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

The Movement of the Armies.

We say of the *Armies*, for there is good reason for believing that the important intelligence given in our dispatches to-day, of the long-expected movement of the Army of the Potomac, may be read as the announcement of a combined movement of not only the armies in Eastern Virginia, under Meade, Burnside, etc., directed by Lieutenant-General Grant in person as Commander-Chief, but also of Gen. Sherman's great army in Tennessee and Georgia, and of the forces, comprising several powerful bodies both in the land and naval service, in Gen. Butler's Department, at various points from the York river to the estuaries of North Carolina.

The Chicago *Evening Journal*, a few days ago, stated that it had good authority for believing that General Sherman's army was under orders to move forward on Monday, but the order was revoked and the movement deferred, was we suppose, owing to the heavy rains of last Friday and Saturday in that region. We can hardly doubt that Sherman's movement had been fixed so as to be simultaneous with that on the Rapidan—and hence we may now infer that the cause of delay, whatever it was, in the West as well in the East, no longer exists, General Grant having probably given the signal for a general forward movement on Tuesday night.

The latest Richmond papers received, have indicated operations on the Peninsula, which still further confirm the impression we derive from so many other quarters, that the advance of the Potomac Army is to be the grand inauguration of a whole preconcerted system of movements against the vital centres of the Rebel power. May the God of Battles lead us on to victory!

The Publishing Business---The Western Associated Press.

A meeting of the Western Associated Press, was held in Cincinnati, on Tuesday and Wednesday, at which the cities of Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville, Detroit, Indianapolis, Dayton and Wheeling were represented. A dispatch was received from the Chicago publishers, regretting their absence, and pledging their acquiescence in the action of the meeting.

Mr. Smith, of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, presided. Mr. Campbell, of the Wheeling *Intelligencer*, was chosen Secretary in the absence of Mr. Medill.

The President made some general statements as to the object of his call, viz: Difficulties with the Union Telegraph Associated Press, in the matter of satisfactory dispatches; an apprehended extravagant advance in the price of newspaper; difficulties with compositors, members of the Typographical Union. He also stated that a subject worthy of consideration by this meeting, was the new method of type setting recently brought to considerable perfection in the East.

These subjects were all referred to committees to consider and report, after which the meeting adjourned until Wednesday.

On re-assembling Wednesday morning, the President read the following report:

Your Committee on Paper are of the opinion that the manufacture of wood paper has not been sufficiently developed to justify any definite action on the part of publishers; and would therefore recommend that a committee be appointed to correspond on the subject, and when, in the opinion of the committee, important definite results may be attainable, the association may again be consulted. In the meantime we would recommend that all proper encouragement be given by the press to the introduction of machinery for the manufacture of wood paper, or the introduction of any material which shall serve as a substitute for rags. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Typographical Matters made the following report:

The committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of Typographical Union, and matters connected therewith of interest to publishers, beg leave to respectfully report: That the subject is one surrounded with many difficulties and embarrassments. So far as our observation or information extends, we are glad to be able to state that the proprietors of the press throughout the North-west have acted with the greatest liberality toword those in their employ. They have advanced their wages more rapidly than their business has increased, but we regret to say that this liberality has not been reciprocated by the Typographical Union. The more we have given the more they have demanded, until there is scarcely an establishment in the country that is wholly free from the bad effects of the influence of the Union. The first demand usually made upon the proprietors of a paper is that no person shall be employed who is not a member of the Union; the next is that the Union shall fix prices and wages of all persons employed, and the prices are determined without any reference to the capacity and ability of the compositors; the inefficient and worthless being placed upon the same footing with the industrious and competent. To such an extent is this carried on, that there is not an establishment in the country within the reach or under the influence of the Union where there are not men wholly unable to earn the wages they are paid. The next step (and one which we are informed has already been initiated upon in many places), is the demand for the men to appoint their foreman, to determine his wages, and remove him whenever he does not conduct the business of the office so as to subserve their interests. It will thus be seen, that step by step, the proprietors are excluded from exercising any control over their own business. It is in vain that the proprietors urge their income will not justify an increase of their expenditures; for the men have arrived at a point where they have little or no sympathy with the proprietors, and are only the latter upon determining how much they can increase their own wages.

The question now arises how these difficulties can be overcome. Various suggestions have been made, but none have proved to fully meet the case. Many establishments have resolved not to give employment to any person who considers himself bound by the regulations of the Union, and we believe that it is practicable for the press of any city or town, if united, to resist these unreasonable demands. It is worthy of the consideration of the press throughout the Northwest, whether women cannot be extensively used as compositors. In one of the largest establishments in this city, girls have been employed as feeders for many years, and in many offices throughout the country, they have been used as compositors. The uniform testimony of all who have employed women, is that they are equal, and in some respects superior, to men. This suggestion is not made because there is a scarcity of men who can set type, for it is a well known fact that there is a large surplus in every city in the Northwest.

