michigan regiments, are expected in a day or two on their return to the army; and the 78th, 79th and 102d Pennsylvania, are also soon expected here on their way home, on furlough. The 78th and 79th are commanded by Col. Sirwell and Col. Hambright's old regiments, and originally formed a part of Gen. Negley's brigade. The 102d regiment is under the command of a well known Pittsburgher, Col. T. F. Lehman, and was organized at Harrisburg—a number of men having been recruited in this city.

The Committee will "have their hands full" during the next few days, and we would urge our fellow-citizens to contribute liberally to their support. They are in need of money and supplies at present. Shall they not have them?

Dana's Treatises on Geology.

Allow me to recommend through your columns Professor Dana's new treatises on Geology, just published by Theodore Bliss, of Philadelphia. Unlike most works in this department of science, these do the fullest justice to the vast Geological treasures of our own country. The American instructor, especially at the West, has not for a long time received a richer boon, than has thus been rendered him by Prof. Dana.

The Manual is a thorough compend of the results of Geological investigation. The Text Book is exactly adapted to the wants of our Colleges, in every section of the country. We have introduced it into the Pittsburgh Female College, and, although we have not yet used it with a class, we are certain it is just the Text Book needed. E. JOHNSON.

BOUNTY FUNDS.

FOURTH WARD, ALLEGHENY.

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

David Ritchie	$ 40 00	Jos Weaver (add)	$ 20 00
Henry Grob	40 00	Henry Turne	40 00
Fred Redfeller	40 00	Herman Turner	40 00
Wm Jones	20 00	C Miller	5 00
Wm Lebzetter	40 00	Fred Steinhe	40 00
S H Rider (add)	20 00	Louis Mendel	40 00
L Hartmeyer (add)	20 00	F Schiedt	5 00
Mater Klein	10 00	Philip W Fryer	20 00
Nicholas Hess	40 00	G Hebbling	20 00
Christ Meyer	40 00	John Z Spear	40 00
—— Strzal	10 00	S B McKeown	20 00
—— Zeller	5 00	E B Hopkins	20 00
D Morhoff (add)	10 00	J F Kennedy	20 00
C Kennedy (add)	10 00	Joel Fleming	40 00
Henry Starz (add)	20 00	Am'l prov'sly rep	13,180 00
Jacob Straub (add)	15 00		
Jacob Flack (add)	25 00	Total	$12,970 00

A Raid in the Sixth Ward.

Quite a number of the personal friends of Mr. Wm. J. Bender, members of the Liberty street M. E. Church, by concert of action among themselves, met at his residence, on Franklin street, Sixth Ward, last Thursday evening. Shortly after the company had arrived, quite unexpectedly to the host, an elegantly chased silver tea service, from the establishment of John Stevenson, silversmith, was borne into the room, and presented by Rev. W. A. Davidson, pastor of the church, in a brief speech, to Mr. Bender, as an evidence of appreciation, for his valuable services as leader of the singing of the congregation and Sunday School, to which he responded in a few words. Mr. E. Heaselton, superintendent of the school, also made some remarks.

RECRUITS ENLISTED by James C. Sproul, United States Recruiting Agent, Fourth street, on February 16th:

Name.	Sub-Dist. cre'td.	Enrolled.
Freeman W H	22 ward, 2d.	Not enrolled.
Dyson Wm	22 ward, 2d.	do
Orvis Sylvester	Harrison tp, 23d.	do
Hall Henry	Pitt tp, 22d.	Washington 24th
Monk Ed W	Shaler tp, 23d.	Not enrolled.
Martin Samuel	S Fayette tp, 22d	do
Boyce Isaac P	do do	do

Jermiah Thomas and Jackson Wheeler, credited to First Ward, Pittsburgh, in yesterday's paper, should be credited to Pitt township.

RECRUITS REJECTED.

Wm. H. Miller, blacksmith, aged 43 years, born in Allegheny county, Pa.; disability.

