Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING.....FEB. 22, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Dedication of a new Church.

Our sister city of Allegheny bears much the same relation to Pittsburgh that Brooklyn does to New York. Brooklyn is an outgrowth of New York; so is Allegheny of Pittsburgh. Brooklyn is the home of thousands of New York business men: Allegheny is the home of many Pittsburgh merchants and manufacturers. The East river separates Brooklyn from New York; the Allegheny rolls between its namesake and Pittsburgh. Brooklyn is a city of churches; Allegheny is fast becoming such. We might continue the comparison, but this is enough for the present. It was of the last mentioned feature of resemblance that we were reminded yesterday morning, when the hour arrived for the commencement of the dedicatory services of a new church—the Fourth United Presbyterian, corner of Beaver street and North Common, Allegheny. This is the second new church, both of them costly and magnificent edifices, which has been erected and finished in Allegheny within the last two years.

A full description of the church which was dedicated yesterday has already been published in these columns, but for the information of those who did not see that description, we give again the more important particulars, with some additional facts:

The style of the edifice is plain gothic; windows and panels of pews and pulpit corresponding; also the plain white arch in rear of the pulpit. The entire cost of the building, finished, was $15,000—lot, $5,000; making a total of $20,000. We are pleased to learn that $8,000, the sum necessary to meet the last instalment due for the purchase of the lot and erection of the building, was subscribed by the members of the congregation at a meeting held on Friday evening, the 12th inst. The church may therefore be considered *free from debt*.

The material of the building proper is pressed brick; the pews and pulpit are of soft wood, stained in imitation of oak, the top being solid walnut. The windows are of stained glass, manufactured by Nelson & Co., of Pittsburgh, and are very beautiful. A marble-top table stands in front of the pulpit, and on each side of it is a handsomely carved reception chair. On the platform in rear of the pulpit is an equally handsome sofa. Just at the foot of the pulpit steps and to the left of the pulpit is a neat and comfortable arm-chair of walnut, placed there for the use of the venerable Dr. Rodgers, who is a member of the congregation. We noticed that he occupied it yesterday morning. The audience-room is heated by four Anderson stoves, placed in the basement, and is lighted by a single central gasalier. The building is two-story, the greater part of the lower story or basement being used as a lecture-room and by the Sabbath-school. The remainder constitutes the pastor's study.

Upon the floor of the audience-room there are one hundred and thirty pews, and in the gallery, which is over the vestibule, sixteen—in all one hundred and forty-six. These will seat comfortably seven hundred and thirty persons, averaging five persons to each pew. The aisle in front of the pulpit is wide, so are the aisles between the blocks of pews, and the actual capacity of the church, with the use of settees, may therefore be safely estimated at one thousand persons. The building is not a small one, as the reader will at once see—its exterior dimensions being ninety by sixty-three feet; interior of audience-room seventy-five by sixty-one feet; height of audience-room, twenty-eight feet. And yet, large as is this new church, all of the pews except fourteen have already been rented at prices ranging from $8 to $35 per annum.

The congregation, of which the Rev. Charles A. Dickey is the first regular pastor, was organized about four years ago by eighteen persons. For a time it worshiped in the chapel of the United Presbyterian Seminary, until, when Mr. Dickey became its pastor, its numbers had increased to sixty-four. It now embraces a membership of two hundred and fifty. The building of a church edifice was resolved upon about the same time the pastor was chosen, and eighteen months ago the basement was sufficiently finished to allow the meetings to be held there. The first services in the main audience room took place yesterday.

Of the three sermons preached during the day, and constituting the dedicatory services, it was our pleasure to hear only the first. It was preached by the pastor, to a crowded house, from the text found in the 16th chapter of Matthew and part of the 18th verse—"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." The delivery of the sermon was preceded by the reading of the 60th chapter of Isaiah and the singing of the 100th and part of the 24th Psalm. The sermon commenced with a graceful allusion to the enterprise and liberality which had reared so beautiful a temple for the worship of the Christian's God. Its points were—1st, What is the church of Christ? 2d, How God has cared for his church in all ages. 3d, Christ its foundation. 4th, The security of the church. The peroration consisted of an exhortation to the congregation to be diligent and earnest in the performance of all Christian duties. Prayer was offered by Rev. Robert Henry, of New York. After the singing of a part of the 122d Psalm, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. T. McClure, of Wheeling. In the afternoon this gentleman delivered a sermon to a full house, and in the evening Dr. Pressly preached to an equally large audience the concluding discourse of the series. The ordinance of the Lord's supper is to be administered next Sabbath.

