Pittsburgh Gazette.

THURSDAY MORNING.....FEB. 25, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Steel Rails.

The last annual report of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company contains a paragraph which is exciting some attention, and which will doubtless interest many of our readers, particularly those engaged in the iron business. It is the passage referring to the rapid destruction of iron rails under the increasing pressure of heavier engines and augmented wear and tear, and the necessity of substituting steel rails, or steel-capped rails, for iron. The report states that the iron used in the manufacture of rails is far inferior to that used when the Pennsylvania railroad was formed, which article was of the best refined iron, made from selected ores. The inferior quality used instead of this cheapened the cost of the railways, and, therefore, was eagerly bought and used, as the extraordinary development of the railway system had vastly augmented the price of rails.

The Philadelphia *North American* thus discusses this subject:

So general did the adoption of this inferior quality of iron become, in the universal rage for railways, that it will now occasion no surprise to the public to learn, as it may from this report, that none of our rail mills have the kind of furnaces requisite for making the refined iron referred to, so that the return to that more durable sort of rail is not at present practicable. Yet the facts detailed in the report in reference to the deterioration of rails are sufficient to show that measures ought to be immediately adopted to prepare our rail mills to make this refined iron. At the termini and stations of the Pennsylvania Railroad it appears that in some places the iron rails do not last six months. This deterioration is undoubtedly accompanied by great risk to the passenger trains, and will account for the snapping of the iron in intensely cold weather, and the many accidents resulting from "snake heads," etc. It is, therefore, a question of vastly more consequence than merely as it affects the economy of railways, since the risk to human life is one to which no company can be justified in subjecting the public. It is preposterous to ask the public to feel satisfied with traversing rails which have to be renewed every six months.

But the subject appears to go further than merely to the restoration of the original quality of rail, as it seems that in Europe the investigations into the matter have led to the adoption of rails either made wholly of steel or capped with steel. And the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has already procured, by way of a beginning, one hundred and fifty tons of rails made wholly of cast steel, and it is also giving a trial to the steel-capped rails. Here in the beginning of a revolution which is destined to do more to improve railways and railway traveling than any other of recent date. Although vastly expensive at first, it will do very much toward reducing the cost of repairs to roads, and thereby conduce to their general economy. There can be little doubt that, with a better rail in use, the running time of trains can be reduced by the abolition of the delays caused by the continual repairs. Cars will also run with a great deal more smoothness over the steel rail than over the irregular and jagged surfaces of the common iron rail, because the rail heads will wear away less and fit together better.

The report speaks of the probable necessity of the railroad company erecting works to make the quality of rail desired; but in the case of the money market, when capital is superabundant, and seeking investment in all directions, there ought not to be any backwardness in the owners of our rail mills making the desired additions to their works. It is evident that for all the rails of a superior quality they may be able to make there will be a good market, as our railroad companies are prosperous, and are able to make substantial improvements.

We urge this matter upon the attention of our people now, because we are at the beginning of the movement—and it is important that Pennsylvania, as the headquarters of the American trade, and as the leading railway State and the largest producing one, should early engage in the manufacture of the superior steel for which there must soon spring up a great demand. Durable rails are the great want of the time. Our railway system has long been a subject of censure on account of the innumerable accidents which occur, and here is an avenue open whereby most railroads will be largely insured against such accidents.

A Series of Presentations.

Last evening a large concourse of the citizens of the First Ward, Allegheny city, assembled at Washington Hall, Rebecca street, to witness the presentation of a magnificent flag to Knap's Pennsylvania Battery. Quite a number of ladies graced the occasion with their presence. Previous to the presentation of the flag, Mr J. H. Robinson, a member of the Battery, (at present upon detached service in the Department of the Monongahela) arose, and in the name of the Battery, presented to S. Riddle, Esq., a splendid set of silver ware, as a token of their appreciation of the many kindnesses he has shown them. Mr. Riddle was completely taken by surprise and expressed his thanks in a feeling manner. A handsome cane was also presented by the Battery to Mr. John Siddons, which was received by the recipient with evident emotion.

The flag (which has already been described in our columns) was next presented by Capt. Charles Knap, the late commander of the Battery, and was received by Capt. James D. M'Gill, the present commander. The speeches were brief but emphatic, and to the point. A beautiful streamer, which had been sent by an anonymous hand, with the motto, "God and Liberty," inscribed upon it in letters of gold, was suitably acknowledged by the Captain, and placed upon the flag-staff.