SOME "Gifted Mind" of the "First Class Newspaper" editorial corps—(*sana mens in sano corpore*, as the classical and complimentary Dr. STROP would say)—shows that when that youthful and sanguinely hopeful association promised to "be found doing battle with the friends of Progress and Human Freedom," it was (according to Webster's Dictionary) so equivocal an expression that it *did not necessarily portend hostility, or threaten* the said "friends of Progress and Human Freedom!" We presume there can be no objection to our neighbors taking whatever position they choose, but when they undertake to explain what it is, they should not use an ambiguous expression, and then blame people for not understanding their meaning. In this, these "Gifted Minds" are neither 'critical' nor 'correct.'

ANOTHER LECTURE.—The lecture of Mr. Bradford last night for Rev. J. McMillan's Church, Allegheny, was quite a success. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the house was filled at an early hour. The interest of the subject, and the able manner with which it was handled fully sustained the high character of the lecturer. Those who failed to hear him will be pleased to learn that he has been prevailed upon to deliver a second lecture this evening on the same subject.

ROWDYISM IN PITTSBURGH.—The recent arrest of several notorious rowdies, and the prompt and severe punishment meted out to them by our new mayor, has already had a salutary effect in suppressing the spirit of lawlessness which was manifested throughout the city. There is nothing better calculated to check crime than prompt arrest and severe punishment, and Mayor Lowry is determined to visit swift punishment of this class. He will use all his power to preserve the peace of the city, enforce the ordinances, and secure a good name for the community.

THE MOORE TRAGEDY.—We are indebted to the courtesy of the editor of the Johnstown *Tribune* for a slip containing the particulars of the murder of Jordan Marbourg by Joseph Moore. They do not differ essentially from the very full account given in our evening edition of last Saturday. The melancholy affair has created great excitement in Johnstown.

BEADLE'S DIME SONG BOOK, No. 12, has been received at Pittock's Fifth street opposite the post-office. It contains a number of excellent sentimental, comic and war songs.

MISS HELEN WESTERN.—This lady appears at the Theatre this evening, in three characters—as Miami in Green Bushes; and Jenny Lind and Jenny Leatherlungs in the musical farce of Jenny Lind.

SAMUEL GRAHAM & Co., merchant tailors, are closing out their fall and winter stock of goods at a reduced figure. Gentlemen desiring a fashionable and well made suit of clothing would do well to give us a call before purchasing elsewhere. SAMUEL GRAHAM & Co., Merchant Tailors, 54 Market street.

A Notorious Guerrilla Killed.

The Wheeling *Intelligencer* states that the notorious guerrilla and bushwhacker, Bill Harper, who has been a terror to the loyal people of Randolph, Tucker, Pendleton and adjoining counties, ever since the breaking out of the rebellion, is no longer in the land of the living. A few days ago Capt. Sampson Snyder, of the Randolph Home Guards, hearing that Harper was stopping at the house of Leonard Harper, a relative, who resides in Pendleton county, took a squad of his men and went over to capture him. They surrounded the house and demanded a surrender. Harper refused to surrender, when he was fired upon and wounded. He still fought desperately, even after he was down upon the ground, and is said to have cut Snyder a severe gash upon the arm. When finally conquered and subdued, it was discovered that some thirteen or fourteen balls had been lodged in his body by Snyder's squad. Harper is said to have murdered more men, stolen more horses, and destroyed more property than any other single individual in the State. He was a man of most desperate and determined character and always had about him a gang composed of men of similar mould.

ITALIAN WORKS OF ART.—The beautiful marble statuary, carved vases, card receivers, TAZZAS, &c., imported from Italy by Signori Giovannoni and Zannoni, of Florence, will continue to be sold by catalogue, on the second floor of Davis & McIlwaine's Auction Rooms, Fifth street, this morning at ten o'clock, and this afternoon at two o'clock. Ladies and gentlemen desiring these elegant household ornaments should attend this closing sale. It is seldom that an opportunity for such superb works of art is presented in our city.

SPECIAL EQUAL 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.