It has been suggested also, that the recent inventions in type-setting machines, will eventually revolutionize the business and effectually destroy all combinations of compositors. This is possible, and from all the accounts received, quite probable, and may, in time, furnish the best solution of the difficulties we are now considering. But in the meantime, we recommend that the men belonging to this association, establish some general rule by which they will be governed. Therefore,

Resolved—First. We recommend that no printer be employed by any establishment who has not produced a certificate of dismissal from the last office in which he was employed for that wherever such person is employed he shall deposit his papers with the proprietors, to be returned to him in case of his honorable discharge.

Second. That whenever a person is discharged a Tramp, the fact of his discharge shall be sent to the various papers belonging to this Association.

Third—That we recommend to all publishers, that in employing printers, they require them to agree not to leave their situations without giving two weeks' notice thereof, and that the publishers on their part agree to give the same in case of discharging any of their employees.

Fourth—That we recommend the employment of female help whenever it can be done conveniently.

After some debate, the whole subject was postponed until the next meeting of the Association.

The Presidents read from a copy of the Rochester, New York, *Democrat*, the following dispatch from D. H. Craig, agent of the New York Associated Press:

"NEW YORK, March 29.

"TO EDITORS:—We earnestly hope you and other friends of the State Association will not make the mistake of recognizing the opposition telegraph lines, which are undoubtedly built by speculators purely for speculative purposes. We believe you will agree with us that the true interests of the whole press of the country are with the old and reliable lines, and most certainly we will, as I have no doubt you and your associates will, instantly cut adrift from any paper, the proprietors of which contribute in any direct way to uphold or encourage the gambling cut-throats who are concerned in the opposition lines.

D. H. CRAIG, Gen'l Ag't, &c."

After considerable condemnatory debate of the foregoing dispatch, the following resolutions from the Committee on Telegraphing were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Associated Press dispatches heretofore and now received, are not satisfactory as regards quantity, quality and the manner of their delivery, and an improvement in these respects is respectfully but earnestly urged.

Resolved, That we are pleased to know that telegraphic facilities are being largely increased by the construction of new and competent lines; that it is the interest of the public and the press to encourage competition in this business; and, while we shall not be the partisans of any company, we shall deem it our privilege to distribute our patronage in accordance with correct business principles—patronizing those who offer the best facilities.

Resolved, That the Western Associated Press disapprove of the attempt of the New York Associated Press to dictate as to the lines to be employed in the transmission of dispatches; and, in the event of any effort being made to enforce the arbitrary rules adopted in the case of any newspaper of this association, we will make common cause, and regard a wrong upon any press, as the ground stated, as a war upon the whole, and a violation of those principles which should govern the press and the public in dealing with institutions such as telegraph companies.

After the adoption of the foregoing resolutions, the Committee on Advertising Rates reported as follows:

That, in their opinion, there should be some degree of uniformity in the rates for advertising, in our different Western cities; and that, in many places the rates now in force are by far too low, and operate to the injury both of the publishers making them, and to those who are endeavoring to get a more adequate compensation for their space. We would, therefore, recommend that the publishers of the North-west do bind themselves not to advertise at less rates than the annexed scale:

Circulation.	Minimum price per square.
500 daily, or less	$20 00 per annum.
500 to 1,000	25 00 "
1,000 to 2,500	30 00 "
2,500 to 4,000	40 00 "
4,000 to 7,000	50 00 "
7,000 to 10,000	60 00 "
10,000, and upward	75 00 "

The report was adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at Detroit on the first Tuesday in August.

News Items.

THE doctrine which prevailed in Washington last year that a colored man is not the military equivalent of a white man, has at last been abandoned. Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, has received telegraphic information from Washington that colored men will be received as substitutes in the approaching draft, wherever qualified substitutes may be offered.

IRISH EMIGRATION.—The Dublin *Freeman's Journal* of April 23d says: Fifteen hundred persons have left Queenstown for New York within the last few days. The extraordinary emigration is telling fearfully on Irish railway property, and it is estimated that the depreciation in the stock of the different Irish lines represents a fourth of their cost.

ONE "Stearon Spear," of Braintree, Vermont, advertises in the Montpelier *Watchman* that he wishes to secure a place to supply a pulpit, as a practical preacher of the Gospel, and his wife would like a chance "to do housework, or work at the tailor's and dress-making business."

