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The Reading Matter on this Page is from Yesterday's Evening Edition.

FIVE MILLIONS FOR THE TREASURY.—The new fifty per cent. extra duty on imported goods, which went into operation on Saturday, had the effect, while it was under consideration in Congress, to induce large numbers of New York merchants to withdraw their goods from the bonded warehouses very briskly all through last week. The result was that by Saturday the receipts for duties at the Custom House amounted to $4,928,100—almost exclusively in coin. This is said to be the largest amount in coin ever received for duties within a single week in New York.

The Law of Retaliation.

The Chicago *Evening Journal*, in referring to the *lex talionis* which the government is about to adopt in vindication of the national honor, cites the following precedents in our own history:

"Our own great and good Washington said of the law of retaliation:

"Of all laws it is the most difficult to execute when you have not the transgressor himself in your possession. Humanity will ever interfere, and plead strongly against the sacrifice of an innocent person for the guilt of another."

The case of Ethan Allen will be remembered. He was imprisoned by the British at Montreal. He was scandalously ill-treated by his captors. Upon learning this, General Washington put the law of retaliation immediately and resolutely in force. Precisely as the British treated Ethan Allen, Washington treated General Prescott, who was then a prisoner in our hands at the time. And General Washington, in a letter to General Howe, commander of the British forces, used this language:

"The law of retaliation is not only justifiable in the eyes of God and man, but absolutely a duty, which in our present circumstances we owe to our relatives, friends and fellow citizens."

In the war of 1812, the British were about to send twenty-three Irish prisoners to England to be tried for high treason, when General Scott ordered twenty-three British prisoners to be selected to share the fate of the twenty-three Irishmen. The British commander immediately threw into close confinement forty-six more of his American captives. General Scott went and did likewise with forty-six British officers. And here the matter ended. The Irish prisoners were not tried for high treason, and accordingly the British prisoners were not hung as their hostages. The American commander's resolute and decisive measures brought the British commander to a calculating condition of mind, and the latter concluded that, "on the whole," it would be inexpedient to make good (or bad) his bluster about threats".

Mr. Williams' Speech.

We find in Friday's Congressional report the following synopsis of the speech of Hon. Thomas Williams, of this city:

Mr. Williams (Pa.), in the course of his remarks, said, we have treated the seceded States as a government *de facto*, and put them under the ban of the Union as alien enemies. This has become a public war as between two different nations. Those States are no longer in the Union, except by force, and they must be reconstructed under the conquering power. History presented no parallel to this rebellion—so wicked, atrocious and causeless. Its suppression had become impossible without removing the cause of strife, and by freeing the slaves and arming them against the authors of this war. There must be a complete eclosion of the hell-born and hell-deserving spirit which brought on this violence. While speaking of Massachusetts blood being shed in the streets of Baltimore, Mr. Kelley interrupted his colleague by saying that Pennsylvania blood was first shed in that city, and his colleague could therefore claim that honor.

Mr. Stronse had permission to say to his colleague that the first blood shed was that of a negro, who was in the very first company that passed through Baltimore.

Mr. Kelley replied that the negro's name was Nicholas Biddle, a constituent of our colleague.

Mr. Williams concluded his remarks by expressing his hope as to the future, and the establishment of the Union on a firm and enduring basis—a great republic, one and indivisible.

The Crops in Indiana.

The Indianapolis *Journal* says: "Between the long rains, and the call for short volunteers, the crops this year do not seem just now very favorably situated. The spring is unusually backward, and volunteers unusually forward, and while one makes labor impracticable, the other takes it away altogether. We can hardly expect anything more than an average of any crop dependent on cultivation this year. Such weather has rarely been seen since the deluge. It has rained almost incessantly for the better, or worse, part of two weeks, and the consequence is, the ground is soaked into mud two feet down, and the streams are high over the bottoms in every direction from which we can hear. One good effect is that the wheat and grass are coming forward finely. In Noble county, where but three weeks ago it was thought that no crop would be made at all, the *Herald* says now of the wheat is looking first rate." In Hendricks county the *Ledger* reports the wheat 'excellent, standing well and half-leg high,' and the crop will fall little short of an average." The *Marshall County Republican* says 'the rains are bringing out the wheat surprisingly.' Several similar reports reach us, and leave us the consolation that the flood is not going to be an unmixed evil. Fruit is generally reported better than was at first supposed."

Brisk Times in the Navy—A Whole War Fleet Ordered for Service—Ships Nearly Ready to Go.

