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Reading Matter from Yesterday's Evening Gazette.

The Conscription Law.

The following is the act, as agreed to by both Houses:

Further to regulate and provide for the enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes.

The President of the United States may at any time hereafter, call for any number of men as volunteers, for the respective terms of one, two and three years for military service, and any such volunteer, or in case of a draft, as hereafter provided, any substitute, shall be credited to the town, township, ward or precinct, or election district of a county, toward the quota of which he may have volunteered or engaged as a substitute, and every volunteer who is accepted and mustered into the service for a term of one year unless sooner discharged shall receive and be paid by the United States a bounty of $100, and if for a term of two years unless sooner discharged, a bounty of $200, and if for a term of three years unless sooner discharged, a bounty of $300, one third at the time of his being mustered into the service, one third at the expiration of one half of his term of service; and one third at the expiration of his term of service; and in case of his death while in the service, then the residue of his bounty unpaid shall be paid to his widow, if he shall have left a widow, if not, to his children, or if there be none, to his mother, in case she be a widow.

In case the quota, or any part thereof, of any town, township, ward of a city, precinct, or election district, or of any county not so divided, shall not be filled within the space of fifty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year to fill such quota, or any part thereof, which may be unfilled, and in case of any such draft, no payment of money shall be accepted or received by the Government as commutation to release any enrolled or drafted man from personal obligation to perform military service.

It shall be lawful for the Executive of any other States to send recruiting agents into any of the States declared to be in rebellion, except the States of Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana, and to recruit volunteers under every call under the provisions of this act, who shall be credited to the State and to the respective subdivisions thereof which may procure the enlistment.

Drafted men, substitutes, and volunteers when mustered in shall be organized in or assigned to regiments, batteries or other organizations of their own States, and as far as practicable shall when assigned be permitted to select their own regiments, batteries or other organizations from among those of their respective States which at the time of their assignment may not be filled to their maximum number.

The twentieth section of the act entitled "An act to amend an Act entitled an Act for Enrolling and Calling out the National Forces," approved Feb. 24, 1863, shall be construed to mean that the Secretary of War shall discharge minors under the age of 18 years, under the circumstances and on the conditions prescribed in said section; and hereafter if any officer of the United States shall detain or muster into the military service any person under the age of 16 years, with or without the consent of his parent or guardian, such person so enlisted or recruited shall be immediately and unconditionally discharged upon the repayment of all bounty received, and such recruiting or mustering officer who knowingly enlists a person under sixteen, shall be dismissed the service, with the forfeiture of all pay and allowance, and shall be subject to further punishment as a court-martial may decide.

Sixth—Section three of an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled an act for enrolling and calling out the national forces and for other purposes," approved Feb. 24, 1863, be and the same hereby is amended so as to authorize and direct district Provost Marshals, under the direction of the Provost Marshal General, to make a draft for one hundred per centum in addition to the number required to fill the quota of any district as provided by said section.

Seventh—That instead of travelling pay, all drafted persons reporting at the place of rendezvous shall be allowed transportation from their places of residence, and persons discharged at the place of rendezvous shall be allowed transportation to their places of residence.

Eighth—All persons for the naval service of the United States who have entered said service *during* the present rebellion, who have not been credited to the quota of any town, district, ward or State by reason of their being in said service, and not enrolled prior to February 24, 1864, shall on satisfactory proof of their residence, made to the Secretary of War, be enrolled and credited to the quota of the town, ward, district or State in which they respectively reside.

Ninth—If any person duly drafted shall be absent from home in the prosecution of his usual business, the Provost Marshal of the district shall cause him to be duly notified as soon as may be, and he shall not be deemed a deserter, nor liable as such until notice has been given to him and reasonable time allowed for him to return and report to the Provost Marshal of his district, but such absence shall not otherwise affect his liability under this act.

Tenth and Eleventh—Nothing contained in this act is to be construed to alter or in any way affect the law relative to those conscientiously opposed to bearing arms, or to affect the rights of persons to procure substitutes.

NAYS—Messrs. Allison, James, Arnold, Ashley, Baldwin of Massachusetts, Baxter, Beaman, Blair of Western Virginia, Boutwell, Boyd, Cobb, Cole, Cresswell, Davis of Maryland, Dawes, Deming, Dixon, Driggs, Eckley, Eliot, Farnsworth, Fenton, Garfield, Gooch, Higby, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of Connecticut, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Julian, Kelley, Littlejohn, Loan, Longyear, McBride, McClurg, Miller of New York, Moorhead, Morrill, Morris of New York, Ames, Myers, Leonard Myers, Norton, O'Neill of Pennsylvania, Orth, Randall of Kentucky, Rice of Maine, Schenck, Shannon, Sloan, Smith, Smithers, Spalding, Tracy, Upson, Van Valkenburgh, Washburne of Illinois, Washburn of Massachusetts, Williams, Wilder, Windom, Woodbridge—60.