We congratulate our friends upon the taste and liberality they have displayed in the erection of their house of worship, and cordially repeat the sentiments of the poet:

"Oh, long may it stand, in a goodly land,
The joy and the love and the light of the people."

Sales of Oil Territory—A Speculative Fever.

We have already alluded to the renewed activity in the purchase of oil lands along the Allegheny river, between Franklin and Oil City. The decrease in the production of the flowing wells has caused producers to turn their attention to new fields of operation; and the old pumping wells, which were at one time "paying institutions," but which had to be abandoned as non-paying when oil was forced to the surface at the rate of a thousand or more barrels per day, are now being bored deeper and rigged up for working. The mania for purchasing oil territory is seizing upon the people, and there is danger of a repetition of the wild speculations of a few years ago, when hundreds of our citizens "purchased," and when not a few of them were "sold."

The Oil City *Register*, in alluding to this subject, says that "the excitement is intense," and that "all the desirable oil territory from here to Franklin, and even below Franklin, is being quietly, though rapidly, picked up by parties experimenting in oil operations, and who have been interested in them from their commencement."

Among the recent sales reported are those of the Wilson and Shaffer farms, two miles below Oil City, both of which "brought fabulous prices." The Highland farm two miles above Franklin, has also been sold. In the immediate vicinity of this farm are the lands of the Pennsylvania Petroleum Company, upon which operations have already been commenced. One well has been sunk six hundred and fifty feet, and has given evidence of a flowing well, but it will be started by pumping. The two Hoelle farms, of about one hundred acres, lying adjacent to the company's lands, have recently been purchased as "oil territory," and many other minor tracts are changing hands rapidly. We hope these transactions may result profitably to both buyers and sellers, but there is always great danger, in times of intense speculative excitement, of over-sanguine persons getting their "fingers burnt."

First Ward Bounty Fund.

The citizens of this ward had another meeting on Friday evening, to hear the report of the Block Committees, as to the prospect of raising the necessary amount to relieve the ward of the draft. The amount subscribed, up to Friday, reached about thirteen thousand dollars, and less than two hundred persons had put down their names. This report seemed so favorably to the final success, that the meeting at once instructed their Committees to renew their efforts during Saturday and Monday.

If the six hundred and twenty-eight enrolled men of this ward expect to be relieved from the draft, they must call on the Committees and subscribe, and not good them, as has been done in some instances. The meeting adjourned to this (Monday) evening, at 7 o'clock, in the School House.

ALLEGED ESCAPE.—A colored man named Alfred Bay was arrested on Saturday, by officer Grubbs, of Allegheny, to answer a charge of robbery, preferred by a colored girl named Moore. He gave bail in $1,000, for a further hearing before Mayor Alexander to-day.

An Appeal to the People.

We direct special attention to the following important order by Gen. Brooks. Let every man read and act:

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE MONONGAHELA,
Pittsburgh, February 20, 1864.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

But nine days now remain in which Government bounties are to be paid for recruits to fill up the wasted ranks of the gallant regiments now facing the enemy from the seaboard to the Rio Grande. The work has gone on well for the past ten days, but still greater exertions are needed to save the reputation of the State, and avoid the draft otherwise inevitable.

By recent orders, all men enlisted by recruiting officers in this vicinity can be mustered into service by Capt. Moorhead, at the Girard House. Every citizen, non-commissioned officer and private is made a special recruiting officer, and will be paid the premiums of $15 and $25 for every recruit they may present and get mustered into service.

Officers of the regular army on recruiting service are authorized to enlist men for the regular service for three years, to be credited on the quota of the respective districts, with the usual bounties.

Here is work for the various classes, trades, professions, &c., who have heretofore responded so nobly to every appeal of the Government for aid, and who have demonstrated oft-times, and especially in the call that was made to work on the fortifications last summer, that nothing but the occasion is wanting to secure their every effort in the cause of patriotism. Let every man again lend a helping hand and the work will be done. By command of

MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS.

THEODORE READ, A. A. G.

A Serious Mistake Corrected.