Orders have been transmitted to the commanding officers of the different navy-yards to expedite work on the various vessels in course of preparation for sea, and others are to be taken in hand forthwith. The fine steam-frigate Susquehanna, which accompanied the Niagara on the cable expedition, is to be placed at the wharf at the Brooklyn Navy Yard immediately to receive the necessary fitting for commission. The steamers Augusta, R. R. Cuyler, Mendota, and others are to be hurried up; and the steam frigate Tioonderoga, which arrived here recently, will be sent to sea in a few days. Such of the double enders remaining at New York as can be manned will be put in commission the moment they are ready. Five more iron-clads will be finished next month, and, together with convoys, are to be detailed for active service. Beside these large vessels an entire squadron of small steamers is nearly ready to leave our navy-yards for different points on the Southern coast.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

AN ORDER BY GENERAL WALLACE.—General Wallace has issued orders notifying absolute rebels who have gone South, or who openly assist the Southern rebellion, that their property will be confiscated, regardless of any arrangements to the contrary, or the original orders which may have been made to prevent its confiscation; that the incomes therefrom, past, present and to come, will be held for the benefit of the Government. This has created a decided flutter in disloyal circles.

THE people who live in the northeastern corner of this continent have less to pay than those who are swindled by middlemen in the middle states. For instance: In St. Johns, N. B., prices rule as follows: Wood, per cord, $3; coal, per ton, $4; flour, per bbl, $5; butter, per lb, 18 to 25c; beef, per lb., 6 to 10c, for cuts. Clothing of all kinds can be bought for half the prices paid here. Board at first-class hotels for man and wife $5 50 per week.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, April 29, 1864.

Enterprise has shown itself here in rather an unusual way recently. The Associated Press has became connected with the various newspaper offices by telegraph. This is for the sole use and convenience of the agent and the editors, and will doubtless give an impetus to the publication of telegraphic news. The *Herald* office is connected by the wires with the residence of its chief editor at Mount Washington, and other private telegraph lines have been instituted by business men to transmit their wishes from their residences to their business establishments. This is but the working of Yankee ingenuity. The nation that cannot wait for a European steamer to arrive, but must build a telegraph line twenty-two hundred miles into the heart of a desolate country to intercept her news two days before she arrives at port, certainly ought to be excused for its lack of patience, when lumbering omnibuses and crowded railroad cars are in the case.

Speaking of omnibuses—the greedy proprietors, like Capt. Scott's coon, have come down. A week or two of trial has convinced them that they could no more compel the people to pay the advanced rate, than the better speculators could make the poor classes eat butter. The different lines have announced that on Monday, May 2d, the old rates of six cents will be re-inaugurated. They ought to have added: "We feel ashamed of ourselves. Passengers will please provide themselves with the odd penny." So, what the indounce of the Press is!

I think Judge Barnard must think it is pretty heavy. The Greeley contempt case has come to a sudden close. Horace thought his Honor was asking rather too much, and flatly refused to answer the learned Judge's interrogatories, preferring to "abide by the consequences, be they what they might." The Judge suggested that the liberty of the press was not sought to be invaded, but the object was to prevent this scurrilous attack on "Old Public Functionaries." With this reprimand Mr. Greeley was discharged. It is thought that a true bill for libel will now be brought by the Judge.

Among the troops recently despatched to Washington were the 16th Heavy Artillery, nineteen hundred men strong. This regiment has been stationed in the forts in this harbor, for a long time, and have become very proficient. It was the intention to place them in the forts around Washington to do garison duty, but their complete discipline and skill having reached the ears of headquarters, they will be forwarded to the front.

One of the greatest things our sleepy Legislature did before it adjourned was to pass a law authorizing the incorporation of a Soldiers' Home. We have stood sadly in need of something of this sort here ever since the war commenced, and the blood has mantled to our cheeks when we thought of the superiority of other States in this particular. To be sure a one-horse institution has been extemporized, which Gov. Seymour's very Democratic managers chose to dignify with the appellation of "Soldier's Home," but no solid benefit flowed from the concern, so it has passed into better hands. The money is all raised, and the building site selected.

The city is still as crowded as ever. The most practical eye can discover no diminution of the human current on Broadway. Though this is supposed to be the dull season, business of all kinds is brisk enough. The stores of the down-town streets, which usually close at sundown, are many of them open long past midnight, the porters, clerks, and proprietors even, engaging themselves in boxing up the goods sold during the day. Boarding house keepers still carry their heads proudly erect. The proximity of the great moving day, has rendered the wholesale turning out of boarders necessary, which has caused an active demand for rooms in other quarters. Fabulous prices are asked and the victims find no comfort at the hotels. It is thought that after Monday prices will be more moderate.

Fires are alarmingly frequent. No less than five alarms have sounded since your correspondent first sat down (two hours). Almost all of them are works of incendiaries. No great fires have occurred, though the intention on the part of the felon has no doubt been to do as much damage as he could. Last evening a fire occurred at a hay store during a high wind. The City Inspector, who is old at the business, is on the alert. W.