NAYS—Messrs Wm J Allen, Alley, Ancona, Bailey, Blair, Bliss, Chanler, Coffroth, Cox, Dawson, Denison, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, English, Frank, Gaunon, Grinnell, Harris of Maryland, Harris of Illinois, Hutchins, Kerman, Knapp, Law, Lehonde, Long, Mallory, Marcy, Middleton, Miller of Pennsylvania, Morris of Ohio, Noble, Odell, Patterson, Pendleton, Perham, Pruyn, Randall of Pennsylvania, Rice of Massachusetts, Robinson, Rollins of New Jersey, Rollins of Missouri, Ross, Scofield, Stacks of New York, Steele of New Jersey, Stevens, Stiles, Thomas, Wadsworth, Webster, Wheeler, Winfield—52.

A HORSE STORY.—Near Bermuda Hundred there is a large corral, where all disabled and worn out horses—brought here by Gen. Sheridan after his famous raid—are confined. The poor beasts have apparently but little of their original vigor left. That was what was thought a week or more since. Now we have changed our opinion. During the heavy firing on our right, a short time since, there came and worn out equine warriors pricked up their ears, straightened their sore and stiff limbs, tossed their manes, formed in squadrons, and with a loud snort charged on a number of inoffensive mules. Two mules were instantly killed, and the others fled in the wildest disorder. The horses again formed to the music of Gillmore's artillery, and charged on a high rail fence, which they at once broke down. They did not desist from their warlike demonstrations until the artillery firing ceased.

A DETACHMENT of troops, under Gen. Carr, were sent out by Gen. Steele, to meet the rebel Shelby, who has been devastating the sections of Arkansas bordering on White river. On the 27th ult. a fight took place, in which the rebels were defeated, with a loss of 500 in killed and wounded, 200 prisoners, the guns they lately captured from the Queen City and some mountain howitzers. The Union loss was 200. Shelby has since been joined by Marmaduke, but the rebels have concluded to retreat. White river is now open to navigation.

A MUNICIPAL MASQUE was held at Memphis on Thursday, at which PARK the Copperhead Mayor, was re-elected. General WASHBURNE next day suspended the functions of the municipal government. He had informed PARK of his intention to do so if he persisted in being a candidate.

Kenesaw Passed at Last.

Hardly has the melancholy interest in the battle of Kenesaw died away, when, even while the exhuberant copperheads were anxiously looking for tidings of Sherman's army being in jeopardy there, comes the news that Sherman has accomplished by strategy precisely what he had failed to do by fighting. This was managed by a march southward by the right flank, rendered practicable by our capture of Pine mountain. This placed Schofield and Hooker on the left flank of Johnston's army, at right angles to the rebel line on Kenesaw, and had not Johnston at once retired, Sherman would have cut off his retreat, and forced him to turn southward and fight his way through to Atlanta. In other words, this movement of Sherman was for the purpose of getting between Johnston and Atlanta.

Immediately upon this Johnston veered around with his army, and instead of facing north along the crest of Kenesaw, he formed his line running north and south to confront Sherman's new line. Still, however, Johnston occupies a range of heights covering Marietta, but west of and parallel to the railroad. It was probably owing to this fact of their having lost the railroad that they, on the 23d, assumed the offensive, and attacked Sherman in the hope of driving our forces back, but in this they were repulsed, and lost three hundred men killed.

In this position it was supposed that a severe battle would occur, as the rebel army was too closely pressed to be able to get away safely beyond the river, and the report of heavy firing having occurred on the 25th, 26th and 27th, and large numbers of wounded being sent to the rear. We shall probably receive the accounts of this battle in a day or two, with the results of it. The contest for the possession of Atlanta is now raging fiercely, and the next march will take the armies to the Chattahoochie or across it, and on to the rebel stronghold itself. Meanwhile, Sherman's progress seems to be one of continued success.

Since the above was written we have received news that Sherman's movements have not only forced the rebels to abandon Kenesaw, but Marietta also, both of which were immediately occupied by our troops. The movement by the right flank was also continued still further, and our army was in full march to the Chattahoochie river, which it was expected would be immediately passed on the enemy's flank, and the advance carried forward at once to Atlanta.—*Phila. North American.*

Destructive Fire at the Springfield (Mass.) Armory.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., July 2.—A fire broke out at 8½ o'clock this evening, in the attic of the milling shop of the United States Armory, situated upon Armory Square, in this city. This building, which is 200 feet long, with an addition of 100 feet in length and two stories high, was entirely destroyed, together with its contents.