THE Western Freedman's Aid Commission forwarded to freedmen in the South, since November last thirteen hundred packages, weighing one hundred and thirteen tons, containing clothing, furniture, farming implements, garden seeds, school books, &c.

MR. E. C. INGERSOLL, of Peoria, has been nominated for the vacancy in Congress occasioned by the death of the lamented Lovejoy. His Copperhead opponent is Judge H. M. Mead, of Peoria. The special election takes place on the 7th inst.

A WOMAN in Cleveland the other day received $6,714 24 on a life policy of her husband for $5,000, the dividend accruing on the policy being considerably more than the amount of premiums that had been paid. A profitable insurance.

NEARLY three hundred mining companies now have offices in Boston. The *Commercial Bulletin* prints a list of two hundred and twenty-five of them, and sixty more are in different stages of growth.

JACOB STRAWN, the great cattle king of Illinois, has donated $1,100 to the Mississippi Valley Fair, and his wife $100. This is the largest cash donation that has yet been made.

ALL the mills in Lawrence, Mass., are running, but not up to their full capacity, owing to the want of operatives. The Pacific employs nearly three thousand hands.

GEORGE BROUGH, of Ohio, edited a little country paper called the *Western Republican* at Marietta, Ohio, in 1831. He was then not quite twenty years old.

THE Louisville *Democrat* says that though slavery may be wrong in the abstract, yet it has become *indispensable* to the preservation of society.

MR. MORRILL, of Vermont in a recent speech in Congress, estimated the annual product of precious metals in this country at $145,000,000.

THE Cleveland Convention has been changed from the 21st to the 31st of May.

THERE new woolen mills are going up in the town of Lisbon, Maine.

The Ice Trade---Cheap Prices.

The stock of ice on hand among the New York dealers is said to be unusually heavy. Of the prices the New York *Post* remarks:

Although the expenses of gathering ice were last year one-third greater than usual, the prices, notwithstanding the inflation of currency, are now as low as *two dollars a ton* at wholesale, against an average rate of nearly two dollars and a half until last year, when a large share of the ice was sold at five to ten dollars a ton; a considerable quantity was disposed of at fifteen dollars, and a small amount changed hands at the high figure of twenty dollars.

This rate of two dollars a ton does not, it is credibly stated, more than cover the expense of gathering the ice from its storing-places around the city to the market, and sales therefore involve positive loss to the companies. The retail prices are now established at one quarter to one half cent per pound. Families will be supplied, probably, at rates no higher than half a cent.

NORTHERN SUGAR CANE.—A letter in the Auburn *Advertiser* contains an interesting account of several experiments in the cultivation of the Imphee, or northern sugar cane, in Cayuga county, New York. The result was gratifying; five gallons of juice produced one of syrup, and the yield per acre was from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and eighty gallons of syrup. About twenty acres will be planted in the town of Genoa this year. The juice is expressed from the cane by grinding and pressing.

MILITARY TRANSPORTATION.—We learn that the Government has recently seized all the North and East river steamboats, at New York, for military transportation purposes. The authorities have also been surprising very extensively the steamboats on the Ohio, for the same purposes. Up the Kanawha in West Virginia, and up the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers in the Southwest, we presume there are missions for all manner of carrying craft at the present time.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, May 3, 1864.

The opposition to the steam fire engines, among the firemen of this vicinity, seems to be rapidly fading away. They had been under a cloud for a long time, and serious disturbances occurred among the members of the hand and steam engine companies when the midnight alarm called them together. Now the firemen themselves are beginning to acknowledge their efficiency. At a recent fire in Greenwich street, there was not a single hand engine that could throw a stream to the top of the burning building, but a steamer put two streams on the roof and kept them there, thus saving a great amount of property. The fireman element has always been a controlling one in the politics of the city, and the "boys" have no disposition to fritter away their power, which would undoubtedly be done if horses were brought into requisition to do men's work. This accounts for the opposition to the introduction of steamers heretofore. Large numbers of men could be dispensed with, and this is precisely what the firemen did not want. Some of these days the Boston plan of employing horses instead of men to drag these lumbering fire extinguishers over the pavements, will be adopted; but that time will not arrive till the Democratic politicians are overslaughed and public economy thought more of than firemen's votes. There is another evil that calls loudly for remedy. The firemen are horribly slow in getting their steamers at work. They first got to the "alarm," then leisurely set the fires going under the boilers, and sit round smoking pipes or go hunting up barrooms while the steam is generating. When these two radical reforms are effected, there will be an end to false alarms, disgraceful rows and immense conflagrations.