MR. EDITOR: We find in your issue of February 18th, a communication containing the following: "At the same time we heard that the treasury of the 'Ladies Relief Society' in Pittsburgh was overflowing, and they had more than they knew how to appropriate." As the Society here referred to is doubtless the "Pittsburgh Association for the Relief of the Poor," justice to that Association demands that this assertion should be corrected. Ever since that Association was formed our citizens have generously responded to our appeals for aid. This, together with the fact that we resolved to "owe no man anything," but to pay our liabilities as incurred, or suspend operations, enabled us to close our books for last year. We have thus far paid all expenses this year, and hope to have enough in our treasury to sustain us through this winter. Although our contributions have been generous, our treasury has never been overflowing, nor have we yet had funds enough to enable us to relieve all the suffering and want that comes under our observation.

The wants of our poor are ready, for the absolute necessaries of life, viz. coal and food, have been so pressing and expensive, that we have confined our relief to these articles, including shoes. We have felt that there has been great necessity for giving out clothing, but have not felt warranted in doing so, until the present week—and even now our relief of this kind must be very limited, unless our treasury is much better filled than at present. We have already been made to feel that the announcement alluded to has been made to our disadvantage. One of our collectors was told by a gentleman, who had subscribed liberally, that he should not feel compelled to do so, as he had read in the daily papers that our treasury was overflowing. We make this statement, hoping that while our friends are willing to aid us in the relief of our poor, they will not withhold their contributions, pay his subscription, as it had been announced the appeal of the "Ladies' Relief Society" of Allegheny may be unnecessarily responded to, and asserting them that when we "have more than we know how to appropriate" here, we will gladly aid them in the work which they have so nobly sustained for years.

MRS. HANNAH DENNY, *Pres't.*

MRS. LEVI KNOX, *Secretary.*

The Public Roads.

An adjourned meeting of citizens interested in the improvement of the several incorporated roads leading from this city, was held on Saturday afternoon, at the Board of Trade rooms.

Mr. Mansfield Brown, chairman of the Committee appointed to procure legislative action, reported the draft of a proposed act requiring the several road companies to keep their thoroughfares in good repairs, under very severe penalties.

The report was accepted, and a discussion ensued upon the propriety of prosecuting the several derelict companies under present laws.

On motion, the names of Messrs. M'Clarran, Sutton and Dr. O'Brian were added to the Committee to prosecute the different companies under the present laws, until legislative action shall be obtained.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draw up a memorial to the Councils of the two cities, urging them to authorize the paving and improving of the streets to their city limits respectively.

A. J. Hagan, Alex. King, Wm. Phillips, John A. Sargeant and W. S. Jackson were appointed on said committee.

After instructing the Committee appointed to procure legislation, to act promptly and vigorously, the meeting adjourned.

Arrivals from Richmond.

Major J. P. Collins, of the 29th Indiana and Capt. Matthew Boyd, of the 73d Indiana, who were among the prisoners who recently escaped from Libby prison, at Richmond, arrived in this city on the Saturday midnight train from the East, and left Sunday night for their homes in Indiana. They received marked attention on all hands, during their stay in this city, and conversed freely in regard to their escape. They spoke in high terms of the skill and energy displayed by Major Harry White, in preparing for the escape, and expressed great regret that he did not succeed in regaining his liberty. The Major was very popular among the prisoners, and was one of the gayest and happiest of the "Yanks." It seems that he did not get out of the prison at all, so that he will not have to endure the mortification of a recapture. Major Collins and Captain Boyd go directly to Indianapolis, where they will become the guests of Governor Morton, and the people of Indianapolis generally. They are accompanied by Capt. T. Clark, of the 79th Illinois, and Lieuts. Williams and Reynolds, of the 73d Indiana volunteers, who are paroled prisoners from Richmond.

Fire on Oil Creek.

On Wednesday last a fire occurred at the Van Slyke well, on the Widow M'Clintock farm. The fire caught from a spark from the smoke-stack of the engine falling into a tank of oil. Owing to the recent bad state of the roads, some 1,200 barrels of oil had accumulated at the Van Slyke and Chase wells. This, together with two engines and all the machinery for pumping the two wells, as well as derricks and a number of empty barrels, were consumed. The total loss is about $12,000. The Van Slyke well belongs to Capt. Lyman Pray and Mr. C. M. Titus. The Chase well just adjoining, is owned by Messrs. Titus and J. J. Vandegrift. These wells were consumed in July last, when the loss was about $30,000.

The Tax on Petroleum.