The upper story was used as a polishing shop, and the lower story for milling, trimming, tempering, &c. This building was built about fifty years ago, and has been in constant use in the manufacture of muskets during that time.

The woodwork was so thoroughly saturated with oil that when on fire it was impossible to subdue the flames. At one time it seemed impossible to save any part of this network situated upon the north of the square, and many of the shops were cleared of their machinery, tools and stock. The fire was, however, stopped at ten o'clock, at the brick partition which separates the armory building from the one directly east of it, and which also contained extensive wings recently constructed.

It is impossible to give a correct estimate of the loss in machinery and material to-night. Owing to the great rapidity with which the fire spread, but little was saved in the building destroyed, and much of the machinery in the adjoining building must have been seriously injured in its hasty removal.

Great credit is due to the firemen and workmen employed in the armory, through whose promptitude and energy the entire destruction of these works was prevented.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion. It was almost immediately discovered, but, owing to the dryness of the wood, it spread very rapidly, and when it reached the lower stories, where everything was saturated with oil, burned almost as freely as camphene.

The arsenal, situated at the opposite side of the square, contains in which I was then entitled three hundred thousand new rifled muskets, awaiting the orders of the government.

The Sanitary Bug.

The Sanitary mania, for by no other name can the patriotic feeling which crops out in Sanitary fairs, contributions and commissions be so fittingly described, had a curious illustration lately in California. The advantages were not lessened though the instrumentality were novel.

At Dayton, in that State, while the famous floor which realized so many thousand dollars was there, a person observed a small brown bug crawling. Catching this specimen of Washoe entomology, he placed it on the bar of a saloon, and, declaring it to be the "Great Sanitary Bug of Washoe," asked for bids for his bugship. The idea took, and several bids were instantly made, and soon the bug was rocked down at $10. The new owner of the Great Sanitary Bug again put him up at auction, and again the bidding commenced.

Just at this time a man who had offered $1,50 for the bug, asked a by-stander for information in regard to the bug. "What is there about the bug?" he asked. "What makes this so valuable?" "It is the Great Sanitary Bug," answered the person to whom this question was propounded; "It is only because the money is going to the Sanitary Fund that people are bidding on it." At this the man who offered $1,50 showed strong symptoms of disgust. "Damn the Sanitary Fund," he cried, "is that all?" At this Captain Close confronted him with—"My friend, you must not damn the Sanitary Fund." But the man, who had been going it altogether on the merits of the bug, insisted upon damning the Sanitary Fund, whereupon Captain Close turned loose upon, and gave him a beautiful thrashing. During the confusion incident to this slight digression of the programme, the Great Sanitary bug was stepped away and lost, or his bugship might have sold ere this for thousands of dollars, and have had the honor of a glass case and a trip to the Mississippi Valley Fair, labelled, "the Great Sanitary Bug from Washoe."

Death of Josiah Quincy.

It is announced that Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts is dead. The intelligence will take no one by surprise, since he had long passed the allotted period of human life, and was verging to that time in which he would see a third century rolling under his feet. It will be even less surprising than other deaths because he has long withdrawn from active pursuits, and but occasionally interfered with the current occurrences of the time. Notwithstanding these facts Mr. Quincy's death will be both a surprise and regret. He was born in Boston, February 4, 1772, a son of that Quincy who signalized himself in the Revolution both as author and actor, counsel and client. He served in Congress from 1805 to 1813 representing the Federal party. Declining re-election, he had recourse to farming; was elected to the Legislature; opposed the war; opposed the admission of Louisiana, and was dropped by his party in 1822. He was re-elected to the House of Representatives and chosen Speaker; appointed Judge of the Municipal Court of Boston; elected Mayor of Boston; elected President of Harvard College in 1829, and retained the post until 1845, when he resigned, and, excepting his advocacy of Gen. Fremont, in 1856, has led a secluded life since. His son Edmund was born in 1808, and has been a prominent Garrisonian. The noted family to which Mr. Quincy belonged—allied to the Adamses and others; his own prominence; his strong and consistent advocacy of anti slavery, before such advocacy was popular; his numerous writings and speeches, will all render his decease among the most notable which could have occurred in New England.—*Phil. North American.*

ARREST OF GENERAL DIX.—HE IS TAKEN BEFORE CITY JUDGE RUSSELL.—Major-General Dix, it is understood, was arrested to-day, and with two or three of his staff officers taken before City Judge Russell.

The suppression of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce* newspapers is the alleged cause of the arrest.