The first of May, the day of social confusion, has come and gone. As this day made its advent this year on Sunday, the domestic changing of base was generally perfected yesterday, though there was much of it on Saturday. The exodus from this city is reported to have been very large. Rents are so so high here that thousands of families have been obliged to repair to the suburbs. Draymen and expressmen have reaped a golden harvest, as the "movers" were probably never more numerous than this year. "The pleasures of moving day, if any there be, have not, to our knowledge, ever cropped out."

Our harbor is absolutely crowded with foreign men-of-war. The Russian fleet, which some time since visited Fortress Monroe, has returned. There are two squadrons of French, English and Spanish war vessels here, which give our pleasant harbor a bloody and threatening look. Much concern was manifested at the course of the French Admiral, who brought his vessels, which are filled with sick and wounded from Mexico, directly opposite the city, perfectly regardless of the Quarantine regulations. Movements are making to abate the nuisance. Yesterday being the birth-day of the present Emperor of Russia, it was observed by all the foreign vessels in port as well as the American, and the forts in the harbor. The booming of the "loud-mouthed cannon" was heard nearly all day, and the shipping, gaily adorned with flags and streamers, produced a very fine effect.

Much excitement has been occasioned by several attempts to "throw up horse railroad cars," and has had the effect, in some instances, to drive people from the cars to the omnibuses. The whole secret of this "dastardly feat," as it is called by the newspapers, is simply this: Some time since two enterprising muffins stole a hatful of railroad torpedoes (which, you will remember, are used as a signal for coming to a halt,) from the Erie Railway, to amuse themselves by frightening the passengers. These boys have fastened these torpedoes to the different city hacks, and our metropolitans, who are as green on matters pertaining to the rural districts as countrymen are on city institutions, actually thought that another gunpowder plot had been formed.

WAYERLEY.

A Nut for Copperheads to Crack.

Married, in the Presbyterian Church in Vicksburg, by the Chaplain of the Sixteenth U. S. infantry, (colored) on Sunday, April 10, 1864, William Smith, Esq., son of Gov. Smith, of Virginia, to Mrs. Lucitia Farley, both of Vicksburg.

These parties are colored people.

QUERY.—Is "miscegenation" to be approved or blamed? If the latter, shall the son of the "happy pair" be blamed for being only almost white (if being under-sized, he gave no previous concept to this miscegenage) or the father who was no "Black Republican," and who surely did something more than consent to the "wooing" That fact is music which the copperheads may play, upon their harp of a *thousand* strings, with all the customary variations.

THE CROPS IN TENNESSEE.—The Nashville *Union* says: "The weather having become unusually fine, there is but one thing to prevent the planting of a spring crop, and that is the unsettled condition of our social institutions of the State. While the civil authorities are in abeyance, and while the negro question remains unsettled, little will be done in industrial pursuits. A few persons are defying unfriendly circumstances, and these are promised a reward in their crops which will be highly remunerative. That if Tennessee does not this year raise fifty millions of bushels of corn, it is to be attributed to the delay in the re-organization of the State and the settlement of the slavery question."

RICHMOND MARKET PRICES.—Brown Sugar, $10 75; clarified, $9 87½ to $11 10; crushed, $12 10 to $15 25.—Coffee, $3 25. Soda, $3 20 to $3 25. Salt 25c. ₱ lb. Brown Peas, $42 ₱ bush.; Peas, $57. Lard, $3 50.; Adamantine Candles, $3 50 to $4 25. Brown Soap, $4 25; Castile do., $4 25.—Rum, $1 00 ₱ gallon. Champagne, $37 50 to $45 ₱ bottle. Bacon, $7 ₱ lb. Beef, $3 50 to $4 ₱ lb. Salt Beef, $3 to $3 50 ₱ lb. Butter, $9 to $10 ₱ lb. Corn Meal, $45 ₱ bush. Corn, $45 ₱ bush. Flour, $2 40 to $2 60 ₱ bbl. Hay, $30 to $35 ₱ 100. N. O. Molasses, $50 ₱ gallon. Oats, $38 to $40 ₱ bush. Rice, $19 ₱ lb. Vinegar, $3 to $4 ₱ gallon. Pine Wood, $46; Oak, $60 ₱ cord.

TELEGRAMS.

IMPORTANT FROM BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

Reported Battle at Thoroughfare Gap.

DEFEAT OF BURNSIDE'S FORCES.

LOSS FROM 2,000 TO 4,000 MEN.

THE NEGRO TROOPS DEMORALIZED.

THE STORY DOUBTLESS A CANARD.

NEW YORK, May 6.—The *World's* Washington dispatch says that Burnside is acting as a reserve to the Grand Army of the Potomac. When he will move to the front is unknown.