The Late Colonel Dahlgren.

Admiral Dahlgren writes to a gentleman in Philadelphia concerning his son: "The accidents and necessities of my own unsettled life cast the birth of my gallant boy, Ulric, at a rural home in Pennsylvania, not far from Philadelphia. But his parents were born and educated in your city; his grandparents and those before him, even so far back as the colonial period of the State, were born and lived in Philadelphia, and their remains, with those of his mother's brothers, and sister, repose there. His own career in life was opening among you (in the study of the law) under the eye of his kind and excellent uncle, Mr. James W. Paul, when the first cannon shot at our glorious flag roused the young and old of the land.

"The hope that you express that Philadelphia will give a monument to her son, who has given so her cause all he had to give, limb and then life; who, before completing the first year of his manhood, had been honored with the high rank of Colonel for service and sacrifice on so many battle fields, and who fell in a desperate effort to rescue his command from a captivity worse than death, though himself just recovering from wounds that had maimed his fair proportions—strikes every chord in my heart, and most gladly will I contribute to the purpose from my own resources.

Steam to Brazil.

The bill which recently passed the House to establish postal communication between the United States and Brazil is likely to meet the approval of the Senate. No subsidies are intended, and the amount to be expended is not to exceed $150,000, and the service is to be thrown open to competition. The carefully collected facts and figures produced by Mr. Alley, of Massachusetts, in his recent speech upon the subject, showing wherein, by our neglect, we have lost immense revenue, while Great Britain has been very largely benefited by its postal policy, viewed in a commercial connection, secured to the measure a far larger degree of support than, considering the present deranged condition of the country, we anticipated. An enterprise thus presented to the business men and capitalists of the country, deserves and will doubtless receive their full support.

SENTENCED FOR RIOT AND TREASON.—Thirteen of the persons tried for riot and treason, for acts committed in Carbon and Luzerne counties by a Military Commission which commenced its sittings in Reading, were sentenced as follows:

Phillip Bergenman and Charles Dugan, each five years at hard labor; Conrad Horn, six years at hard labor; Peter Dielow, John Dunlin, John Gallagher, Hugh Brislin, John McCool, Tim Sweeny, Owen Gallagher and Geo. Buck, each five years; and Augustus Miller, two years and a fine of two dollars a day for said term. The sentences were subsequently mitigated by Gen. Couch, to confinement during the existence of the rebellion, in Fort Mifflin, near Philadelphia, or such other place as may be designated by competent authority.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.—One of the multitudes of young men in the army who have advertised for "an agreeable female correspondent to while away the ennui of camp life," received a reply some time since from a New Bedford lady. The correspondence resulting proved very agreeable to both parties, and in due time they entered into a marriage engagement. At length the soldier obtained a furlough, and immediately proceeded to this city to be united to the object of his affections. He called at her address, and to his horror discovered that the fair one was of cream-colored complexion, with kinky hair! Miscegenation went against his stomach, and he returned to the army in disgust.—*New Bedford Standard.*

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—The London *Telegraphic Journal* indulges in some calculations, which must be very cheering to the stockholders in the Atlantic cable. It estimates that the cable will transmit 2,592,000 words a year, or 129,600 messages of twenty words each. These messages at 25 each, will bring in £648,000, of which £340,000 will remain as profit. It is intended that the cable shall be able to carry eight words a minute, though the above calculation allows for only six. The old cable conveyed only two and a half a minute. The Red Sea line is worked at the rate of seven words, and the Malta and Alexandria line at ten words a minute.

A FORT ROYAL letter states that the white troops are to leave that department for the north, with a few exceptions, and the colored regiments which are daily arriving are to take their places. Our forces in Florida are to be withdrawn, and are also expected to go north.

THE East Tennessee relief fund in Boston now reaches the handsome sum of $90,782.

The Whiskey Tax in a Nutshell.

The various communications that have appeared from time to time, in the newspapers in opposition to the law taxing whiskey on hand, which had already been taxed, do not place the subject fairly before the public.

Congress had already laid a duty on the manufacture, which duty had been paid, but finding it would be necessary to lay a higher duty hereafter, it was proposed to put an additional duty on the quantity on hand, already taxed, so that the tax, which ultimately is paid by the consumer, should be for the benefit of the Treasury and not for the holder or speculator.