Russell granted the warrant, it is reported, upon representations of District Attorney A. O. Hall.

The General and the other officers were, however, not detained. An examination will soon be had.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Death of Hon. Josiah Quincy.

BOSTON, July 2—Hon. Josiah Quincy died last evening, at his country seat, in Quincy, aged 92 years. Aside from the infirmities of extreme age, Mr. Quincy was in good health, and rode out on the day before his death.

The Death of Colonel Covode.

We have already announced the death of Colonel George H. Covode, of the 4th Pennsylvania cavalry. The following letter addressed to the Hon. John Covode, father of the gallant Colonel, was written by Captain D. P. Smith, who now commands the company which Mr. Covode took to the field three years ago. Capt. Smith gives some additional particulars of the wounding of the Colonel, which will be read with painful interest:

Camp of 4th Pa. Cavalry, on James River,
June 25th, 1864.

HON. JOHN COVODE:—My heart is filled with sorrow as I write you sad tidings. On yesterday, the 24th inst., our 2d Cavalry Division marched to a point near St. Mary's Church, which lies between the Chickahominy and James rivers. Having arrived early in the morning, we formed in line of battle and lay quiet until 3 P. M., when the enemy, having ascertained that we had but one division, and they having a corps, made a terrible attack upon us. We resisted nobly, but were forced to fall back, and in so doing our Colonel, your son Geo. H. Covode, was wounded in the left arm, breaking it in two places, one above the elbow, and one between the elbow and wrist. One ball struck him in the left side, passing through and coming out on the right side of his stomach. Every possible effort was made to get him off the field, but we being too hard pressed were compelled to leave him. He suffered intensely, and the day being extremely warm it made him very weak and faint. It is the opinion of those who saw him that his wound was mortal, and this was his own opinion. I did not see him. My squadron was mounted as a support to the battery, and all the remainder were dismounted. I can learn nothing that he said, except to hurry him off the field, that his sufferings were horrible. This evening, the report is, that he is dead and buried at Charles City Court House. Accept my condolence in this, your irretrievable loss. He fell nobly fighting for his country. He was brave, noble and generous, and had endeared himself to all who knew him. The regiment lost eighty-five in the two last fights, company D lost fifteen of them (list not complete.)

Most Respectfully yours,
D. P. SMITH, Capt. 4th Penna. Cavalry.

Geological Speculations.

Prof. Agassiz, in the Atlantic Monthly, comes to the conclusion that the continent of North America was at one time covered with ice a mile in thickness. The proof is that the slopes of the Allegheny range of mountains carve glacier worn to the very top, except a few points which were above the level of the icy mass. Mount Washington, for instance, is over six thousand feet high, and the rough unpolished surface of its summit, covered with loose fragments, just below the level of which glacier marks come to an end, tells us that it lifted its head alone above the desolate waste of ice and snow. In this region, then, the thickness of the sheet cannot have been much less than six thousand feet, and this is in keeping with the same kind of evidence in other parts of the country, for, wherever the mountains are much below six thousand feet, the ice seems to have passed directly over them, while the few peaks rising to that height are left untouched. The glacier, he argues, was God's great plow, and when he work situated upon the north of the square, and many of the shops were cleared of their machinery, tools and stock. The fire was, however, stopped at ten o'clock, at the brick partition which separates the armory building from the one directly east of it, and which also contained extensive wings recently constructed.

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Personal and News Items.

William Smith O'Brien, head of the Irish Rebellion in 1848, and brother of Baron Inchiquin, who was Sir Lucius O'Brien before he succeeded to the peerage, is reported as having taken place on the 17th of June. He was born at Dromoland, the family seat, in the county of Clare, in 1803, and claims to be the lineal descendant from the ancient Kings of Munster.

Our readers may not be generally aware that on Wednesday the House concurred in the amendment of the Senate abolishing the laws protecting, authorizing and regulating the domestic slave trade. Thus another of the laws recognizing slavery disappears from our statute book, for of course the President will approve the action of the two houses.

THE Unconditional Union Convention for the Ninth Congressional District of Indiana, assembled on June 30th, and nominated Hon. Schuyler Colfax by acclamation for Congress. This was the most enthusiastic and harmonious convention ever held in the District.

Mr. L. E. CHITTENDEN tendered his resignation as register of the treasury, to take effect on or before August 1st. He goes back to his home in Vermont, having become tired of public life in Washington.

Counsels Revolution.