At this point, S. P. Shirer, Esq., wrote, and in a humorous speech presented to the Battery a handsome bugle, the gift of the citizens of the First ward. Mr. Robert Kelley, the bugler of the Battery, favored the company with the various "calls" upon the instrument, after which, Mr. S. Riddle stepped forward and presented to Capt. M'Gill, in behalf of a few friends, a trusty sword, which was duly acknowledged by the recipient, who concluded with the production of a banjo and tamborine, which were presented to two mischievous-looking "contrabands," servants of the officers. The gift was from Mr. Siddons.

A national band was present, and enlivened the occasion with some soul-stirring music. A Glee Club, led by Sergt. Volk, sang several patriotic songs, which were rendered in artistic style, and were highly appianded by the company. The meeting throughout was spirited and enthusiastic, and proved to the veterans of the Battery that their friends and relatives in the First Ward appreciate the services they are rendering to their country in this the hour of need. The Battery will leave for the seat of war this afternoon, and will take with them the kindest wishes of our citizens.

ORDERED AT THE CATHEDRAL.—We would again remind our readers of the grand oratorio to be given at the Cathedral this evening, by the choir, under the direction of Prof. Wamelink. The proceeds are for the benefit of the poor, and the entertainment is given under the supervision of the ladies of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The subject is a most commendable one, and should meet with a hearty response from a humane and generous public.

VOLUNTEERING.—The various recruiting offices in the two cities were very busily engaged yesterday in receiving new recruits for the army. An unusual number of men presented themselves, and were "grafted into the army." As the first of March is rapidly approaching, it behooves all those contemplating entering the service to do so at once, and thereby receive the United States bounty, the payment of which ceases at that time.

THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE-MAN.—This new drama drew another large audience to the theatre last evening, and the programme was well received. The piece, although not possessing a high order of dramatic merit, is nevertheless pleasing and interesting, and is gotten up in good style. The scenery is quite attractive, and on the whole the performance is well worth visiting.

THREE CHILDREN AT A BIRTH.—Mrs. Trimble, wife of James Trimble, of Indiana county, recently gave birth to three female children, the combined weight of which was twenty-six pounds. They are doing well, and are all unusually healthy.

DIVIDEND OF THIRD MONONGAHELA BONDS. The Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company, last evening, declared a dividend of ... per cent. on their third mortgage bonds, payable April 1st, for 1853, and ...

Bounty Funds.

FOURTH WARD, ALLEGHENY

The following sums have been paid to J. C. McPherson, treasurer of the Fourth Ward, Allegheny city, Bounty Fund:

Alex Young	$ 20	W M Stewart	20
Otto Gasser	40	J S Lare	40
Andrew Copeland	40	John Dean	500
John Dunberger	20	S W Scott	500
Geo' Dunberger	20	J D Baldwin & Co	50
Mrs Steiner	5	J S Slagle (addl)	15
Henry Aefort	20	S Kaufman do	50
M Mettzla	40	W H Robinson	50
F Paulin	5	John Morrison	15
R Martin	4	C Martis (addl)	40
Christ Bentz (addl)	10	T D Davis	50
Robt Kingam	20	Mark Kile	40
Jos Montooth	35	Fred Riddle	40
C Haseman	20	Fred Ley	50
G M Blackstock	40	P C Walter	20
W F Blackstock	40	Daniel Blair	20
Gregor Lyale	20	Fred Seedekum	10
S W Barker	20	M Hemelhorn	2
H McClure (addl)	10	John Schstrich	10
Jas Mahaffey (addl)	10	Leonard Lutz	15
Jas Carson	5	Wm Forgess	40
D Bolley	5	Chas Whistle	15
Wm Hartje (addl)	15	M Zobell	10
Rh'art Kress	10	C Feister (addl)	7
J B Brunot	500	J C Senbole	3
Wm Binskie	10	Jacob Gross	5
M Riden (addl)	10	G L Beppert	40
B Sutton do	50	Geo Werth	10
W Smith do	50	B Carson (addl)	10
W Yarams do	10	Chas Laffler	40
J B Oehlesbleger	5	Previously reported	16,756
C Roller	40		
J J East	50	Total	$19,669

SECOND WARD, PITTSBURGH.