Mr. Wm. A Shreve, chairman of the Committee appointed to represent the interests of the Venango oil region, before the Ways and Means Committee of Congress, relative to the tax on Petroleum, has arrived home from Washington, and states that, from all the information that he can gather, the Committee will not report a heavy tax, if indeed any, upon crude petroleum. Mr. Shreve remained in Washington for some time after the balance of the Committee left, for the purpose of ascertaining the feeling among the leading members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the above is the substance of his report.

Second Ward Bounty Fund.

The following additional sums have been paid to Thomas Steele, Esq., Treasurer of the Second ward, Pittsburgh, Bounty Fund:

J H Baldwin	$ 50	R P Bauman	$ 50
P Bauman	100	Geo Irwin	20
Jos Knox	50	Charles Carroll	50
Daniel Walker	100	M F Irwin	5
J M Dunbar	25	R T Grace	50
J M Fisher	25	Hon D Ritchie	50
A M Wallingford	100	Henry Critchlow	25
M H Marble	50	Wm Owens, Jr	25
George Wayman	50	L P Stone	50
Jacob Barnett	50	B E Gardner	50
W P Weyman	50	F H Miller	50
John Rabold	25	Am't previously rep'd	9,461
John Marshall	50		
J H Forner	25	Total	$10,061

RECRUITING IN FAYETTE COUNTY.—Lieut. J. B. Ramsey, of the 8th Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, arrived in this city on Saturday evening, with seventeen recruits, nearly all of whom were furnished by Jefferson township, Fayette county, being a sufficient number to clear that township of the draft. We understand that Messrs. Wm. Elliott, Wm. G. Patterson and Jacob Wolf, were mainly instrumental in procuring these men to fill up the quota of their township.

CLOTHS AND VESTINGS.—At only one dollar and upwards, at Pitcock's, opposite P. O.

BOUNTY FUNDS.

FOURTH WARD, ALLEGHENY.

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

George Albree	$ 50	F Lorich	$ 50
John J Boeser	50	John Campbell	50
J Donnelly	20	James Brown	50
George Jackson	20	C C Taylor	50
J Smith (add'l)	20	M A Patterson	50
F Lampton	50	C F Dilum	50
Jacob Meyer	50	Walter Bryant	50
L Masso	50	L Zathow	50
A Sanns	50	Adam Blachler	50
B Cassman	50	A Bich	50
P Schawet	50	O Liedey	50
George Robinson	50	C Fichter	50
F H Poindexter	50	Nicholas Roth	50
Hugh Forrester	50	W Jones (add'l)	50
Wm Bellstein	50	W Hartz	50
C W Schaffer	50	G Hartzelp	50
S Stewart	50	P Lang	50
Peter Kilar	50	G Schmied	50
Fred Vogelsang	50	O Paten	50
J S List	50	John Zaiwe	50
Peter Klar	50	V Gugert	50
Nicholas Lacher	50	Henry Mann	50
Jacob Altenbach	50	A Rosl add'l	50
L Weiner	50	August Rand	50
H Otte add'l	50	Peter Gill	50
Daniel Geipel	50	P Detzel	50
C D Renouf add'l	50	Peter Stock	50
Mike Grever do	50	Am't previously rep'd	17,270
Jacob Becker	50		
W Shoemaker add'l	50	Total	$18,820

The Block Committees will meet this (Monday) evening in the Hall over the Columbia Engine house, corner of Lacock and Anderson streets.

Every enrolled man is earnestly requested to come forward and pay his money to the Block Committees, or to the Treasurer at once, as there are but a few days left to fill the quota of the Ward. Let every man do his duty, and we will succeed in avoiding the draft.

By resolution of the meeting on Saturday evening the name of every enrolled man is to be published and the amount paid by each set opposite his name.

SECOND WARD, ALLEGHENY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS paid to W. A. Reed, Treasurer of the Second Ward (Allegheny) Bounty Fund, February 20th:

Thos Armstrong	$ 20	Hugh M'Elwee	$ 20
Jno Nichols	5	Michel Somerville	50
John Lamb	50	Nicholas Yeder	50
J Myers & Bro	100	James B M'Kee	20
Wm H Smith	30	Henry Gray	10
O L M'Intyre	20	James Best	10
Wallace Davis	20	Jacob Schafer	25
John Glass	20	J B Smith	10
H C Bahnsen	50	Simon Kerr	50
S H Geyer	50	Alex Gray	50
Jas M'Candless	100	J Gilfillit, add'l	20
Chas Kreutzer	10	Wm Anderson	30
Jas Milliken	20	Previously reported	1,770
Total			$2,267

Concert of "Ye Olden Time."