The *World* has a dispatch containing the report that Burnside's advance was checked at Thoroughfare Gap by the rebels under Longstreet. A battle is said to have occurred, resulting in our defeat, with a loss of from 2,000 to 4,000. The negro troops are said to have become demoralized, and threw down their arms and stampeded to the rear.

The story is doubtless a canard.

The Draft in Cincinnati---Gov. Brough Addresses the National Guard.

CINCINNATI, May 6.—The draft in the First Ward, yesterday, passed off quietly. Among those drawn is Alfred Gaither, Superintendent of Adams' Express Company, and several other prominent citizens.

Governor Brough addressed the National Guard at Camp Dennison yesterday in a stirring speech.

The Seventh Regiment Guards left this morning for camp. The 9th, 9th and 10th Regiments follow to-morrow.

Six thousand troops have left Indiana, during this week, for the front.

Improper Enlistment of Recruits.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—Stoppages have been made against the pay of certain Provost Marshals and Surgeons for improper enlistment of recruits, declared by Boards of Enrollments unfit for military duty.

The Prisoners from Richmond.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—The Committee on the Conduct of the War go to Annapolis to-morrow to examine the prisoners arrived from Richmond.

Sanitary Appropriation.

The Boston Board of Brokers to-day appropriated $10,000, to be equally distributed between the Baltimore and St. Louis Sanitary Commissions.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS!

Advance of the Potomac Army Toward Richmond.

THE ARMY ACROSS THE RAPIDAN.

LEE COMPELLED TO FALL BACK.

Gen. Smith Reported on the South Bank of James River.

COUCH AND SIGEL CO-OPERATING WITH GRANT.

Gen. Butler in the Field.

Preparations to Ascend the James River with Monitors.

DESPERATE WORK BEFORE THE ARMY.

Our Soldiers Nerved for the Conflict.

NEW YORK, May 6.—A special dispatch to the *World*, dated Headquarters Army of the Potomac, May 4th, 6 A. M., says: The order for the move was issued from General Meade's headquarters yesterday morning, and was disseminated through the army by 2 P. M. Gen. Gregg's cavalry division, accompanied by a portion of the canvass pontoon train, moved yesterday afternoon toward Richardsville and were engaged until late in the night repairing the road to Ely's Ford.

Soon after midnight that division moved to the Ford named, to establish a crossing, and about midnight the 2d Army Division, with another portion of Conner's pontoon train, left for Germania Ford, five or six miles above there, to establish a crossing. It is reported at this hour that both efforts were successful.

The advance of the 2d corps, Gen. Hancock commanding, broke camp at midnight, and moved down the Stevensburg and Richardson road toward Ely's Ford. The entire corps were on the march before 2 o'clock this morning in the same direction, and expected to effect a crossing.

Soon after daylight the 5th Corps, under Major General Warren, commenced moving. The advance, consisting of twenty divisions of infantry and a portion of artillery, passed through Stevensburg at midnight, closely followed by the remainder of the corps, all marching towards Germania Ford.

The 5th corps was closely succeeded by the 6th under Sedgewick, which quitted camp at 4 A. M. Both the 5th and 6th corps are understood to be crossing the Rapidan at Germania ford.

The entire movement resolves itself into crossing the Rapidan at two fords towards the right flank of the enemy, placing itself on a line nearly parallel with the river, between Orange Court House and Chancellorville.

At the present hour the movement is under full headway, and there is a probability that it will be successfully executed without any opposition by Lee, to whom this early move must be more or less of a surprise. It is not probable that any serious engagement will be had to-day. Cavalry skirmishing and artillery duelling will likely make up to-day's fighting, unless the enemy contests our advance in force.

A World's special says: There is no doubt now from the intelligence received from Bealton Station that Lee has entirely abandoned his line on the Rapidan, and with his army taken the roads running South from that point to Orange Springs, destined either for the entrenchments at Richmond, or for a position at Hanover C. H. There is no indication of a rebel movement into the valley of Virginia. The fact Lee's general retreat as he did formerly to Mine Run and beyond, seems clearly established.

NEW YORK, 6.—The *World* says that the passengers who arrived in this city from Baltimore last evening state that information has been received there from rebel sources, that Gen. Smith, with a very large army, disembarked on the south side of the James river, not far from Fort Darling.

His object was of course a mere matter of speculation. It might be a feint to distract the rebels, and prevent reinforcements being sent to Lee, but if it was in earnest it meant that Fort Darling and Petersburg were to be captured, and Richmond cut off from railroad communication with North Carolina and the South. If the news is correct, and it is generally believed in Baltimore, the occupation of West Point last Sunday was merely to deceive the enemy. Still all is mere unauthenticated rumor, and Smith's army may be destined for West Point to co-operate with the extreme left wing of Meade's army.