The following additional sums have been paid to Thomas Steel, Esq, Treasurer of the Second Ward Bounty Fund:

E H Patterson	$ 25	Wm Davis	50
Benj Bakewell	100	John E Davis	50
J J Starr	50	Matthew McBride	5
Geo Peebles	50	James Vick	25
Geo D Bruce	50	J W M'Farland	10
Jacob Devin	50	John Hell	25
Wm Davis	30	M J Henderson	25
Thos Smith	5	John Heimer	10
Wm Cropp	5	O Walden	10
F J Loudon	25	Fred C Basing	25
Geo Stephenson	5	A F Chatona	50
John Bell	25	Jno Beddell	25
Jas Bolder	5	J C McGranahan	25
Wm Manley	5	Joe S Fisch	50
Sam'l Kennard	50	Venter Derr	25
Samuel Mellor	25	John F Patterson	50
Wm S M'Dowell	25	J T Colvin	25
Robt M'Cutcheon	25	C B Scully	20
Edward Kennedy	10	Previously rep	10,860
Stephen Cairns	25		
George Barson	40	Total	$11,950
John Lafferty	5		

Meeting of the Citizens of the Eighth Ward.

A meeting of the citizens of the Eighth Ward was held at the school house on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of taking action towards securing a bounty fund for volunteers. The meeting was organized by calling Mr. John Allen to the chair, and appointing Mr. James B. Dodge as Secretary.

On motion it was

Resolved, That Committees be appointed to solicit subscriptions to form a bounty fund, one-half of said fund to be paid out as fast as collected to volunteers to be credited to the ward, and the balance be distributed among the families of those drafted who have subscribed to the fund, in proportion to the amount subscribed.

John J. Stoer, corner of Gibbon and Magee streets, was appointed treasurer.

The following Block Committees were appointed:

1. Pennsylvania avenue, Mittenberger, Bluff and Van Baam streets—Henry Myers, Thos. Neely, Michael Hoch.
2. Pennsylvania avenue, Bluff, Van Baam and Marion streets—Alexander M'Donald, John Kaercher and John Fox.
3. Pennsylvania avenue, Marion, Bluff and Pride streets—Wm. Griffin, George W. Dithenridge and O. B. Jones.
4. Pennsylvania avenue, Pride, Bluff and Stevenson streets—David Hutchinson, Jacob Keebler and C. H. Bierman.
5. Pennsylvania avenue, Stevenson, Gibbon and Magee streets—John J. Stoer, John Hansel and G. Wolfe.
6. Gibbon, Bluff, Magee and Stevenson streets—H. S. White, John L. Hamilton and C. W. Smith.
7. Pennsylvania, avenue, Magee, Bluff and Chesnut streets—James B. Dodge, Wm. H. Wagstaff and Hall Patterson.
8. Pennsylvania avenue, Chesnut, Linden and Boyd Streets—John A. Sergeant, John M. Killen and John M'Claren.
9. Linden, Chesnut, Bluff and Ward line—R. Coward, Jacob Miller and James Ewing.
10. Second street—Thomas Reese, Phillip James and Rowland Jones.

Adjourned to meet on Friday evening at half past seven o'clock, at the same place.

Recruits Enlisted

By James C. Sproul, United States Recruiting Agent, Fourth street, on February 24th:

Name.	Sub-Dist. or Vol.	Enrolled
Pierce Jos.	N Fayette, 22d	Not enrolled
Kennedy Daniel	Scott tp, do	do do
Hein Edward	Lawrence'ville do	do do
Grady John	do do	do do
Kauf Jacob	L St Clair tp, do	L St Clair tp
Marsala John	Delaware co, 7th	Not enrolled
Shook John	Lawrence'ville 22d	do
Welsh Alex	do do	do do
Lewellen Thos	N Fayette tp, do	S Birmingham
Jardins John	do do	North Fayette
McVade R	Penn tp, do	Not enrolled
Oliver R. F.	Delaware co, 7th	Elizabeth tp, 22d
Montgomery J E	do do	do do
Graham J. R	do do	Not enrolled
Dougherty John	do do	Monongah'a city
Kelso John M.	Scott tp, 22d	Not enrolled
Herb W. E.	do do	do do
Jenkins Harvey	Delaware co, 7th	Elizabeth tp, 22d
Simmons Jacob	do do	do do
Simmons T. J.	do do	Carrol tp, 24th
Holliday M	do do	Not enrolled
Yeiter David	Burrill tp, 21st	do do
Brackenridge S.		1st Ward, Pitts
Bigenstaff T.	Patton tp, 22	Peebles tp, 22d
Fowkes G. W.	Ohio tp, 22d	Not enrolled
Burket G. Wm.	7th Ward, Pitts	Birmingham 22d
Holmes S.	Versailles tp, 22d	Not enrolled
Reed Crawford	Delaware tp, 7th	Reserve tp, 22d

REJECTS REJECTED

Simon Shaon, printer, aged 22, born in Armstrong county, Pa.; disability.