The New York *Daily News* is getting bald. Although an ardent champion of Peace toward the Rebels, it is an ardent champion of war toward the Federal Government. It calls upon Gov. Seymour to raise the standard of revolution, place himself at the head of the Democracy of the States, and march against the "Lincoln despots." The Genius of outraged Justice, it says, cries out for "vengeance," and a vengeance that only blood can satisfy. Hear it—

"At any moment that Governor Seymour would in good faith, and without faltering, *call out the people to vindicate the lawful rights of the people and the State, he would find an enthusiastic response from hundreds of thousands, ready and greedy to put an extinguishing heel upon the infamous despotism of a most traitorous Administration.* Only give the people a chance to lawfully to execute vengeance, and we," says the *News*, "will answer for its being effectually applied.

The Repeal of the Gold Bill.

We believed, when the gold bill was passed, that the results would be beneficial; but, whether owing to its passage, or to other causes, gold immediately rose to an alarming percentage. There it remained, unaffected by the stern provisions of the bill. This is one fact not to be overlooked. There is another which seems equally significant. Yesterday both Houses of Congress, by decisive votes, repealed the gold bill. The price of gold fell yesterday *fifty seven per cent., the greatest fall during the whole war.* Was this merely coincidence, or was it consequence? Doubtless the appointment of Mr. Fessenden had much to do with the sudden change, remembering as it did the fear that Mr. Chase might have an incompetent successor. Still the facts cited remain, and it gold continues to decline, or remains as it is, we must accept the repeal of the bill as sound legislation and a public good.—*Forney's Press of Saturday.*

French Plan in Mexico.

"Malakoff" writes to the New York *Times* under date of Paris, June 17th:

"Now that it has been found out that Juarez and his army still live and have an organization in Mexico, and that the war is only begun, the following is said to be the plan of operations: The French troops will be maintained at the capital and environs, and the war against Juarez in the outer States will be carried on by the army of Maximillian, composed of 5,000 French volunteers, 6,000 Austrians, 2,000 Belgians, all under the command of a French General, and such Mexican troops as the new Emperor may be able to muster into service. As it will be impossible now to do anything till the end of the rainy season, that is to say in October, Juarez is going to have ample time to prepare the Winter campaign.

HON. JAMES T. BRADY, a distinguished Democratic lawyer and politician of New York, in a late speech, said:

"Much has been said, too, about usurpations of power; but where in history will you find a war against rebellion conducted with such moderation?"

This is rather different from the average "Democratic" cutery.

We hear of copious and refreshing rains during the present week in various parts of the West. Throughout Wisconsin, where the protracted drouth has damaged the crops so seriously, there have been frequent and heavy showers within a few days past, which it is thought, will partially redeem vegetation and the corn crop. The crop prospects in this State and Iowa are quite flattering.

Anticipated Call for 500,000 Men.

NEW YORK, July 3.—The *Herald's* special Washington dispatch says that the President will call for half a million of men immediately after the adjournment of Congress.

TELEGRAMS.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1864.

THE FOURTH IN WASHINGTON.

The usual display of fire works here was postponed in consequence of the late accident at the Arsenal, but Master Tod Lincoln has improvised a big display out at the Soldier's Home. In other respects the Fourth is passing off very quietly. The negroes had a parade and pic nic on the grounds between the President's and the War Departments. They had speaking, &c.

THE BILL TAXING INCOMES.

The bill taxing incomes, as finally passed, stands five per cent. on incomes between six hundred and three thousand, seven and one half per cent. on all over three thousand, and ten per cent. on all over twenty thousand. Changes had been made, but all these were finally stricken out, and the bill passed as originally agreed to by the Conferees Committee. In addition to this, however, there is the special war tax, on all incomes, of five per cent., to be assessed and collected for the year ending October 1, 1863.

Both Houses adjourned to-day, shortly after 12 o'clock, little business being done in the closing hours, except enrollment and signing of bills. The President pocketed Winter Davis' Reconstruction bill, thus insisting that his plan is better than Congress' plan; still, as Congress has made laws forbidding any elegional votes from the rebel States like Arkansas and Louisiana, it has beaten the argument. In the House, Speaker Colfax made a very graceful little chaig speech and was loudly cheered from both floor and galleries.