Now it cannot be denied that the leaders in the speculation were those whose pursuits were not commercial in any way, and some of them are said to have been unscrupulous politicians; those who can go hand and hand when money is to be made, although of opposite parties. This latter class, probably knowing the views of the Government, took the lead in the speculation and thus induced the distillers to manufacture largely, hoping to avoid the increased tax, Fernando Wood, who saw the imperfection of the bill as reported, being disinterested, and feeling unwilling to legislate in consideration, proposed that such a tax should be laid on the stock on hand as would be just to the consumer and the country, which the House of Representatives agreed to by a *large majority*. Had the House agreed to take the duty entirely off the manufacture of whiskey, it could not have produced a greater consternation than this did among the speculators; they complained of injustice, but I could see no injustice in it, although I admit that it would have been unjust to them had the duty on the manufacture been reduced while they had a stock on hand; but why they should complain that Congress would not legislate in money into their pocket which belonged to the Treasury, I cannot understand; neither can I account for the turnabout in the vote, unless the doings at Albany and Harrisburg have had a transferred to Washington, and if so God save the country. As to the twaddle about taxing things twice, the materials of which my carriage is made have been taxed several times, and now I am taxed annually for using it, which is sufficient to show its absurdity.

ONE WHO IS LOYAL.

EGGS.—The number of eggs employed in Paris alone, in clarifying wines, is about 4,500,000. By this means a wholesome and nourishing article is taken away from public consumption, and its price considerably enhanced. To avoid this, certain kinds of powders are now beginning to be employed, by which wines may be clarified with equal facility and at a smaller expense.

Two foolish young people recently proposed to get married in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and to pit a prize upon the tickets of admission, but the project fell through because the manager refused to lease the building for such a purpose.

It is reported that E. Clark Ingersoll, of Peoria, Illinois, will receive the Union nomination in the Fourth district, to succeed the late Owen Lovejoy. Mr. Ingersoll is a war democrat, and was the candidate at large in 1862 against James C. Allen.

MRS. KEY HOWARD has been sent to the Old Capitol at Washington.

TELEGRAMS.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, May 1, 1864.

GEN. MARTINDALE.

Gen. Martindale, late Military Governor of this District, is assigned to a division under Butler, who himself takes the field.

NEGRO TROOPS.

A regiment of Illinois negro troops parading on the avenue to-day, and attracted general attention.

CONSULAR AGENCIES ALONG THE CANADA BORDER.—Mr. Seward urges the passage of a bill for Consular agencies along the Canada border, and says it will prevent a large amount of smuggling this season.

TROOPS TO BE PAID.

The troops in the Virginia armies are to be paid within the next day or two.

RUMORS OF GEN. BANKS' REMOVAL.

The rumors about the removal of General Banks, which have been in circulation for some days, take consistent shape to-night in the statement that General Augur is to supersede him.

SEYMOUR'S ORDER TO ADVANCE ON OLUSTEE.

General Seymour, in a private letter here, gives the order from his superior officer, under which his advance on Olustee was made.

THE REBEL PICKETS.

The rebel pickets now extend from Madison Court House to Port Royal on the Rappahannock, a distance of forty miles. We are picketing U. S. Ford. One rebel division is at Fredericksburg.

REBEL CAVALRY CROSS THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

A party of rebel cavalry crossed at Belmouth, a day or two since, as a reconnoitering party, but have already returned.

SECRETARY CHASE AND FRANK BLAIR.

Secretary Chase has returned from Philadelphia. The statement that he has been holding any correspondence with the President during his absence, on the subject of Frank Blair's appointment, is untrue. He has had no correspondence with him on the subject, but Mr. Lincoln has been profuse in his explanations to Mr. Chase's friends, that he was sorry Blair made the speech, and that he did not mean by appointing him to oppose it.

Latest from Europe.

HALIFAX, April 30.—The steamer Europa with Liverpool dates of the 16th and Queenstown of the 17th, arrived this morning with three days later news.

The Conference holds its first meeting in London on the 20th.

Liverpool, May 16.—Cotton buoyant, and ½@¾d higher. Breadstuffs very dull. Wheat declining. Provisions dull and tending downward. Consols 90⅝@⅞.

LATER.

Garibaldi had a magnificent reception at the Crystal Palace yesterday. A flag of Italy was presented to him bearing the words: "Rome and Venice."

It was rumored that negotiations were going on for the sale of the Great Eastern to the French Government.

It is stated that the pirate Florida was in a Spanish port. She had been refused coal at a Portuguese port.

An Alexandria letter to the *Times* positively affirms that the late Viceroy of Egypt ordered the construction of Laird's rams.

At Duppel the Prussians had connected their entrenchments with a new position and without loss. The cannonading goes on night and day.

Temporary Increase on Imports.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The President has approved of the joint resolution temporarily increasing the duty on imports 50 per cent., and is therefore a law.

NEW YORK April 30.—The new 50 per cent extra duty on imported goods went into operation at one o'clock this afternoon. Merchants who had come forward in extraordinary numbers with their gold and invoices. After the new tariff bill was introduced into Congress they were from the hour mentioned quite indifferent as to the withdrawal of their goods, and the press of business has come to a close. The receipts at the Custom House for duties have reached during the present week the immense figure of nearly five millions of dollars, almost exclusively of coin.