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. P. CHATONEY, General Agent,
18 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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, accompany every box.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment are now retailed, owing to the high price of drugs, &c., at 50 cents, 70 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.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES are recommended to consumptive patients, for allaying the uncomfortable irritation of tickling of the throat, difficulty of breathing, and hacking coughs. They will relieve Asthma, Bronchitis, &c.

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

JUST RECEIVED AND READY FOR SALE.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, lately received by Messrs. John Wise & Son, Merchant Tailors, No. 145 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.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, &c.—J. M. Roberts, No. 17 Fifth street, is now opening the most choice stock of fine Gold and Silver Watches, Jewelry, Silver ware and Fancy Goods ever displayed in this city, and is selling them at remarkably low prices.

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

C. SILL, Dentist, 245 Penn street, will attend to all business appertaining to his profession.

DIED;

GROVE.—On Wednesday morning, the 17th inst., ROBERT S. GROVE, aged 23 years.

The funeral will take place on FRIDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock, from the residence of Jas D. Carlisle, near Second Toll Gate, beyond the Oakland Station. Carriages will leave H. Samson's, No. 45 Smithfield street, at 9 o'clock. 1t

LEECH.—On Wednesday morning, the 17th inst., at her residence in Allegheny, Mrs. J. LAWRENCEVILLE MARY, wife of the late Malcolm Leech.

Notice of funeral in morning papers.

CANDIDATES.

FOR PROTHONOTARY.—GEO. R. RIDDLE will be a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Union Convention. fs10:dawtc

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.—ADDISON PILLOW, of East Deer Township, will be a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Union Republican Convention. fs10:dawc

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.—J. M. MCKEAGY, of Springdale Township, will be a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Union Republican Convention.

FOR PROTHONOTARY.—D. C. HULTS will be a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Union Republican Convention.

FOR PROTHONOTARY.—GEO FINLEY will be a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Union Republican Convention. fs10:dawtc

FOR PROTHONOTARY.—JACOB H. WALTER, of the Sixth Ward, Pittsburgh, will be a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Union Republican Convention. fs10:tc

FOR PROTHONOTARY.—THOS. STEEL will be a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Union Republican Convention. fs10:tc

CORONER.—JOHN MCCLURE, of the First Ward, Allegheny, will be a candidate for Coroner of Allegheny County, subject to the decision of the ensuing County Union Convention. fs10:tc

N. SIEDLE, No. 183 SMITHFIELD ST
Dealer in
Pianos and Musical Instruments,
Keeps constantly on hand a fine assortment of
NEW PIANOS, VIOLINS, GUITARS, ACCORDEONS, STRINGS, &c., which he will sell for low prices. ja9:tawd

HYLAND, WOODS & CO.,
MERCHANDISE BROKERS,
LOMBARD STREET, BALTIMORE, MD.
Orders for purchase of COFFEE, SUGAR, &c., faithfully executed.
Special attention given to shipping.
Referring, by permission, to:
Messrs. Sturgeon, Bennett & Co., New York.
" Ezra Wheeler & Co., do
" Shiddy, Minford & Co., do
" Dougherty, Woods & Co., Baltimore.
ja11dawm3m

MISCELLANEOUS.

CALL AT ONCE AND SEE THEM
CALL AT ONCE AND SEE THEM!
CALL AT ONCE AND SEE THEM!
VALENTINES!
VALENTINES!
VALENTINES!
COMIC AND SENTIMENTAL.
PHOTOGRAPHS!
PHOTOGRAPHS!
PHOTOGRAPHS!
TWO THOUSAND NEW CARDS.
ALBUMS!
ALBUMS!
FIFTY KINDS AND STYLES, AT
PITTOCK'S,
OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.

UNION BRASS WORKS.
HANSFIELD & FITZSIMMONS,
Brass Founders.
FINISHED BRASS WORK furnished at the shortest notice. A superior article of BABBIT'S PACKING METAL, for Steam Cylinders. No. 12 SECOND, near Short street, Pittsburgh, Pa. ja25:y

LIME! LIME! LIME!
200 Barrels Fresh, for sale by
HENRY H. COLLINS.