Just before the adjournment of the Senate to-day, Gov. Sprague made an exceedingly pungent explanation about Frank Blair's charges against him. He said that a speech made in the House of Representatives, some weeks since, Frank Blair then claiming to be a member from Missouri, deliberately asserted that I had received some special privileges from Secretary Chase by which I had made or would make some two million dollars, and he referred to Mr. Aspinwall as witness. Postmaster General Blair used the Postoffice Department to contain this speech, and so made himself a party in the defamation of the Secretary of the Treasury and in his impeachment of my personal integrity. I have heretofore treated this malignant charge with silent contempt; nor should I now notice it or its author or the brother of its author had not no currency been given to the slander. Has it contradicted come at length to be recorded as truth. I have determined, therefore, to submit to the humiliation of noticing it, not that I imagine myself the real object of attack. The brothers Blair and Gist tribe of falsifiers mean to strike the Secretary of the Treasury. They had some political ends to compass, and were not scrupulous of their choice of means. They did not care a fig how much the finance of the country might suffer; the army and navy might go hungry and unpaid, no matter what public good might come. What they wanted was to reach him by these poisoned arrows, if through his much better. I am not the Secretary's keeper at the beginning of this war, I responded to the summons of the President. He was my friend, if not the war President of the United States, and the Union was in peril. I recalled Rhode Island to arms, and, great Heaven! though small in size, she waited for no second call. Her brave sons were among the first to reach the besieged Capitol. I went with the militia, and was not the legard either of fame or hazard; but I will not parade my all. It is enough to say that I neither sought nor received the slightest return from the President or Secretary. Then and ever since, I have tried to render some service to my country. The consciousness of the endeavor is reward enough. Since the beginning of the war, the business in which I was then engaged has been since almost wholly in other hands than my own manufacturing interest. The managers have bought raw material and sold goods, where and as they could. So far as I know, they have had no favors from any secretary or any officer of the government. They have taken the chances of the market with others, and have had no more or less advantage which all others have not had. Neither for them nor for myself, nor for anybody else, have I asked or received any special privileges to buy cotton, or anything else, or to trade in cotton or anything else, nor have I made, since this war began, from any buying or trading in cotton, permitted or approved, licensed or connivered, the millionth part of one million dollars, nor the millionth part of that millionth. If the Blairs know anything about the heavy debt, they know that no permits or licenses to trade were granted by the Secretary of the Treasury. He made regulations as the law requires, under which permits were granted, but he granted none, nor allowed any to be granted, except upon the strictest interpretations, and that without favor or partiality. Have the slanderers or their followers sought favors, unauthorized favors, and have disappointed?

In the course of his speech, Mr. Blair said he did take some interest in one cotton transaction, and that was in recommending the man who collected the Sea Island cotton of South Carolina and delivered to Collector Barney, of New York, the proceeds of which, amounting to about three-fourths of a million of dollars, were handed over to Government. He closed by stating that he was humiliated in uttering such miserable calumnies, but thought it a duty. Henceforth the convicted slanderers might rail and falsify, unnoticed by him.

LAST CONFIRMATIONS.

Brig General Stephen G. Burbridge, to be a Major General; Brigadier Generals Alvin P. Hovey and John G. Barnard, to be Major Generals by brevet; Col. Charles J. Paine, Second Louisiana Volunteers, to be a Brigadier General; Brig. Gen. Meigs, Quartermaster General, is understood to have been nominated Major General to day by the President, and rejected by a decisive vote; James Bowen, of New York, to be Commissioner of Immigration; John P. Cumming, of New York, to be Superintendent of Immigration; C. Dewitt Smith, of Washington, D. C., to be Secretary of the Territory of Idaho.

We have just received a copy of the Richmond *Enquirer*, of July 1st. It has a long editorial on Wilson's raid, in which it admits its importance, and speaks sarcastically of the rebel efforts to capture him. The following paragraphs are also interesting:

The sutler's post at Castle Thunder has been abandoned. Hereafter no supplies are to be furnished prisoners on private account, except on order of the commander of the post; within the last forty-eight hours Richmond has been relieved of about 3,000 Yankee prisoners, about 1,000 more remain and they will soon follow their comrades. Belle Island is again occupied with prisoners.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1864.

SENATE.—The House bill assessing a special tax on incomes was passed. Much impending business was transacted.

HOUSE.—Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, offered a resolution congratulating our soldiers and sailors on their successes. He hoped that on reassembling here they would see peace restored and the country in the possession of abundant prosperity, with rebellion successfully crushed. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Ally, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution declaring for the imposition of additional taxes.

Mr. Stevens, of Penn's., objected.

At the close of the session, a motion was made to pass the Declaration of Independence, which was done by the Clerk of the House.

Loss of the Steamship Courier.

NEW YORK, July 5.—The steamship Courier, from Boston for New Orleans, was totally lost on the 14th ult., on Leonard's Keys, off the Bahamas. The small arms, rigging, &c., were saved and sent to Nassau. Commander Grey and the officers and crew were saved, including sailing master Edwin B. Pratt, of Boston, Ensigns Sampson and Snow, and Paymaster Brown, who have arrived here.

The Rebels Reported Crossing the Potomac.