The Southern Railroads.

NEW YORK, May 2.—The *Herald's* Newbern letter of the 26th says:

Information has been received here that the authorities have taken possession of all the railroads in the South for the next sixty days, during which time no citizens are allowed to travel on them. It has also been learned that troops from Charleston, South Carolina, have been brought to Wilmington and there relieved the troops who have since proceeded to Richmond.

The Bank Bill.

WASHINGTON April 30.—The Bank Bill will be passed by the Senate on Monday, with the local and state taxation, although earnest opposition is made to it.

Death of a Famous Stallion.

NEW YORK, May 2.—The famous trotting stallion, Geo. M. Patchen, died yesterday, from rupture.

BEAUREGARD'S ARMY JOINING LEE.

THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA.

The Rebels Concentrating in Our Front and Left and Centre.

PORTION OF LONGSTREET'S ARMY AT HANOVER JUNCTION.

LEE'S STRENGTH UPWARDS OF 100,000 MEN.

Gen. Banks Reported Superseded by Gen. Augur.

TRADE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND REBELDOM.

The Reported Barbarities at Fort Pillow Fully Corroborated.

TEXAS EVACUATED BY OUR FORCES.

Large Rebel Army Reported Near New Orleans.

NEW YORK, May 2.—A special to the *Times* from Washington May 1st, says:

A dispatch was received to-day by Government, from Fortress Monroe, stating that Beauregard's army passed through Petersburg yesterday morning. His force is estimated at from 18,000 to 20,000.

Nothing of note has transpired at the front to-day. The pickets of both armies extend up and down the Rappahannock and Rapidan. A considerable force is reported at Fredericksburg throwing up more earthworks on the heights.

It is reported that the rebels are withdrawing from Madison C. H. and concentrating in our front and on our left and centre.

One division of Longstreet's corps, according to deserters, is at Hanover Junction, as a reserve. On the same authority, Gen. Lee's strength is stated to be upwards of 100,000 men.

Rumors prevail that Gen. Banks has been superceded by Gen. Augur.

The facts in possession of the Congress Committee to investigate the affairs of the New York Custom House, show that an enormous trade is carried on between that city and Beaufort.

The *World's* special dispatch says: Messrs. Gooch and Wade, of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, returned to-day from Fort Pillow, and called on the President this evening. The statements made as to the barbarities and cruelties there are fully corroborated.

The *World's* New Orleans letter reports that the evacuation of Texas by our forces has begun, and also says that the report reached New Orleans that Gen. Polk was encamped near Camp Moore, 3 miles from New Orleans, with from 15,000 to 20,000 men to move at once on Port Hudson or Baton Rouge.

Affairs in Louisiana—Heavy Rebel Loss.

CAIRO, April 29.—The steamer Mississippi, from New Orleans on the 23d, and Memphis on the 27th, has arrived.

The news is meagre.

The steamer Empire, from Red river, brought down a report that Capt. Nass, on business, connected with the organization of their commands.

Major Connelly, of the 1st New Hampshire cavalry, was badly injured by a kick from a horse, but would recover.

Lieut. W. Snow, reported killed, is alive, but a prisoner.

The passengers by the Empire stated that the impression generally that the rebels would avoid a general engagement, but it was possible that the picket firing might result in a battle at any moment.

Prisoners, deserters, and others, present during the battle, say the rebel losses at Pleasant Hill, Sabine Cross Roads, cannot fall short of 7,000, and may reach 10,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners.

There is three and a half feet of water on Red river falls, and six and a half from Alexandria down.

There is three and a half feet of water on Red river falls, and six and a half from Alexandria down.

The *Era* publishes a rumor that General Steele has taken possession of Shreveport and thrown up fortifications.

Cotton is held above buyers' quotation and ranges from 71@73c; Ordinary 83@84c; Middling nominal; Sugar selling 8c. sugar higher and 22½@26c. Molasses 95@$1,00, with none offering; no receipts.

The steamer Columbia, with nearly $38,000 in specie for Havana and a full cargo of cotton, passed sail for New York on the 23d.

A steamer from White river and Helena brought ninety bales of cotton to Memphis.

The Memphis cotton market was active, with light stock, at 66@72c.

Nearly three hundred refugees from Arkansas, Georgia and Alabama have arrived here and present a most pitable appearance.

The steamer Alice Dean passed with nine hundred bales of cotton for Cincinnati.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Gen. Shepley, late of Louisiana, is now governor of Norfolk.

Late news from New Orleans has been received.

An arrival from Grand Ecore on the 18th reports nothing of importance transpiring there on the 18th.

The 13th Indiana has arrived at New Orleans from Matagorda en route for home.