The concert given on Saturday evening, in the costumes of "ye olden time," for the benefit of the Subsistence Committee, was a great success—not only in a pecuniary point of view, but in every aspect in which success is desirable. The musical performances were excellent, the dresses were rich and unique, the audience was immense, and the spirit manifested on the occasion was of the most liberal and patriotic character. Where all acquitted themselves so well, it would be perhaps unjust to particularize, but we cannot refrain from noticing a few of the more striking features of the entertainment.

Mrs. Major John B. Butler performed upon the piano, and her execution was remarkably good "for one of her years." She is considerably over sixt—en, but she has not lost her skill in this respect. Mrs. Judge McCandless had arranged to play upon the harp, but was prevented by the non-arrival of the instrument. Miss Paige, formerly of the "Old Folks," but now of the Bowman Institute of this city, sang "Comin' through the Rye" as the only song that favorite air. She was rapturously encored, and Mr. Wm. B. Edwards sang "Lord Lovell" in admirable style, and brought down the house. "Auld Lang Syne," by the chorus, was excellent. The "Star Spangled Banner" was sung with thrilling effect. While it was being sung, Captain Edwards, a gallant officer who lost an arm in the battle of Gettysburg, and who is now attached to the Invalid Corps, held aloft the bullet-riddled flag of the veteran 63d Pennsylvania Volunteers, which added greatly to the patriotic spirit of the performance. The concert closed by singing that grand and sacred tunk, "Old Hundred," in which the audience joined.

Messrs. Walter P. Marshall and Charles C. Mellor deserve honorable mention for the admirable manner in which the entertainment was conducted.

The dresses, as we have already remarked, were elegant. Among others was a Quaker dress, made of silk imported from England two hundred years ago. Also, a wedding dress, one hundred and sixty years old; another, one hundred and ten years old, and several ranging from ninety to one hundred years. One of the gentlemen appeared in a court dress worn by the father of Anthony Beelen, deceased, while a foreign minister at Washington.

The stage was tastefully decorated with flags, and being literally crowded with ladies and gentlemen in curious costume, presented a novel and attractive appearance.

The Subsistence Committee, we understand, will realize about $1,000 from the concert, all of which will be shortly expended, as the number of troops passing through the city during the next ten days will be quite large. A request signed by a number of leading citizens, has already been made for a repetition of the entertainment, and we have no doubt the performers will all gladly accede to the request. We can conceive of no better method of sustaining that excellent local institution, the Subsistence Committee.

Movement of Troops.

The 7th Veteran Wisconsin Regiment, numbering 370 men, arrived in this city on Saturday night about 8 o'clock, on their way to rejoin their comrades of the *Iron Brigade* in the Army of the Potomac. This regiment passed through this place about six weeks ago on their way home, to enjoy the usual furlough allowed Veterans, before entering on their new term of service. They have added a large number of recruits to their ranks, but they will not be sent on to join the regiment till they are thoroughly drilled in the Subsistence Committee had everything prepared for them, they would tend to make them comfortable, and we have seldom seen men enjoy anything as these brave fellows did the nice warm supper prepared for them by the Ladies of the Committee.

After they were through their supper Col. W. W. Robinson, commanding the regiment, thanked the members of the Committee in an exceedingly neat speech, for the manner in which his men had been treated. He said "that was the third time that they had been encouraged and strengthened by the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee, and he would assure them their labors were fully appreciated by his men. He said they were in no other place treated as they were in this city, and that Pittsburgh was known throughout the whole State of Wisconsin, as the most patriotic city in the Union, and as a city where our brave soldiers are always sure of a warm welcome."

Before leaving the Hall the men gave three cheers for the Subsistence Committee, three for the Ladies of the Committee, three for the Gentlemen, three for Pennsylvania, three for Pittsburgh, and three and a tiger for "noble Gov. Curtin." Indeed, we think it was the most *cheerful* regiment we ever saw.