1000 NEW OIL BARRELS, spring article, in store and arriving, for sale by
NOR & MARS, 221 Liberty street.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1864.

REPORT AGREED UPON.

The Conference Committee on Conscription this evening agreed on a report, which will, in all probability, be promptly adopted by both Houses. They retain the section drafting slaves, but provide that instead of masters giving them a deed of manumission, they shall be free by a law of the United States, on entering the service; they also take the House section relative to the three hundred dollars commutation, which payment shall exempt for that quota only; that is to say, it shall exempt probably for one year.

ANOTHER SEAT TO BE CONTESTED.

Mr. Cresfield, of Maryland, came before the Election Committee to-day, proposing to contest the seat of Mr. Cresswell, and asking to have his memorial printed. Mr. Cresswell protested vigorously, on the ground that he had never given notice of his intention to contest, and it was now too late to procure evidence. Crisfield urges that the military interference was such as to utterly vitiate the election.

GARRETT DAVIS

Continues running in the Senate. When he will run down, nobody knows.

MR. KASSON'S PENSION BILL.

Mr. Kasson has introduced a bill providing that where chaplain's, quartermasters or sutlers shall be doing active service in any battle or skirmish, and shall be killed or fatally wounded, the same pensions shall be allowed as in the case of a Second Lieutenant.

CONFIRMATIONS.

Edward H. Durrell, to be Judge of the District Court for the Eastern District of California; Thomas Seely, Iowa, to be Register of Land Office at Des Moines; O. H. Irish, Nebraska, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Territory of Utah; John R. McDonah, California, to be hospital chaplain; Ralph S. Darr, nominated by the President for receiver of public money, at California was rejected by the Senate; Lawrence Upson to be Surveyor General, California; Wm. Irvine, to be Consul at Lonenburg, Germany.

NAVY SUPPLIES.

From a communication from the Secretary of the Navy concerning statements of Bureau officers relative to the mode of obtaining supplies, it appears that considerate divergence from the contract system was obtained, resulting mainly from the peculiar exigencies of the public service. In the Bureau of Equipment about 40 per cent. of the purchases were made in open market, mostly by navy agents. In that of Yards and Docks 43 per cent. is attributed to the lateness in the passage and approval of the appropriation bill. The Chief of the latter bureau notices a disposition in some navy agents to confer Government patronage on certain favored parties, and recommends an essential modification of the laws regulating naval supplies. In the Bureau of Navigation it is deemed unsafe to attempt to obtain nautical instruments and charts by advertising for proposals. Most of the instruments formerly imported are now made at home since the beginning of the war, and are of a better quality than foreign work. Ship's libraries were bought by contract. The purchases are made by contract in the Ordnance Bureau, which is exempted from the operation of contract by the new regulation department. It is suggested that the manufacturers of ordnance being few in number, might combine, if notified by advertising. Some articles might be secured by contract with well-known manufacturers. In the Bureau of Construction, purchases are mostly made by contract, but the novel and peculiar character of many vessels preclude positively of the universal custom. It is asserted that contractors combine high and low prices in the same bid to complicate an award, and deter others from bidding; that middle men often underbid the manufacturer, and that this exclusion might lead to a combination of manufacturers. It also suggests that guarantees that bidders accept and fill contracts should be required, and that classes embrace things of one general character. The Chief of the Clothing Bureau recommends further legislation to exclude the irresponsible, and designate parties, some of whom propose to furnish half a million dollars in stores, and their bids must be taken if the lowest. The Secretary furnishes a draft of the law creating a disbursing and purchasing agent, naval stores keeper inspector and receiver, and prescribes a mode of making contracts.

LITTLE COX'S SPEECH—MR. WASHBURNE'S REPLY.