Gen. Weitzel would leave New Orleans on the 23d for his command in Virginia.

A small fleet had gone up the Onchita river.

Cotton Active at 72@80.

NEW YORK, 30.—The Columbia, from New Orleans on the 22d, via Havana on the 26th, and the Merrimac, from New Orleans on the 24th, have arrived. Among the passengers in the latter is Gen. Andrews, and also a number of other officers and sick and wounded soldiers.

Gen. Weitzel is a passenger in the Columbia.

Gen. Ransom left New Orleans for home on the 24th.

The Massacre at Fort Pillow—Preempted Lands—Coasting Trade—Internal Revenue Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The sub committee on the Conduct of the War has reported from Fort Pillow. They took fifty-seven depositions, all of which more than confirm the newspaper accounts of the massacre. They state that it would be impossible to exaggerate the cruelties committed.

The Senate bill granting pre-emption to certain lands in California was passed.

The bill to regulate foreign and coasting trade on the northern, and north-eastern and north-western frontier of the United States passed.

The Internal Revenue bill was received from the House and referred to the Committee on Finance. On motion, 1000 copies were ordered to be printed.

The Potomac Army—The Pennsylvania Reserves—The Union Convention, etc.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—There is nothing new from the Army of the Potomac.

The rebel army is quiet.

There is no probability that the War Department will grant the request of the Pennsylvania Legislature to muster out the Reserves for that State in May.

It is expected the Senate bill raising the pay of colored soldiers, will pass the House to-day.

A special dispatch to the *N. Y. Commercial* says: It is understood the Union National Convention are perfecting arrangements for the Baltimore Convention. None of its members have advocated postponement. The railroads have decided to pass delegates at reduced fares.

Little Washington Evacuated by our Troops—Exchanged Prisoners.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 1.—Little Washington was evacuated by our forces on Thursday last, the troops there being wanted elsewhere.

The flag of truce boat arrived here this evening, from City Point, with 400 of our exchanged prisoners. No newspapers or news could be obtained.

Exciting Rumors—All Quiet on the Rapidan.

NEW YORK, May 2.—The correspondent of the *Herald* says: Various exciting rumors are afloat.

All quiet on the Rapidan up to last evening.

Stampede toward Richmond.

NEW YORK, April 30.—The *Norfolk Times*, of the 27th, says, on Friday last a large rebel force appeared in front of Little Washington, but their lines were soon deserted, and it is said a vigorous stampede towards Richmond commenced.

PANEL PAPERS, for Halls, Dining Rooms, Vestibules, &c., in Fresco and Wood Cover, at No. 107 Market street.
ap21 JOS. H. HUGHES.

STEAMBOATS AND OIL REFINERIES promptly fitted up by
ap9:1m DAVIS & PHILLIPS, 110 Water street.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The Connellsville Railroad Question.

The two bills now before the Legislature, relative to this road—one repealing the charter of the present Connellsville Railroad Company, so far as the privilege of extending it east of Connellsville is concerned; and the other incorporating a new company with power to construct a road from Connellsville to the Maryland State line, and from any point on said line to connect with any road in the Susquehanna Valley—have already been published in our columns. The editor of the Chambersburg *Repository*, (A. K. McClure, Esq.,) who is a corporator of the new company, says: "It would doubtless make the junction with the Cumberland Valley road at this point, and thus make the Pittsburgh and Connellsville a direct feeder to the commerce of our own State, instead of leaving the wealth of south western Pennsylvania to Baltimore."

The Somerset *Herald*, after quoting the above extract, says: "In this short paragraph, is contained the kernel of the controversy between the friends of the new bill, and the present directory of the Connellsville road. On the one hand it is alleged that the Penna. Road is at the bottom of the new scheme, which is designed to make the Connellsville a 'feeder' instead of a rival to her; while on the other hand, it is as stoutly maintained that the interest of the Baltimore and Ohio lead influence the other party, and the object of leading the wealth of Southwestern Pennsylvania to Baltimore."

The *Herald* then goes on to argue that it is the interest of the people of Bedford, Somerset, Fayette, and adjoining counties, to have no part in the controversy, but endeavor to reconcile the differences, and to have both projects carried out, so far as the building of the road is concerned, leaving the laws of trade and competition to determine whether Baltimore or Philadelphia—whether the Baltimore and Ohio, or the Pennsylvania Central road will be most benefited thereby.

A Bold Swindle.

A few days ago, a young man giving the name of J. Wilson, and representing himself as a son of wealthy parents residing in Philadelphia, applied at a house on Wylie street for boarding. He was accommodated with a room, and being "passionately fond of music," had made arrangements for putting a piano in the parlor. He soon after called at Mrs. C. Blume's music store, on Fifth street, and rented a piano, valued at $475, agreeing to pay $9 per month rent. He paid the first month's rent in advance, and the instrument was duly deposited in the parlor of his boarding house, where he commenced a very severe system of thumping, which alarmed the whole house, and would doubtless have driven Gottschalk out of his senses, had he been compelled to listen to it.