POSITIVELY THE LAST WEEK OF THE GREAT MILTONIAN TABLEAUX OF ELIZABETH LOST, AT MASONIC HALL.—Let all of our readers who have not yet seen this magnificent work of art at Masonic Hall, rally up this week, for it is positively the last chance, as it closes here on Saturday evening next. Thousands have visited it during the last three weeks and there are thousands more who should not fail to see it before it leaves, as it will probably be a long time before so rare a work of art will be in our midst again.

Exhibitions will be given every afternoon and every evening this week. The doors will be open in the afternoon at half past one o'clock, and in the evening at half past six. A word to the wise is sufficient.

THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE-MAN.—The popular actor, Mr. Neafie, has been engaged by Manager Henderson, and the successful drama of The Ticket-of-Leave-Man, which has been in rehearsal here for several days past, will be put upon the stage to-night, with Mr. Neafie as Robert Brierly. This piece, as those who are familiar with the drama know, is one of the most successful ever produced, and has had most extraordinary "runs" on both sides of the water. Manager Henderson promises us the piece in good style, with new scenery and effects, and we may predict for it a successful "run" here.

POLICE NEWS.—Mayor Lowry had some thirty cases before him yesterday—the result of Saturday night's operations. A number of these cases came from a notorious house kept by Mrs. Brawdy, and six of them were females. Most of them were discharged on payment of fines.

JOHN BRENNEN AND READY FOR SALE.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, made by Messrs. John Wier & Co., Merchant Tailors, No. 148 Federal street, Allegheny. The stock of clothing consists of the finest variety of goods, gentlemen's wear, and overcoats. The style of patterns is tasteful and fashionable. We would invite all of our readers to give the above gentlemen a call.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1864.

THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.

A circular is published in the papers here opposing the re-nomination of Mr. Lincoln, and urging the nomination of Mr. Chase for the succession to the Presidency. It is understood that it originates with an extensive organization here of political leaders from all parts of the country, which is believed to be in connection with the controlling minds of the old Republican and present Administration parties in New York and Boston. It produces a decided political sensation.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE.

The National Republican Committee meets here to-morrow, to fix a time and place for holding a National Convention. The effort begun some time ago, by certain friends of Mr. Lincoln, to dispense with a nominating convention altogether, and put him on the track by general consent, has been utterly abandoned. It was found to be wholly without strength in the committee. No fears are entertained now of any serious political questions arising, to create dissentions or excitement in the committee.

THE GOLD QUESTION IN THE HOUSE.

Speculations are at fault as to the shape in which the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell gold, will pass. Its passage in some shape is still thought pretty certain; but not less than five or six different plans for attaining the desired object, are urged by the financial doctors in the House. Fear is expressed that if it is passed in its original shape the consequent fall in gold would be accompanied by a fall in government securities, from an idea that government was thus parting with the basis of these securities. Boutwell's proposition, is that surplus gold should be used to pay interest on coupons of government bonds in advance of their maturity.

THE VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

The Virginia State Convention, now in session at Alexandria, has perfected its organization, appointed committees, etc., and on Tuesday is expected to get to work. There is no doubt that it will take prompt steps to declare Virginia a Free State, but the Convention will be less unanimous on the question how the rebels who may lay down their arms shall be treated. One proposition is to allow them the right of suffrage after five years.

THE ESCAPED PRISONERS.

Up to this time, forty-three of our officers, escaped from Libby prison, have arrived within our lines. Twenty-five have been recaptured by the rebels, and the remaining forty-one of those who escaped through the tunnel are yet to be accounted for.

LAND SALES.

The cash for land sales at Marquette, on the coast of Lake Superior, during the month of January, amounted to nearly seventeen thousand dollars. Twenty-nine thousand acres were taken up.

The tax sales and land sales under the Confiscation law in Alexandria, have thus far paid into the United States Treasury over one hundred thousand dollars.

THE WHISKY TAX.

The Whisky Conference Committee have not yet agreed, and will have another meeting to-morrow. It is believed that the Committee are likely to agree on a scale of taxation somewhat different from that of the Senate. Sixty cents now, sixty-five on the first of July, and seventy on the first of January next, are the rates most in favor thus far in their discussions.

SHAM FIGHT.

In the absence of the real article, the Army of the Potomac is indulging in sham fights. They had one the other day between two divisions, and are to have another soon between two corps.

GRAND BALL.

A grand ball is to be given in the second corps to-morrow evening. A number of ladies, wives of politicians, Governors and others, are here to go down to it to-morrow.

RETURNED.

Gen. Meade has returned to the army.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 21, 1864.