Little Samuel Cox felt called upon today to express his views on the naval appropriation bill, by making a speech on amalgamation, which he insisted was a tending dogma of the Administration party. He was especially severe upon the class of men who were constantly calling the negro a man and a brother, while he was charging amalgamation on the Administration side. Mr Washburne sought to interrupt him, but Cox very flatly refused to yield. In a moment he sat down, and Mr. Washburne got the floor, armed with a small duodecimo volume, sometimes seen in political campaigns in the Columbus district, and known as Buckeye abroad. He said he was delighted to hear Mr. Cox's speech again. He had heard it many times here, and was always pleased with it; but from the late Ohio elections he feared he would never have an opportunity to hear it again. Meantime, although the Administration side were not quite willing to go at length on amalgamation and negro brotherhood, as the gentleman had intimated, yet he was very glad to be able to produce another who did. He then proceeded to read from Cox's book about his emotions on hearing a negro preach in some church, and his delight at finding the prejudices of color disappearing and the recognition of the common brotherhood of man.

The House was convulsed with laughter, amid which Mr. Cox did his best to edge in an explanation.

"Oh no," said Mr. Washburne, "I would not be less polite than the gentleman himself. He declined to yield to me, I declined to yield to him."

Mr. Cox tried to persist, when the Speaker ordered him to take his seat, and he subsided amid a general roar from the floor and galleries. Justice to the little fellow, perhaps, requires the statement that he wanted to explain that the negro preacher he went into ecstacies over, was not a negro, but only an African of Abyssinian descent, and that he was further recommended by fine culture.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO VETERANS.

The following resolution from the Military Committee passed the House this morning and will undoubtedly pass the Senate at an early day:

Resolved, That the thanks of Congress are hereby given to those noble and brave men who, having already so gallantly endured the hardships and perils of war for more than two years in support of their country and flag, present the sublime spectacle of again voluntarily enrolling themselves in the army for another three years, or so long as the war shall continue.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War cause these resolutions to be read to each of the veteran regiments which have re-enlisted, or shall re-enlist in both volunteers and regular forces of the United States.

THE TAX ON WHISKY.

The House disagreed to the Senate sliding scale of whisky taxation to-day, and asked a Committee of Conference. The Speaker appointed as members on the part of the House Mr. Washburne, Thad. Stevens and Fernando Wood. A majority of this committee are in favor of a taxation of stock on hand, not so much as 50 cents, but at least 30 cents, perhaps more. It is understood also that a majority of the Senate have this same inclination. The composition of this committee, therefore, frightens the whisky speculators again dreadfully. The vote on whisky yesterday, unless this Conference Committee should reverse it all, will probably be considered as a settling principle that no tax will be levied on goods of any kind on hand, but only to those subsequently manufactured—that is to say, other interests will all insist that the same principle which has been applied to whisky shall also be applied to them.

THE GOLD QUESTION.

It is expected that the joint resolution, empowering Secretary Chase to sell gold whenever he pleases, will come up to-morrow.

Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, in speaking of it today, said that the operation of the present system, was to make Secretary Chase the biggest bull in the market—that is, that his being compelled to hoard these larger sums of gold, had a constant tendency to put gold up, and that it was this defect of our own laws, which in part accounted for the present premium on gold.

GEN. SLOCUM.

The Committee on the conduct of the War have reached the conclusion, that there was no occasion for any investigation in the course of Gen. Slough at Alexandria. He shut up the liquor shops on account of the soldiers, and the liquor sellers raised a howl—that is all.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1864.

SENATE.—The Senate passed the bill for the relief of Albert Brown, after a debate of an hour.

Mr. Davis, of Ky., resumed the floor and continued his speech on his amendment to the bill equalizing the pay, &c., of troops in the United States service.

Mr. Sumner presented the memorials of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and of a Mass Convention of Christian people of Allegheny City, Pa., praying for such amendments to the Constitution of the United States as may promote changes with respect to offices, slavery and other matters. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Brown offered a joint resolution to abolish slavery throughout the States and territories. The resolution provides that from and after the passage of this act slavery shall not exist in any State or territory, any law, usage, claim or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. It prohibits all involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime. Referred to select Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

Mr. Johnson, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back adversely the resolution in amendment of the joint resolution explanatory of the Confiscation act, which passed the House on February 5th.