The game having been played thus far successfully, Wilson's next move was to turn the piano into cash. He accordingly visited Ben Trimble, of the Varieties, and after relating a very nice and very pathetic story about "family misfortunes," came to the point—he had a fine piano to sell, worth $500, which, "under the circumstances," he would dispose of for $375 cash. The shrewd showman thought he saw a great bargain in the liberal offer of this fast young man, and was not slow to bite at the bait. The piano was duly delivered, and the price agreed upon was promptly handed over to Wilson, who has now consummated his villainy, and was ready to depart and play the same game somewhere else. This transaction occurred on Wednesday last. Mrs. Blume learned, on Saturday, what disposition had been made of her property, and notified Mr. Trimble of her ownership in the instrument. The police were immediately put on the track of the swindler, but he is supposed to have left the city on Thursday night, so that the chances of apprehending him are exceedingly slim.

Interesting to Boiler Manufacturers.

Some interesting experiments have recently been made with steel boilers. In one of them a steel boiler of the egg-end shape, four feet in diameter, and thirty feet in length, without flues, was tried. It had a steam-drum two feet in diameter and two feet in height, and the plates were one-fourth of an inch in thickness. Beside it there was placed another boiler, similar in every respect, excepting that the plates were of iron, 11/64 of an inch in thickness. The steam boiler was tested by hydraulic pressure up to 195 pounds to the inch, without leakage, and both the iron and steel boilers were worked under a pressure of sixty-five pounds on the inch for about one year and a half.

During this period the steel boiler generated 25 per cent. more steam than the iron, and when they were thoroughly examined, after eighteen months' practical working, there was less scale in the steel than in the iron boiler. The former evaporated 11.69 cubic feet of water per hour, and the iron boiler 9.37 cubic feet. The quantity of coal consumed was on an average 2706 pounds for the steel one in twelve hours, and 2072 pounds for the iron boiler. The plates of the steel boiler over the fire were found to be injured, while those of the iron one were about worn out. As steel is twice as strong as iron, thinner plates of the former may be employed for boilers, and more perfect seaming can be secured, while they will last four times as long. A greater quantity of steam can also be generated in the steel boiler, on account of the thin plates, and thus much fuel may be economized.

United States District Court.

MONDAY, May 2.—Before Judge M'Candless. The regular term of this Court opened today. But eight grand jurors answered to their names, and the Court was consequently unable to charge them.

The traverse jurors in attendance at the second October adjourned term, held last week, were summoned for the regular term, and were in attendance.

The case of Dr. King, which was expected to come up to-day, was continued until Thursday next, by mutual consent, to enable the District Attorney to procure the attendance of a witness now in the Potomac army.

The report of Messrs. Graham and Snowden, Inspectors of hulls and boilers, was read. From it it we learn that during the six months ending May 1st, 1864, the Inspectors "visited many vessels, and advised many repairs to be made to boilers, etc., which were cheerfully complied with." There were no accidents from explosions, or injuries from steam, to report. In reference to the collision between the two boats Hawkeye and Dirk Fulton, the Inspectors say: "The case is now undergoing investigation before the Court." During the past six months, they inspected 54 hulls and the boilers of 63 steamers. The report was ordered to be filed.

Release of Colonel Rose.

We are gratified to learn that a private dispatch was received in this city this morning, announcing the release of Colonel Thomas E. Rose, of the Seventy-Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. Colonel Rose is a resident of South Pittsburgh, and recruited Company B, of the Seventy-Seventh Regiment, in the summer of 1861. He was appointed Captain of the company, which position he retained until January, 1863, when he was commissioned as Colonel, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Col. Stambaugh to the position of Brigadier General.

Col. Rose, with many of men his, were captured at the battle of Chickamauga, and has been a prisoner ever since. He took a conspicuous part in the famous escape from Libby Prison, and was one of the number who succeeded in getting through the tunnel, but was unfortunately recaptured. Col. Rose is a very efficient and popular officer, and the news of his release will be hailed with pleasure by his numerous friends.

The Sanitary Fair—Clarion County.

In response to a circular from F. R. Brunot, Esq., Chairman of the Sanitary Fair, the editor of the Clarion *Banner* remarks: "On Tuesday night of May Court, let a mass meeting of the citizens of Clarion county be held at the Court House, as the project demands. On that occasion let committees be appointed to act in every township, and a Central Committee for the county seat to receive, acknowledge and forward all contributions. Let there be a rousing turnout of the patriotic people, and let all feel the importance of this great work in giving relief to our sick and wounded soldiers. Let it be known that Clarion county, which has sent so many of her noble and brave sons to battle for the Union, is also proud to minister to their wants when disease or wounds have unfitted them for active duty."