Rumors are rife here to-night. One report has it that two divisions of the enemy occupied Maysville yesterday, and afterwards retreated. Again it is said they have appeared upon the Tennessee river below London, and are blockading the steamer Chattanooga so that she can't get down. Another rumor declares that John Morgan has crossed the Tennessee river between Florence and Tuscumbia with ten thousand picked men, to make a raid into Middle Tennessee. I give these rumors for what they are worth; they indicate a feverish expectation of something.

The following intelligence from late Southern papers has, perhaps, not yet been published:

The Court House of Mobile, which cost two hundred thousand dollars, was recently consumed by fire.

Three companies of rebel cavalry were recently raised in West Tennessee for Forrest's command—one by Merriweather, one by J. M. Bradford, one by James Gardner, the latter once a member of the Tennessee Legislature.

Nearly all the rebel papers I have seen, copy with much exultation Fernando Wood's peace speech in Congress, and an article from the New York News, entitled "revolution ahead." Democratic demonstrations in favor of Geo. B. McClellan are well received.

Texas papers have long accounts of fighting with our troops on the Peninsula opposite Malagarda. In an attempt to land a force from the rebel gunboat J. W. Carr to attack Union troops who had thrown up fortifications on the peninsula, one of the rebel launches was overturned in a gale and twenty two drowned.

Hardee, lady and staff, are stopping at the Atlanta Hotel, in Atlanta.

In our immediate front, in the direction of Dalton, everything is quiet. The situation of the rebel army there is unknown. Very recent word from Atlanta indicates the fortifications there insignificant as yet, and the work on them progressing slowly. Orders have been issued, impressing all able-bodied negroes for miles around, to work on the fortifications; but the rebel authorities do not seem to have sufficient energy to execute such an order.

Lieut. Col. Arthur C. Duval, Inspector General on the Departmental Staff, has resigned on account of ill-health. He was one of the most able and useful staff officers in the United States army.

Lieut. Col. Spalding, of the 16th Michigan regiment, Provost Marshal of Nashville, has resigned, in order to accept the colonelcy of a Tennessee regiment.

The weather is growing mild and pleasant again.

Death of Mr. Boulogny.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Mr. Representative Boulogny, of Louisiana, died in Washington yesterday. He strongly refused to follow the example of his colleagues and other secession members in withdrawing from the House in the Thirty-Sixth Congress, and served the full term for which he was elected.

FROM LOUISVILLE.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 21, 1864.

The eve of a great Border Slave State Emancipation Convention in this city is marked by no unusual excitement. Three years ago the bare mention of such an affair would have shocked the conscience and disturbed the quiet of this community beyond peaceable endurance. This fact is only part of the overwhelming evidence accumulating daily, that the people of the Slave States, as well as the nation at large, are yielding rapidly to the inexorable logic of events. The theory of religious revivals, periods of great spiritual awakening is being most completely carried out in the almost miraculous conversion of the advocates of slavery to the acceptance of emancipation and free labor.

The daily papers here, and especially the *Journal*, have attempted to ignore the fact that such a convention was to be held. Not a word has been said about it in the *Journal* for some time, and it is supposed President is going to treat it with silent contempt. In this he is shrewd, for had he mentioned the meeting, or discussed its policy, the number of attendants and active friends would have been greatly multiplied. But the day of his power has departed.

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From present appearances we think copperhead papers will have no occasion for calling this a abolition convention or snarling at abolition preachers, for they are keeping at a respectful distance.

At a conference of most of those present today, the prevalent conviction was that immediate emancipation was the most practicable; that the Constitution of the United States should be amended so as to prohibit slavery in any of the States in the future; and that slaves as well as free blacks should be drafted into the military service.

Movements of Sherman's Forces—Skirmish with the Enemy, &c.

CAIRO, Feb. 20.—An officer from Big Black River reports that just before reaching Jackson, a skirmish ensued between a part of Gen. Sherman's forces and a body of four or five thousand rebels, in which the enemy were defeated and forty of them captured. Our army passed through Jackson in two columns, the enemy retreating across Pearl River as precipitately as their pontoons, two pieces of artillery and a number of prisoners fell into our hands. Our forces retired provisions of all kinds, and swept on.

Great dissatisfaction exists among the Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi regiments, and large number of deserters are coming into our lines.