John S. Hughes laborer, aged 61, born in Armstrong county, Pa.; disability.

Abraham J. Weaver, saddler, aged 26, born in Jefferson county, Pa.; disability.

Wm. Reichel, carpenter, aged 36, born in Germany; disability.

George Forsythe, miner, aged 28, born in Scotland; disability.

Look After the "Dodgers."

A great many men who were conscripted under the first draft, failed to report, and every one of these delinquents stands charged to the sub-district to which he belonged. In other words, the sub-districts now have to put a man into the field for every one who "dodged" the first draft. Many of these have since returned, while the whereabouts of others is well known to many of their acquaintances. Hence it may be important to those who are endeavoring to fill their quotas, to know that if they give such information to the respective Provost Marshals, as shall secure the arrest of these absentees, it will reduce their quota just so much, and will also result in the saving of the local bounty. All that the Provost Marshals require is the necessary information, and the person giving it need not be known, and will not be put to any trouble or expense in the matter. This is a very important suggestion, and should be promptly acted upon. It is a matter of simple justice to the enrolled men themselves, that these "dodgers" should be looked after; and it is the duty as well as the interest of every man having knowledge of their whereabouts, to communicate the fact to the Provost Marshal of the district.

Interfering with an Officer.

A farmer named Nixon, residing near Bakerstown, yesterday made information before Mayor Lowry against an Israelite, charging him with larceny. Mr. Nixon had some sheep skins for sale, for which he asked a dollar and a half a pair. Two or three men desired to purchase, but alleged that the price was exorbitant, and offered to sell two skins to Nixon for three dollars. The farmer agreed to take them, and paid the money, but the owner refused to deliver the skins or give up the money. Hence the information. Officer Williton was about serving a warrant upon the man, when a friend of his, named Burkhard, interfered and abused the officer by heaping opprobious epithets upon him. The party for whom the warrant was intended escaped, but Burkhard was arrested, and the Mayor inflicted a fine of five dollars and costs upon him, which he paid, very reluctantly. He has employed a lawyer, and threatens to have the case brought before Court upon a writ of certiorari.

HEADQ'RS DEPART'T OF THE MONONGAHELA, Pittsburgh, Feb, 24, 1864.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Numerous complaints have been brought to these Headquarters in regard to the unfaithful manner in which the enlisting business is done in this city and Allegheny, particularly in regard to the premium paid on each recruit or veteran mustered into the service. It is the business of the agents of the Government, the recruiting and mustering officers, I'd have made or make out all papers connected with the enlistment of each recruit. No fees can be charged. Hence, as was announced in the Special Orders from these Headquarters on the 20th inst., every citizen or enlisted man who presents, and gets mustered in, a recruit or veteran, is alone entitled to $15 or $25.

Now, if any person has proof of a disregard of these instructions, and is not paid the premium to which he is justly entitled, let him bring that proof to these Headquarters, so that a court martial or military commission may decide on the merits of the case.

By command of
MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS.

THEODORE READ, A. A. G.

Second Ward, Allegheny.

The subscribers to the bounty fund of this ward, who have not yet paid, are *urgently* requested to attend the meeting this evening, and pay over their subscriptions. *Money* is now the only thing wanted to clear the ward of the draft. The gentlemen composing the Committee are active and energetic, and assure us that they can get the *men* if the citizens will only furnish the *money*. Some have not yet subscribed a dollar, and if they wish to "save their credit" they had better attend the meeting to-night and show their hands. Others are doing much to help them, and they should show some disposition to help themselves.

SIXTH WARD BOUNTY FUND MEETING.—According to notice an an adjourned meeting of citizens of the Sixth Ward was held at the School House on Wednesday evening, (Jacob H. Walter, Esq., President, and J. P. Marthens, Secretary) to hear a report from the Executive Committee, appointed to superintend the raising of a bounty fund and the enlistment of volunteers to fill the quota of the Ward.

The Committee reported the amount of money paid to the Treasurer to be over $5,000, and also from indications that a sufficient sum would be raised to free the Ward from the draft.

On motion it was resolved that a recruiting office be opened on this (Thursday) morning, in a convenient locality.

Subscribers to the fund were earnestly requested to pay the amount of their subscriptions, without delay, to the Treasurer, Mr. A. Burns, at the office of Alderman Butler.