Mr. Johnson, also, from the same Committee, reported back adversely the bill of Mr. Sumner, to remove all doubts on the construction of the joint resolution explanatory of the Confiscation act, and to declare that such a resolution shall not be construed to create any other restriction on the forfeiture of the real estate of an offender under said act, than is created by the Constitution of the United States in the case of an attainder of treason.

The bill equalizing the pay of soldiers of the United States is under consideration.

Mr. Davis resumed his remarks on the amendment offered by him yesterday.

Mr. Davis proceeded at great length in denunciation of the course of Massachusetts since the formation of the Federal Government and made some satirical allusions to her Senators on the Senate floor at this time. He said that the Military Senator, Wilson, had attempted to bully and domineer over those who were on this floor.

Mr. Wilson called Mr. Davis to order. The Chair sustained the question of order.

Mr. Doolittle thought the whole tenor of the remarks of the Senator from Ky. was calculated to create a personal strife. He should either call the Senator from Ky. to to order or ask the Senate to dispense with the rule, to seat and listen to these personal attacks. They were not only out of order, but beneath the dignity of the Senate.

Mr. Davis then concluded his remarks.

Mr. Sumner offered amendments to the Constitution of the United States as a substitute to those reported by Mr. Trumbull, from the Judiciary Committee, a few days ago, and asked that they be made a special order for Monday next. Mr. Sumner's amendments are as follows:

1st. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the United States, or within the jurisdiction thereof, otherwise than in punishment for crime, and that Congress may make all laws necessary and proper to enforce the prohibition. 2. To strike out the third paragraph, second section, of the fourth article of the Constitution, except the words "excluding the Indians not taxed," so that the who e clause should read, "representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States of the Union according to their numbers, excluding Indians not taxed." 3. To strike out from the third paragraph, second section, of the fourth article of the Constitution, the words, "No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, and escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on the claim of parties to whom such service or labor may be due."

On motion of Mr. Hale, the Senate went into Executive session, and shortly afterwards adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House took up the Senate's joint resolution of thanks to Major General George Thomas and the officers and men under his command at the battle of Chickamauga.

Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, moved to include the names of Gen. W. S. Rosecrans.

Mr. Farnsworth thought that thanks to that officer ought to be provided for in the Senate resolution.

Mr. Garfield rapidly traced the military operations of Gen. Rosecrans at Bowling Green, Murfreesboro, and at other points, and said that at Chattanooga we had numbers inferior to the enemy, while at Chickamauga the rebels outnumbered us. He would honor Gen. Thomas, but Gen. Thomas would not desire to be honored at the expense of Gen Rosecrans. Gen. Thomas' name deserved to be written in letters of gold. Before he parted with Gen. Thomas, the latter said to him in the most solemn manner after the battle of Chickamauga: By all means, prevent the removal of Gen. Rosecrans from the command of the army. This man, said Mr. Garfield, you would burden with thanks at the expense of his superior officer.

Mr. Davis reported a resolution from the Committee on Elections in favor of Mr. Rice to the contested seat from Massachusetts.

The bill to establish a bureau for Freedmen's affairs was discussed.

Mr. Cox opposed the bureau for Freedmen's affairs.

The Senate resolution of thanks to General Thomas was taken up, when Mr. Garfield moved to add the name of Rosecrans. He eulogized the latter, and thought it would be unjust to pass by the principal in the fights. The resolution was referred to the Military Committee.

The House resumed the consideration of the Navy appropriation bill.

The consideration of the Senate's amendments of the Internal Revenue bill was resumed. The House, by a vote of ninty-four yeas to forty-three nays, tabled the motion to vote, by which the House disagreed to a sliding scale, on spirits. The House yesterday agreed to strike out the additional tax of twenty cents on adulterated spirits on hand for sale. The House disagreed to the Senate amendment providing a sliding scale on foreign spirits, and retained the additional tax of forty cents. With these exceptions all the other amendments of the Senate were agreed to. The House then asked the Senate for a Committee of Conference.