The *Times'* special says: Culpepper is strongly fortified, and will be used as a depot for stores.

It is reported here to-day that strong columns of troops under Couch and Siegl are marching from Winchester up the Shenandoah Valley, as a co-operating column destined eventually to cut the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, while Butler's force, or part of it, strikes the other railroads at or near Petersburg, thus severing all railroad communication between Richmond and the South.

General Butler took the field in person at the head of the army on the Peninsula, yesterday; and his host is marshalled by such leaders as W. F. Smith, Gilmore, Terry and Weitzel.

An immense fleet of troops and a strong squadron of monitors and gunboats convey it up on these broad rivers to the gates of Richmond, and perhaps iron-clads may once more try the strength of the rebel batteries which line the James, Pamunkey and Rapahannock rivers.

A feeling prevails that there is desperate work before this army, but there is nerve for it. The iron clads lie in the still waters of Newport News, and the gunboats are in communication with them.

A dispatch from Grant to one of the Generals here, says that 48 hours will determine whether he was to have a battle on the Rapidan, or whether under the works around Richmond. Grant's dispatch was written yesterday.

IMPORTANT FROM BANKS' DEPARTMENT.

THE ARMY STILL AT ALEXANDRIA.

Steele's Forces Returned to Little Rock.

REBELS REPULSED AT SABINE ROCK.

Negotiations Between Parties North and a Rebel General.

CAIRO, May 5.—The steamer Carroll, from New Orleans on the evening of the 29th, has arrived. The news is unimportant.

The Cotton market is firm and in good inquiry with a limited supply, and closed firm; Middling 62@63c, Low Middling 59@59c. Sugar and Molasses in very active demand; a speculative feeling which prevailed during the past two months has subsided, owing principally to the high prices reached. Very little Sugar is offering. Sales of Molasses about 800 barrels; ordinary and good, old and new, 90@95c.

Advices from Alexandria of the 27th report Banks' army still there, but would probably move towards the Mississippi river. Admiral Porter was up the river some sixty miles above Alexandria, where the Eastport was on a sand bar. Her guns were being taken off and her plating removed. If this could not be done she would be blown up. Porter was without infantry or support and was harrassed by the enemy.

A steamer which arrived at Memphis reports that Steele's army has returned to Little Rock. He was followed by Price's army and continually harrassed. At Sabine Rock the rebels were turned upon and repulsed after a severe battle, in which the loss was about equal on both sides.

Marmaduke is reported to be on the march to join Price, when it was supposed they intended jointly to attack Little Rock.

Discoveries have been made in this city which confirm the statement of negotiations between certain parties North and the rebel General Kirby Smith, whereby the latter was to secure to the former Confederate cotton, west of the Mississippi river, and receive in return goods, ammunition, &c.

A prominent business man of this city was urgently solicited by parties of wealth and influence in the east to join them in the enterprise, as to act as their agent. He declined, but the project has been successfully carried out, to some extent.

S. L. Casey, of Caseyville, Ky., in connection with a rebel brother, and Wm. Smith, of Springfield, Ill., late State Treasurer, are the chief Government agents in accomplishing it, the Treasury Department having furnished permits to pass it to the rebel army; portions however, supposing stopped at New Orleans by Gov. Bisby, notwithstanding the permits and orders of the Treasury Department.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1864.

THE REPORT ON THE BLAIR CASE.

The Committee of Elections record a contest concerning Frank Blair's election to this Congress. The Democrats sought to have a resolution passed simply saying that Blair was not entitled to a seat, hoping thus to evade the issue of whether he was ever legally elected, by simply saying that as he now holds a Major General's commission, of course, he was not entitled to a seat in Congress. A majority of the Committee, however, insisted on a resolution declaring that he never was legally elected, and that the contestant was, and carried it by a vote of five to four—the three Democrats and Clay Smith voting against it.

The minority say that they will make no report; that of the majority will be presented to the House to-morrow. It is very voluminous, and is very ably drawn by the Chairman, Mr. Dawes, of Mass., who has the deserved reputation among his opponents, as well as friends, of being one of the fairest and most impartial men in the House. Its main points may be thus condensed: Mr. Knox's notice of the contest contained eighteen distinct specifications, in substance as follows: That four hundred illegal votes had been cast for Blair at Abbey precinct; seventy-eight by two companies of Missouri volunteers; several hundred by the workmen on Government gunboats, at Carondolet, not residents of districts; more than 100 by persons temporarily employed at Jefferson Barracks in the service of the United States, and non-residents of the district; several hundred by an Iowa regiment, and many by soldiers in the eastern precinct, fifth ward, St. Louis. Many hundred soldiers, non-residents, and minors voted for him in a manner not in conformity with the requirements of of the Constitution. That there were counted Blair votes cast not in conformity to law as specified in the cases that the poll-books of the several Missouri regiments in which Knox had a majority, were never returned or counted; that poll-books in which Knox had a large majority were illegally rejected, that regiments which would have voted for Knox, were prevented by removal on the day of election for that purpose, that two hundred of a Missouri regiment were prevented from voting because they would not vote for Blair, that many were deceived, and others induced by threats of Government contractors, and other persons in the Government employ not to vote for Knox. The sitting member Blair, also served upon his contestant an award denying all the alleged illegal votes, and storming forth in turn twelve distinct allegations on which he resists the claim of the contestant.