PHILADELPHIA, July 4.—There are numerous reports about that the rebels are crossing the Potomac river at Falling Waters.

THE RUMORED REBEL RAID.

Much Excitement at Gettysburg.

REBELS REPORTED ACROSS THE POTOMAC

6,000 Cavalry at Williamsport.

THE ENEMY ADVANCING NORTHWARD

Our Forces Driven from Leetown and Drainesville.

Rebel Cavalry Reported near Hagerstown.

PHILADELPHIA, July 5.—The *Enquirer* publishes a special dispatch from Gettysburg, of the 4th, stating that there is much excitement there and in the country south of Harrisburg, in consequence of rumors that a large body of rebels are making a raid in Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, and had already crossed the Potomac.

The following was received from the headquarters of Gen. Couch

Chambersburg, July 4.—The latest information is that a cavalry force was within three miles of Williamsport, numbering, it is said, 6,000. A force of 2,000 cavalry was reported crossing dam No. 4 last night.

Harrisburg, July 4—Midnight.—Official information from the border, received by the Governor to-night, indicates that the enemy is advancing northward on a raid.

Yesterday morning at six o'clock Sigel was attacked at Leetown and Drainsville, Va., by a large force of the enemy, said to be under Early and Ransom, and driven from his position, with slight loss.

Gen. Sigel says there were two thousand six hundred cavalry. The number of infantry is not known.

A dispatch just received by the Governor, says fifteen rebel cavalry were seen five miles from Hagerstown, this afternoon.

Other reports considered reliable are, that the rebels are on this side of the Potomac.

The object of the enemy is to advance as far as possible into Pennsylvania, and steal horses and provisions.

ADVICES FROM EUROPE.

Battle between the Alabama and Kearsage!

THE *ALABAMA* SUNK!

SEVENTY OFFICERS AND CREW CAPTURED.

SEMMES SAVED BY AN ENGLISH VESSEL.

THE DANO GERMANIC CONFERENCE A FAILURE.

Hostilities to Commence June 28th.

NEW YORK, July 5.—The steamer City of Baltimore arrived this morning.

The Alabama left Cherbourg on the 19th to engage the Kearsage, and attacked her ten miles from Cherbourg. The engagement lasted one hour and forty minutes. Both vessels maintained complete circles in their career, at a distance of from a quarter to a half mile.

The Alabama was sunk. Semmes and part of his crew were saved by the English yacht Deerhound. Semmes was slightly wounded in the hand. Before leaving Cherbourg the pirate left sixty chr pounders, his specie and ransome bonds there. No one was killed on her knowledge. They appeared to be very fond of each other.

Henry Hicks testified that he witnessed the shiking he shook hands with Miss Davis, the following is said to be the plan of operations: The French troops will be maintained at the capital and environs, and the war against Juarez in the outer States will be carried on by the army of Maximilian, composed of 5,000 French volunteers, 6,000 Austrians, 2,000 Belgians, all under the command of a French General, and such Mexican troops as the new Emperor may be able to muster into service. As it will be impossible now to do anything till the end of the rainy season, that is to say in October, Juarez is going to have ample time to prepare the Winter campaign.

HON. JAMES T. BRADY, a distinguished Democratic lawyer and politician of New York, in a late speech, said:

"Much has been said, too, about usurpations of power; but where in history will you find a war against rebellion conducted with such moderation?"

This is rather different from the average "Democratic" cutery.

We hear of copious and refreshing rains during the present week in various parts of the West. Throughout Wisconsin, where the protracted drouth has damaged the crops so seriously, there have been frequent and heavy showers within a few days past, which it is thought, will partially redeem vegetation and the corn crop. The crop prospects in this State and Iowa are quite flattering.

Anticipated Call for 500,000 Men.

NEW YORK, July 3.—The *Herald's* special Washington dispatch says that the President will call for half a million of men immediately after the adjournment of Congress.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Distressing Homicide at Iron City Park—A Woman Accidentally Shot by her Husband—Coroner's Inquest.

On Monday afternoon, about four o'clock, great excitement was created at Iron City Park, by the report of a pistol, immediately followed by the statement that a woman had been shot dead by her husband. The pic-nic for the benefit of the Catholic Orphans' Asylum was then being held in the Park, and the greatest confusion and indignation followed. It was soon ascertained that the statement was true, so far as the killing was concerned—but the wildest statements were made as to the manner of the homicide. There were those who asserted that the shooting was malicious, while others insisted that it was merely accidental. Some threatened the man with lynching, while others did all in their power to prevent any demonstration of violence. It was finally ascertained that the shot had been fired by Sergeant Michael J. Hewston, an officer who had been detailed on recruiting service, and who had been but recently married to the woman who had been thus suddenly cut off, and that there were no evidences whatever of malice on his part. After the excitement was somewhat allayed, the Sergeant was taken into custody, and the body of deceased was conveyed to the Mayor's office.