Gen. Sherman left Meridian in ten days after leaving Vicksburg. A portion of Gen. Tuttle's division got behind, was cut off from the expedition, and returned to Vicksburg.

Gen. M'Arthur is in command of the district of Vicksburg. Gen. M'Pherson having accompanied Gen. Sherman with most of his corps.

A refugee from Mobile reports that the inhabitants of that city implore some relief. Fifteen thousand rebel troops are reported in and about the city. The Union sentiment prevailed to a considerable extent, which will be exploded as soon as protection is afforded. Nothing was known of the reported revolt at Fort Morgan.

The report is that Gen. Smith is to command a cavalry expedition into Mississippi it doubted. The infantry fight with Forrest, near Grenada, is not confirmed.

It is not believed that the guerrillas keep up a monkeytry fire upon steamers below Memphis.

Gen. Buckland, in command of Memphis, is gaining much favor there by his judicious administration of affairs.

Ice is running heavily in the Mississippi at Cairo, and for fifty miles below.

Latest from Europe.

The following additional news by the steamer Africa was received last night, dated Halifax, 20th February:

GREAT BRITAIN.—In the British House of Commons, Mr. Layear read the dispatches from Austria and Prussia stating that whenever arrangements might be made relative to Schleswig and Holstein, the great powers would be consulted.

The Earl of Derby, in the House of Lords, repudiated the idea of the responsibility of the English Government for the doings of the privateer Alabama. He trusted that the latter had been given up, and answer to the claim of the Federal Government as would put an end to such monstrous demands in the future. The debate on the Danish question, generally inspired confidence in the concert circular in allowing Holland, before entering on their new term of service. They have added a large number of recruits to their ranks, but they will not be sent on to join the regiment till they are thoroughly drilled in the Subsistence Committee had everything prepared for them, they would tend to make them comfortable, and we have seldom seen men enjoy anything as these brave fellows did the nice warm supper prepared for them by the Ladies of the Committee.

After they were through their supper Col. W. W. Robinson, commanding the regiment, thanked the members of the Committee in an exceedingly neat speech, for the manner in which his men had been treated. He said "that was the third time that they had been encouraged and strengthened by the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee, and he would assure them their labors were fully appreciated by his men. He said they were in no other place treated as they were in this city, and that Pittsburgh was known throughout the whole State of Wisconsin, as the most patriotic city in the Union, and as a city where our brave soldiers are always sure of a warm welcome."

Before leaving the Hall the men gave three cheers for the Subsistence Committee, three for the Ladies of the Committee, three for the Gentlemen, three for Pennsylvania, three for Pittsburgh, and three and a tiger for "noble Gov. Curtin." Indeed, we think it was the most *cheerful* regiment we ever saw.

POSITIVELY THE LAST WEEK OF THE GREAT MILTONIAN TABLEAUX OF ELIZABETH LOST, AT MASONIC HALL.—Let all of our readers who have not yet seen this magnificent work of art at Masonic Hall, rally up this week, for it is positively the last chance, as it closes here on Saturday evening next. Thousands have visited it during the last three weeks and there are thousands more who should not fail to see it before it leaves, as it will probably be a long time before so rare a work of art will be in our midst again.

Exhibitions will be given every afternoon and every evening this week. The doors will be open in the afternoon at half past one o'clock, and in the evening at half past six. A word to the wise is sufficient.

THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE-MAN.—The popular actor, Mr. Neafie, has been engaged by Manager Henderson, and the successful drama of The Ticket-of-Leave-Man, which has been in rehearsal here for several days past, will be put upon the stage to-night, with Mr. Neafie as Robert Brierly. This piece, as those who are familiar with the drama know, is one of the most successful ever produced, and has had most extraordinary "runs" on both sides of the water. Manager Henderson promises us the piece in good style, with new scenery and effects, and we may predict for it a successful "run" here.

POLICE NEWS.—Mayor Lowry had some thirty cases before him yesterday—the result of Saturday night's operations. A number of these cases came from a notorious house kept by Mrs. Brawdy, and six of them were females. Most of them were discharged on payment of fines.

JOHN BRENNEN AND READY FOR SALE.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, made by Messrs. John Wier & Co., Merchant Tailors, No. 148 Federal street, Allegheny. The stock of clothing consists of the finest variety of goods, gentlemen's wear, and overcoats. The style of patterns is tasteful and fashionable. We would invite all of our readers to give the above gentlemen a call.

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