Additional subscriptions to the amount of $2,000 were made, increasing the total to $20,000, in round numbers.

Meetings will be held at the School house every evening until the necessary amount is raised.

PATRIOTIC.—Manager Henderson, we understand, intends giving an afternoon exhibition, on Saturday next, for the benefit of the Subsistence Committee, when the new drama of "The Ticket-of-Leave Man" will be produced. The entire proceeds will be handed over to the Committee, and as they are in need of funds at present, it is to be hoped that the house will be full. The action of the worthy Manager, in this behalf, is certainly praiseworthy, and will be duly appreciated by the public.

THE BRICKLAYERS had another meeting this evening, at Allegheny Hall. A general attendance is requested.

SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE at auction this (Thursday) morning, at No. 196 Third street, between Grant and Ross.

LADIES' BALMORAL BOOTS, of superior manufacture, and of the finest quality, at M'Clelland's Auction House, 85 Fifth street.

ATLANTIC, Godey, Continental, Peterson's Lady's Friend, Ballou and Arthur for March, at Pittock's, opposite the Postoffice.

FREE TRAPPER'S PAIS, Blacksmith of Antwerp, Charlotte Temple, and other late Dime books, at Pittock's, opposite the Postoffice.

ALBUMS—Call and examine the cheap and elegant stock at Pittock's, opposite the Postoffice.

MEN'S CALF BOOTS and Balmorals, at M'Clelland's Auction House, 85 Fifth street.

PRINTS, Muslins and Checks, at M'Clelland's, 85 Fifth street.

SOLDIERS' POCKET ALBUMS, all styles, at Pittock's, opposite the Postoffice.

POCKET BOOKS at Pittock's, opposite the Postoffice.

DIARIES for 1864 at Pittock's, opposite the Postoffice.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

Eminent Opinions of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine.

We prefer them for family use.—*Tribune.*
They are the favorites for families.—*Times.*
They have no rival.—*Scientific American.*
Works better than the hand.—*Herald.*
An almost perfect instrument.—*Evening Post.*
Will give on tire satisfaction.—*Observer.*
The best ever invented.—*Christian Enquirer.*
Preferable to any others.—*Examiner.*
Surpasses all others.—*Ladies' Repository.*
Beyond all question the machine.—*Life Illustrated.*
We entirely prefer them.—*Mothers' Journal.*
Are pre-eminently superior.—*Ladies' Visitor.*
There is but one Sewing Machine, and that is Wheeler & Wilson's.—*Judge Wray, of the American Institute.*
We most unhesitatingly recommend the Wheeler & Wilson as the best family machine now in use.—*United Presbyterian.*
These are a few among the thousand. Call at the salesroom and examine for yourselves.
fe25:3t&1tw.

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

ATTENTION COMPANY!—Volunteers, who expect to retain their health unimpaired during the campaign, must see to it themselves, do not trust to the Army Surgeons; supply your selves with HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT. Every English Soldier's Knapsack contains them.

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.

CHRONIC SORE THROAT.—A form of Bronchitis, the approach of which is often so insidious as scarcely to attract notice—as increase of mucus, and a sense of weariseomess and loss of power in the throat, after public speaking or singing. These incipient symptoms are allayed by using Brown's Bronchial Troches, which are sold by all Druggists.

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

LAWRENCEVILLE.—The citizens of Lawrenceville, (especially enrolled men) are notified that a meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, Feb. 24th, at Robinson's Hall, to hear the report of the Committee, what has been done, and what is preparing to be done to clear the Borough of the draft.

By order of Committee
W. JARDIN, Chairman *pro tem.*
JONATHON LONGSTAFF, Secretary.

JUST RECEIVED AND READY FOR SALE.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, lately received by Messrs. John Wier & Co., Merchant Tailors, No. 148 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.

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 a call before purchasing elsewhere. SAMUEL GRAHAM & Co., Merchant Tailors, 54 Market street.

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.

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

RIVER INTELLIGENCE.

The weather continues warm and cloudy, with indications favorable for rain. The river was about stationary at this point yesterday, with a little over four feet in the channel by the pier marks last evening. The ice in the Allegheny river gave way some time during Tuesday night, and we understand that it is open between here and the Soda Works, a distance of twenty-miles. Quite a number of barges and flats were carried off down the river, and some of them will doubtless be entirely destroyed, while others would no doubt be picked up and saved.

Business at the wharf is very active, as our steamboatmen do not seem disposed to do anything until the river is again in navigable condition. Several steamers are already partially loaded, and some of course will be ready to leave soon after the resumption of navigation.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1864.