SUICIDE.—Mollie Magee, a young lady living at George R. Barndollar's, in the town of Woodberry, Bedford county, hung herself on last Sunday morning with a clothes line. She had slept with Miss Barndollar during the night, and left her side to commit the act of self-destruction.

Award of Mail Contracts.

The following is the remainder of the list of awards of mail contracts in this State:

2264. From Jeffries to Clearfield. Martin Nichols, $249.

2265. From Curwinsville to Ansonville. Alfred M. Read, $110.

2266. From Curwinsville to Lumber City. Alfred M. Read, $125.

2267. From Luthersburg to Smicksburg. David Henry, 1283.

2268. From New Washington to Punxutawney. John Hutchison, $241.

2269. From Ansonville to East Ridge. Too high; offer, $175.

2670. From Woodland to Grahamtown. No bid.

2671. From Reynoldsville to Rockdale Mills. Henry McIntosh, $75.

2672. From Punxutawney to Summersville. John Hutchison, $170.

2673. From Brookville to Marienville. David Henry, $192 75.

2674. From Brookville to Smitten. F W Bell, $181.

2675. From Brookville to Kittanning. Wm H H Piper, $1,690.

2676. From Brookville to Ridgeway. Robert W Moorhead $474.

2677. From Brookville to Ridgeway. Too high; offer $1 0.

2678. From Kittanning to Dayton. Watrous S. Marshall. $250

2679. From Kittanning to Clarion. Samuel V. Lightcap. $1,410.

2680. From Kittanning to Brady's Bend. Wm. H. Piper. $325.

2681. From Kittanning to Mahoning. Watrous S. Marshall. $490.

2682. From Kittanning to Punxutawney. John Hutchison. $340.

2683. From Freeport to Slate Lick. Geo. Truby, $298.

2684. From Kelly's Station to Cochrane's Mills. Joseph M'Allister, $75.

2685. From Spoltes to Elder's Ridge. George Bair, present contractor, $420.

2686. From Brady's Bend to Callensburg. Samuel Riley, $284.

2687. From Lawrenceburg to Clarion. Samuel Riley, $237.

2688. From Clarion to Kingsville. Robert Barber, $156.

2689. From Clarion to Pleasantville. Thomas George, $225.

2690. From Clarion to Franklin. W. H. H. Piper, $2,340.

2691. From Strattonville to Marionville. Robert Barber, $222.

2692. From Strattonville to Clarington. Cochran Fulton, $180.

2693. From Shippensville to Tylersburg. Jacob Lucker, $340.

2694. From Callensburg to Bimersburg. Alexander Colwell, $150; three times a week.

2695. From Callensburg to Emlenton. James Bitchey, $20.

2696. From New Bethlehem to Curllsville. John Tranor, $144.

2697. From Butler to East Sandy. Samuel Butler, $200.

2698. From Butler to Salem Cross Roads. George Truby, $650.

2699. From Butler to New Castle. John Gregory, $320.

2700. From Butler to Lawrenceburg. John Gregory, $315.

2701. From Butler to New Brighton. John Gregory, $275.

2702. From Harmony to Mercer. Wm M Thompson, $1,290.

2703. From Brownington to Franklin. Joseph Evans, $1,487.

2717. From New Castle to West Greenville. Cyrus A Clark, $1,075.

2718. From New Castle to Youngstown. James C. Niblock, $875.

2719. From Mercer to Meadville. Frank D Lane, $1,440.

2720. From Mercer to Cochranton. W. M. Tompson, $500.

2721. From Mercer to Enon Valley. Clinton Young, $1,443.

2722. From Mercer to West Greenville. Samuel West and Charles Fry, $448.

2724. From Mercer to Warren. R. M. Up, $425.

2725. From Mercer to Youngstown, O. Wm. M. Thompson, $640.

2729. From Emlenton to Brady's Bend. Thomas Bitchy, $160.

2730. From Franklin to Mercer. James C. Brown, $1,000.

2731. From Franklin to Irvine. Frank D. Lane, $1,094.

2741. From Caledonia to Karthous. Michael Mullen, $270.

2742. From Smithport to Olean. W. S. Cornelius, $1,000.

2743. From Bradford to Carrolton. Charles Newell, $700.

2750. From Sugar Grove to Jamestown, six times a week. Andrew B. Smith, $230.

2751. From Pittsville to Broken Straw. N. Y., six times a week. David Woodin, $500.

2759. From Titusville to Oil City. C. F. Smith $1,219.

The Artists and the Fair.

At a stated meeting of the artists of Pittsburgh, held April