On motion of Mr. Fenton, of New York, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the Navy Appropriation bill.

Mr. Dawson, of Pa., made a speech in favor of the amendment, for paying seamen in gold, or its equivalent.

Mr. McBride, of Oregon, regarding the war as one for self-defence, made a strong Union speech.

The Committee then rose, and at half-past four House adjourned.

From Cumberland Gap—What Rebel Deserters Say.

CUMBERLAND GAP, Feb. 17.—Capt. J. R. Watkins, Provost Marshal at this post, says: The average number of deserters from Longstreet's army, who report to him, is five per day. They all complain of being hardly sick of the war. Their accounts corroborate. The officers generally consider themselves whipped, but thought that the North's finances were giving out. At times when the rebel officers are going the rounds, relieving guard, they find that whole lines of their pickets have deserted. The country is full of such, who are awaiting opportunities to give themselves up.

On Friday last, Longstreet's headquarters were at Morristown. His main force are at Strawberry Plains, under marching orders. They say that the reason why Longstreet did not attack our force, was want of confidence in his men.

Arrival of the Escaped Union Officers at Baltimore—Further Particulars of their Escape.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 17.—The escaped Union officers arrived here this morning, and leave for Washington this afternoon. The account of their escape is full of thrilling interest; but for prudential reasons, many of the particulars are withdrawn from publication at present. They were fifty-one days engaged in making a tunnel. Having managed to find access to the cellar, they commenced the work, relieving one another as opportunity afforded. Their instruments were case knives, pocket knives, chisels and files. Thrice they had to abandon their work and commence anew, on account of obstructions which they could not pass. They had hoped to have availed themselves of a culvert, but found it impracticable. After getting through the wall, they disposed of the excavated soil by moving it out in a spittoon, which they attached to a cord. This would be filled by the party at work in the tunnel, and pulled out into the cellar by their companions, who disposed of it by spreading it in shallow layers over the floor, and concealing it beneath straw. The work was necessarily very slow. So close was the atmosphere in the tunnel, that they could remain in it but a few moments at a time, and their candles would go out. At one time they got so near the bed of the street, that a hole about the size of a store pipe broke through, but fortunately this was not observed by the guard, and was of great service, admitting air, and enabling them to prosecute their work more rapidly. The tunnel when completed, was about 50 feet long and opened into a tobacco shed, beyond the line of guards. As soon as they found the way clear they emerged slowly in small squads of two or three, and sauntered off until they got clear of the guards, making their way towards the Williamsburg road, by the shortest route. The darkness favored them, and the fact that all the rebel soldiers whom they met were habited in the army coats of Uncle Sam, which they had stolen from the supplies sent to our prisoners by our government, was of great help to them; although they were attired in our army dress, and many had their haversacks, they found a national uniform a better disguise than if they had been provided with the genuine rebel uniforms. In order to elude their pursuers, whom they knew would soon be on their tracks, they scattered as much as possible. Many were their hardships and sufferings, and frequent their narrow escapes from rebel cavalry, the next morning were bushwacking in every direction for them. The joy which they experienced when they first caught sight of our troops sent out to help them and protect them from their pursuers, cannot be expressed. To the officers and men of the 11th Penna. cavalry, whom they first met, they express the most profound gratitude for their unbounded kindness, and also bear testimony to the gallantry with which their gallant fellows pursued the rebel cavalry, and rescued many of our way worn fugitives, who otherwise would have been re-captured. There is good reason to hope that many more will yet come in safe.

From San Francisco.

NEW YORK, February 17.—A dispatch from San Francisco says, that the Steamer Constitution which left on the 13th. for Panama, took 1,500,000 dollars for the United States Government.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—The bark Rogers arrived at this port to-day from Kanagawa, Japan, on the 17th ult.

The Palace for the Tycoon at Yeddo, was burned on Christmas day. On the next day the custom house was closed, the officers declaring themselves so grieved at the Tycoon's misfortune that they were wholly un