EDITORS GAZETTE: The subject of harbor defense is again being agitated. All the projects suggested to conduce to our safety have been found unequal to the emergency by the wiseacres having them under consideration; and so, a few days ago, a commission, appointed by the Navy Department, accompanied by other artillerists and some of our city official dignitaries, took passage in a steamer on a "tour of inspection," as they called it. Beyond landing at a few rural localities in the vicinity, and astonishing the natives thereof, and enjoying themselves highly with a champagne dinner provided at the public expense, I can hear of nothing the Commission has accomplished.

That immediate measures should be taken to put the city in a state of defense no one doubts. The almost successful expedition into Portland harbor by the rebels some time since, abundantly proves this. But efforts are made in the wrong direction. The entrance from the south, via Sandy Hook, is effectually guarded. Fortifications are needed at the other entrance, at Hell Gate, a point naturally susceptible of being placed in a state of perfect defense. The idea of placing more forts in the lower bay is simply ridiculous. The three forts at the narrows, properly manned, and two or three pieces of hardware, similar to that recently turned out at Pittsburgh, in position, and the southern entrance would be secure against the combined navies of the world.

The first blood of the war in Europe has occasioned the most intense excitement here. The news was none the less interesting on account of its contradictory character, but rather the more so, if possible. Our German friends, of course, are jubilant. A perfect cataract of lager flows, and the deep guttural voice, and song of triumph are heard long after midnight. New Yorkers cared but little for the result of this, the first engagement, but rather hoped the success might lie with the Danes, in order, the more effectually to protract the struggle, and distract the attention of European powers from our affairs. A lively hope is cherished on the part of some adventurers that England will become entangled, who will do their utmost to fit out German privateers to prey upon old "neutrality's" commerce. The announcement that the Danish war vessels are on the lookout for the steamship Teutonia, which sailed from this port a week ago for Hamburg, has caused much solicitude among the German population who had friends on board. She carried but little specie, however, the desire to obtain which it is thought, constitutes the main reason of the Danish watchfulness. Owing to the superior naval power of the Danes, I hear it mentioned that it is not unlikely that the Bremen and Hamburg lines will be temporarily withdrawn.

The man who would counterfeit the United States fractional currency, must occupy at least a secondary position in the scale of humdeconcy, but he who willfully forges confederate scrip, must not be, as Parson Brownlow says, "worth hall-room." Captures have recently been made by the police of persons guilty of both the above-named offences. A large haul of all the necessary implements, and some of the counterfeited trash was obtained from a log, which had been nicely cut and carved out to receive them, and which itself had been sunk in the East River.

The arrangements for celebrating the birthday of Washington on Monday, are completed, and the day will be observed as any other holiday, for the first time, though, it is to be hoped, not for the last. Salutes will be fired, bells rung, and bonfires kindled. In the evening a splendid display of fireworks will take place. One of the "pieces" advertised for the City Hall Park, is "Washington Crossing the Delaware," costing the city the sum of one thousand dollars, or one-fifth of the entire appropriation for the public observance of the occasion.

When will this probably antipathy to color cease? The colored cooks of the regiments located at Ricker's Island, in Long Island Sound, have been denied the privilege of riding on the steamboats running to that locality, or else made to ride outside, with the thermometer at zero. Two thousand of the colored soldiers quartered there were frozen to death, the result of negligence to supply them with blankets at fora hog! But then they are only niggers!

A remonstrance is being actively circulated against the proposed division by Congress of the Southern District of New York. The paper has been signed by many prominent legal firms of the city. What the object of these gentlemen may be is not known, but it is certain that the project of dividing the district was started at the express request of the judges, because the work to be done was more than three men ought to do, and no men are in a better position to know than these lawyers. The proceedings are a puzzle to those not conversant with Blackstone.

Is the Alabama at Alnoy, or not? It is really laughable to see the efforts of local editors and reporters to prove that it is an impossibility for her to get there from Singapore in a certain time. One morning journal says that headquarters at Washington have no official notification of her arrival at Amoy, and that therefore settles the question! The *Herald* seems to think that if the Octogenarians at Washington, as it terms them, attempt a solution of the question, that they will succeed in befogging and muddying it so that the truth never will come.

WAVERLEY.

MARRIED:

COX—MESSICK.—On Tuesday evening, Feb. 23d, at the residence of the bride's sister, by the Rev. Dr. Scott, Mr. ENOCH COX, of Knap's Battery, and Miss SUSANNAH MESSICK, both of this vicinity. No cards.