The remarkable features in this case disclosed in the outset, led the Committee to direct a most scrutinizing investigation into the manner of voting, the qualifications of voters, and the conduct of the Judges of Elections. The evidence shows that great irregularities existed in nearly all the precincts, and just in proportion as these irregularities were frequent and glaring did the increase of votes for Blair, over the votes cast for the candidate of his party two years before, show itself. Men unknown in the precincts where they offered to vote were permitted to cast their ballot without a question, and without taking the required oath that they had not and would not vote in any other precinct of the district. Tumultuous crowds surrounded the polls and at times had such possession of them as to render it almost if not quite impossible for a voter to vote unless he carried a ballot for Blair. On examination of the poll books and abstract of votes at these precincts, which are part of the proof, they disclosed evidence of these irregularities, and the facility they afforded for fraudulent voting. The conviction is forced upon the Committee that this facility was eagerly and largely availed of, if not the cause of much fraudulent voting in several of these precincts. It does not appear that any oath had been taken by the Judges of election. Poll books show that the same person cast more than one vote, and sometimes more than two; sometimes in the same, and sometimes in different precincts, thus multiplying his vote manifold. Your Committee have, as well as they were able to, considered all the testimony in this voluminous record which they deemed material to the issues presented, and have found much that is uncertain and unsatisfactory. They have also found much difficulty in sifting the evidence, and determining the weight to which each part of it was entitled. The result of it all they submit to the House as follows: The official canvass gives to the sitting member and the contestant the following votes: Blair, 4,822; Knox, 4,623; deducting illegal vote, Blair has 4,408; Knox, 4,457—leaving the latter a plurality of 49. The Committee therefore submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That Francis P. Blair is not entitled to a seat in this House as a representative in the Thirty-eighth Congress from the First Congressional district of Missouri.

Resolved, That Samuel Knox is entitled to a seat in the Thirty-eighth Congress from the First Congressional district of Missouri.

It is understood that if the case had not been entirely safe on this showing, Knox was prepared also to prove a large number of legal votes cast for him in the county, of which he had been fraudulently deprived by official returns. There is no doubt whatever entertained that the House will sustain the decision of the Committee.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, May 5.

Forenoon Session.—The resolution relative to the distribution of land and educational scrip occupied all the forenoon, and was postponed indefinitely.

BILLS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

A supplement to the Freeport and Shenango Railroad; supplement relative to licenses on vehicles in Pittsburgh and surrounding towns; relative to paving Duquesne borough; to change the name of the Saltsburg Coal Company to Westmoreland Coal Company; appropriation bill to charter the Antelope Gold Mining Company; relative to Justices' fees in Allegheny Co.; relative to the burial ground of the First Baptist Church in Pittsburgh; to allow the Mayor of Pittsburgh to appoint a Deputy Mayor; relative to soldiers' families in the borough of Manchester.

Speaker Johnson received a unanimous vote of thanks, couched in very flattering terms. A cane was presented to him by the officers of the House. His reply upon the presentation was very brief but feeling. The Speaker, Chief Clerk and both assistants were presented with gold headed canes. The ceremony of presentation passed off handsomely. Speaker Johnson retires very popular among the members. He has discharged his duties ably and well.

The Senate was in session but a very short time. The usual resolutions of thanks to the officers were passed. Chief Clerk Hamersly and Assistant Berry were very highly commended.

Guerrilla Railroad Raid.

CUMBERLAND, Md., May 5.—Rebel guerrillas made a raid on the railroad this morning at 7 o'clock, at Bloomington, capturing three trains containing $20,000 worth of property, belonging to the railroad company. Trains will run to-morrow as usual.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

General Conference of the M. E. Church.

THIRD DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

It was resolved to suspend the order of business that the delegates from Canada, Revs. James Gardiner and S. Morrison, might be at once be received, and their credentials examined.

As their presence and authentication were announced, the Conference rose from their seats, and their Canadian brethren in Christ were received with due honors.