MURPHY—WILSON.—At the residence of the bride's father, on Tuesday evening, February 23d, by Rev. J. D. Carter, assisted by Rev. Isaac Allen, Mr. H. B. MURPHY, of Allegheny City, to Miss VIOLET WILSON, of West Manchester, Pa. No cards.

DIED:

SKIN.—On Wednesday morning, Feb. 24th, at 9½ o'clock, SUSAN BAYARD SKIN, in the 68th year of her age.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on FRIDAY AFTERNOON, at 2 o'clock, from the residence of her son-in law, C. H. Love, No. 44 Second street.

RAMSEY.—On Tuesday morning, 23d inst., at 1 o'clock, JOHN RAMSEY, Sr., in the 81th year of his age.

The funeral will take place from his late residence in Union township, on THURSDAY, 25th inst., at two o'clock. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

STEAMBOATS.

FOR LOUISVILLE, EVANSVILLE and CAIRO.—ON FRIDAY, the 26th instant, at four o'clock P. M., the new and splendid passenger steamer JAMES R. GILMORE, Captain ..., will leave as announced above. For freight or passage apply on board or to
JAS. COLLINS,
JOHN FLACK, Agents.

FOR NASHVILLE.—The fine steamer GOLDEN ERA, Capt. ... Bryan, C. A. Clendenna, Clerk, will leave as above on THIS DAY, Without... If the tow permits. For freight or passage apply on board or to
J. D. COLLINGWOOD,
JOHN FLACK, Agents.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

WM. E. ROBINSON. GEO. F. ROBINSON. WM. REA. W. HENRY ROBINSON.
ROBINSON, REA & CO., (successors to ROBINSON, MEYER & HILLEAS,) WASHINGTON WORKS, FOUNDERS & MACHINISTS, Pittsburgh. Manufacturers of BOAT AND STATIONERY STEAM ENGINES, BLAST ENGINES, MILL MACHINERY, GEARING, SHAFTING, CASTINGS, of all descriptions; OIL TANKS & STILLS, BOILER AND SHEET IRON WORK.
Agents for GIFFARD'S PATENT INJECTOR, FOR FEEDING BOILERS.

JOHN COCHRAN & BRO., Manufacturers of IRON RAILING, IRON VAULTS AND VAULT DOORS, WINDOW SHUTTERS, WINDOW GUARDS, &c., Nos. 21 SECOND and 66 THIRD STREET, bet. Wood and Market.
Have on hand a variety of new Patterns, fancy and plain, suitable for all purposes.
Particular attention paid to enclosing Graves Lots. Jobbing done at short notice. ap8

TO CONSUMPTIVES.—The Rev. E. A. WILSON'S remedy for the cure of CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, COLDS COUGHS and all Throat and Lung Affections, together with a pamphlet giving the prescription and a short history of his case, can be obtained of
JOSEPH FLEMING, Druggist,
Corner Market street and the Diamond.
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SMOKED SALMON.—Just received, a fresh smoked Sea Salmon; also, a lot of prime Grand Bank Codfish, for sale at the Family Grocery Store of
JOHN A. RENSHAW,
fe17 Corner Liberty and Ward streets.

15 TONS SHORTS; 12 TONS SECONDS, 8 TONS MIDDLINGS, on the landing and for sale this morning by
KNOX & MAYER, 102 Liberty street.

10 TONS MIDDLINGS and 10 TONS BRAN, on the landing, per steamer Gilmore, and for sale by the barrel by
KNOX & MAYER,
fe18 No. 102 Liberty street.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1864.

PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.

The Pacific railroad bill, just drafted by Senator Sherman, changes the value of shares from one thousand to one hundred dollars each, and authorizes the issue of one million of them, of which a director must own fifty. The Company is authorized to appropriate any public lands on route containing any coal or iron, and may obtain title to them at the same rate as for agricultural lands, and also to locate beyond a limit not exceeding twenty miles distant, of five sections on each side of the road, and in case any continuous tract of lands hereby donated shall be found unfit for agricultural use. The time for the completion of the first one hundred miles is extended one year, and the annual construction required of the Central Pacific Company to California is reduced from fifty to twenty-five miles. Only half the compensation for services to the Government shall be applied to the payment of bonds. The curves and grades must not exceed the maximum of other roads in successful operation. The clause requiring American iron to be used is repealed, and the company is allowed to import iron, free of duty, for the first one hundred miles.

Four times, instead of treble the ordinary amount of aid in the mountain section is granted. The clause reserving twenty-five per cent. of the bonds is stricken out. The right is guaranteed to make the mortgage equal to one-half of the Government bonds not subject to a Government lien.

TEN CONSULATES IN CANADA RECOMMENDED.

Secretary Seward, in a communication addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, endorses the recommendation from the Secretary of the Treasury and Commissioner of Customs, for the establishment of ten Consulates in Canada, with salaries of fifteen hundred dollars each, to protect the revenue and prevent the alleged heavy operations in smuggling. The Secretary deems the present Consular agency system inefficient, the agents being engaged in private business, many of them employees of Railroads or Express Companies. The points named are St. Catharine, Coalbrook, near Island Dond, Windsor, Port Sarina, Goodrich, Toronto, Clifton, Prescott, Kingston and Fort Erie.

MR. KING'S SPEECH.

Austin A. King, of Missouri, made an abusive speech, lampooning radicals, sneering at Gen. Loan's military exploits, reciting the glorious achievements of the home guards, etc.

After one of his statements, Mr. McClurg, of Missouri, interrupting him, said that when a man made such an assertion as that, no respect for his gray hairs could keep him from pronouncing it unqualifiedly false; and he farther announced that he should take early occasion of proving it so to the satisfaction of the House.

Mr. King had nothing to say in reply.

Mr. Boyd also denied another of his statements.

THE WASHINGTON JAIL.

Ward H. Lamon, U. S. Marshal of this District, was ousted to day from his control of the jail, to which a few years ago he refused a Committee of the Senate access.

The Senate bill passed the House, creating the office of Warden of the Jail, and only awaits the President's signature to be a law. It takes, it is said, ten or twelve thousand dollars a year out of Lamon's pay, and he is naturally exercised. His friends say they will be able to get the President to veto it.

THE IOWA CONVENTION.

What the Iowa Convention may have done on the Presidential question is hard to say. Private dispatches, received last night, say they voted down the proposition to nominate President Lincoln, by a large majority. Private dispatches to-day say they renominated Grant by acclamation. Is this state of affairs, it is doubtful whether Washington can cast any light on what the Iowa Convention has done.

REFERRED TO CONGRESS.

The President has referred to Congress the correspondence of Secretary Seward and Lord Lyons, relating to the request of the English privy Council of Trade for permission to the master of the schooner Highlander to receive the present of a gold watch, in acknowledgment of services rendered the crew of the British vessel Pearl.

CONTESTED ELECTION CASES.

The Missouri contested case of King vs. Birch, was concluded before the Election Committee to-day. This and the case of McClurg and Loan, will now be speedily decided. King's speech in the Committee to-day, was very abusive of his opponent. The possibility that both may be sent back is hinted at.

EFFORTS TO REMOVE GEN. KELLY.

For some time past, earnest efforts have been made, on the part of a portion of the West Virginia Representatives, to secure the removal of Gen. Kelly from his command. They charge him with being a sort of miniature Gen. Schofield.

Yesterday afternoon the President issued an order assigning Gen. Sigel to the command in West Virginia, and relieving Gen. Kelly. It is hoped that hereafter we shall have fewer of the guerrilla raids in that Department, which have been lately harrassing the border.

WEST POINT CADETS.

Mr. Harris' Senate bill proposes to exempt West Point Cadets from draft, give them the same pay as midshipmen, and exclude them from academic privileges, if they are ever found deficient in any examination.

MR. DAWSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, made a peace speech to-day, arguing non-coercion, defending President Buchanan, and declaring that the Government had no power against rebellion, except the energy of its law against individuals.

THE SALE OF GOLD.

The Committee of Ways and Means will make an early attempt to get up a bill again empowering the Secretary of the Treasury to sell gold. The opinion is expressed that with an amendment, requiring five days' notice before any sale of gold is made, the bill is still likely to go through.

THE TAX ON CRUDE OIL.

Persons interested, in watching the drift of the arguments of the Controlling Committees, begin to express fear that crude oil may yet be subjected to a small tax.

GOVERNMENT ARSENAL.

The bill now before the House from the Committee of Military Affairs, provides for the occupancy of the island at Rock Island, Ill., for the establishment of a government arsenal and manufactory of fire arms. The present owners are to be ousted and paid damages by the assessment of a special commissioner.

PITTSBURGHER PROMOTED.

James A. Ekin, of Pittsburgh, Chief Quartermaster of the Cavalry Bureau has been promoted to a lieutenant colonelcy.

QUICKSILVER M