A resolution instructing the Committee on Missions to inquire into the expediency of electing an assistant missionary secretary for the Pacific coast was adopted.

Rev. Mr. Monroe, of West Jersey, offered a resolution that the Committee on Revivals be instructed to alter the discipline so as to restore the supernumerary relation, and to report as soon as possible. Quite an animated discussion ensued, after which the resolution was withdrawn.

The committees on the following subjects were then announced:

On the Christian Commission, on the Temperance Cause, Pastoral Addresses, Expenses of Delegates, Freedmen, Temporal Economy, Centenary of Methodism, and committees in reply to the addresses of British and Irish Conferences.

A resolution from the Pittsburgh Conference relating to an alteration of the Sunday School discipline, was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

The following Committee announced their organization:

Lay Delegation—Chairman, Dr. Thompson, of New York; Secretary, H. C. Benson, of California.

Sunday School and Tract Society—Chairman, Rev. Mr. Porter, of Providence, R. I.; Secretary, Rev. Mr. Munsell, of Central Illinois.

On Revivals—Chairman, Rev. D. W. Clark, of New York; Secretary, Rev. S. C. Brown, of Providence, R. I.

With the grand old doxology, sung with sublime effect by the whole Conference, standing, the Convention adjourned after the apostolic benediction had been pronounced by the patriot clergyman, Rev. Mr. Drummond, of West Virginia.

Paroled Pennsylvania Prisoners.

The following is a list of the paroled Pennsylvania officers who arrived at Annapolis, Md., on Monday last. It will be seen that some of those belonging to the 101st and 103d Regiments, captured at Plymouth, are among the number:

Surg. D. G. Rust, 101st Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at Plymouth, N. C., April 20.

Surg. A. P. Frick, 103d Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at Plymouth, N. C., April 20.

Chaplain A. S. Billingsley, 101st Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at Plymouth, N. C., April 20.

Capt S. B. King, 12th Pennsylvania cavalry, captured at Winchester, June 15, 1863.

Capt. H. Z. Caswell, 6th Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at Winchester, June 15, 1863.

Capt. Chas. Ogle, 6th Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at Plymouth, N. C., April 20, 1864.

First Lieut. S. S. Good, 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at Locust Grove, Nov. 27, 1863.

Lieut. T. S. Harris, 3d Pennsylvania cavalry, captured at Smithfield, Va., Feb. 1st, 1863.

First Lieut. and Q. M. M. Kepp, 167th Pennsylvania Volunteers, captured at White House, Va., June 1, 1863.

Items from Oildom.

Last week the Blood Farm was sold to L. M. Seely, formerly of New York, but now a resident of Michigan, for $550,000. This farm is on Oil Creek, in the heart of the best producing district, and yields five or six hundred barrels of oil daily.

The Millet Oil Company, ten miles up Tionesta Creek, near Newtown, have struck a big show of oil at the depth of 920 feet. At 980 feet a strong vein of gas was tapped. In boring the last fifty feet, three strata of sand rock were passed through, one of which was thirty feet in thickness.

The Keystone Oil Company, operating on East Sandy, have commenced two or three new wells, and are pushing the work with energy.

The River Company, owning the Hoover farm, east of the river, have an engine on the ground, and will soon be operating.

P. H. Strong, Esq., has sold his farm, just above Oil City, for the round sum of $100,000.

A number of new companies have commenced, or are about to commence operations.

Donations to the Sanitary Fair.

The following cash contributions have been paid into the the Treasurer of the Dry Goods Committee for the Sanitary Fair, by the collecting committee on Fifth and Market streets:

White, Orr & Co	$500	M. McAteer	50
Eaton, Macrum & Co	500	A. Lloyman	50
Joseph Horne & Co	500	John Porter	50
J. W. Barker & Co	500	R. R. Barker	50
Hugus & Hacke	500	J. & F. B. McConnell	50
A. Bates	500	G. M. Gumeohauser & Co	50
John Orr & Co	100	Moorhead, Donaldson & Co	25
D. H. Frailch & Son	100	M. J. Spence	20
O. Wilson	100	J. Wazelbaum	20
C. H. Love & Co	100	J. Gosling	50
Macrum & Hyde	50	Jos. W. Spencer	100
J. H. Burchfield	50		
D. Cooper & Co	50		$4,110
H. J. Lynch	50		

The Committees are requested to collect their whole routes at an early day next week, to enable the dry goods branch of the Fair to make a final report by May 13th.

By order of the President,

W. W. WARD, Secretary.

Malicious Mischief.

The residents on the north bank of the canal, above Anderson street, Allegheny, have been greatly annoyed for some time past by a number of boys, who have been breaking palings off fences, and committing other depred