At six o'clock in the evening, Coroner McClang summoned the following jury, to investigate the circumstances of the killing: Thomas Steel, John McCargo, Geo. Wilson, Wm Barnhill, J. M Hoch, J. N. Auth. The following testimony was then elicited:

Alvira Davis testified that she resided at Fehl's hotel, she was acquainted with Sergeant Hewston and his wife, Maria, they had been married about three months; they came down to the hotel for her about three o'clock on the afternoon of the 4th; he was then intoxicated; they got into a car and went out to Iron City Park; went to a confectionery stand and had ice cream and cakes; then went to another stand; Hewston pulled his pistol out of his pocket, and looking up at a tree said he would shoot a leaf off; the witness grabbed him by the left hand, and told him not to shoot at the leaf; his wife put up her hands and told him not to shoot; the pistol went off, and the shot passed over the hand of the witness, when his wife fell dead, exclaiming "I'm shot!" The crowd now rushed in, and the witness did not get back to the deceased again. Hewston did not say anything that the witness heard, but fell or stepped down beside his wife. The witness testified that she had been at Hewston's house several times, and never heard any angry words between Hewston and his wife; they were in good humor when he pulled out the pistol. They had danced that day, and had only been about half an hour in the park when the occurrence happened. When he went to the car she asked him to go back and get off the leaves on the tree, and as witness caught his left hand the deceased put forth both her hands, but the witness did not know whether the deceased touched the pistol or not. The witness was bridesmaid at the wedding, had been intimate with them ever since, and never heard of any difficulty between them. On the contrary, she had heard Hewston express great pride and delight with his treatment, which was that of an affectionate husband.

Mr. D. Crawford, of the Ninth ward, testified that he was standing near the dancing platform, about twenty or thirty feet from where the shooting occurred, but did not witness it. He at first supposed the woman had fainted, and endeavored to keep the crowd back, but he soon learned that she was carried off. The body was taken away in an express wagon.

Mrs. Mary Ann Kelly, wife of Alderman Kelly, testified that she was acquainted with Hewston and his wife; Mr. Kelly married them. The witness went to the pic nic with them, and took ice cream with them at the first table, after which she fell. Hewston appeared to be under the influence of liquor a little. The witness then testified that Hewston and his wife had lived for three weeks at her house, and had been quite and forward ever since, and they were very happy. Hewston was the 13th United States Infantry.

Dr. A. C. MICHAEL A. HEWSTON.

Dr. A. C. Dr. Koch testified that he examined the deceased woman, Mrs. Hewston; found a wound in the upper third of the breast bone, inclining slightly to the left; on probing the wound, found it had taken a downward and backward course, and believe that in its passage it had severed the artery connected with the heart, which caused death.

The testimony being closed and the jury went into consultation as to the form of the verdict.

We understand that the jurors were all agreed as to the killing having been accidental, but several of them insisted that it was caused by the careless or skilless handling of a pistol, and desired to so state in their verdict. The effect of this was to be hold the prisoner for trial, and others of the jury would not consent to render such a verdict. After being in session until almost midnight, the jury adjourned until six o'clock Tuesday evening.

The funeral took place this afternoon, at two o'clock, and the husband (the unfortunate officer) was permitted to follow the remains to the grave.

NO WATER.—On Sunday last men were engaged in repairing the pumping works, and the water at the Allegheny Water Works, and the water being turned off from the city consequently difficulty was experienced by the citizens in procuring a supply for culinary purposes. The water was let on again during the evening.

DESERTER ARRESTED.—On Friday last, officer R. A. Clark, of the Allegheny police, arrested a deserter from the 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry, named Dougherty, and handed him over to Provost Marshal Foster. Dougherty is from Baltimore, and is supposed to be a "bounty jumper."

The Fourth—How it Passed.

There was no unusual excitement in the two cities on the Fourth, and in the absence of any general demonstration every person was left free to follow his own inclination. As is always the case on the national holiday, the various places of amusement were extensively patronized, and the managers reaped large profits. The number of persons who visited the country is said to have been unusually large, and the various railroad trains leaving the city were crowded with passengers.

The groves in the neighborhood of the two cities were thickly populated with young and old, and picnic parties were quite numerous. The day opened cool and pleasant, but about the middle of the forenoon the thermometer rose rapidly and continued to rise as the sun climbed upwards until at noon he sent down his most scorching rays. Towards evening the temperature again became lower, and the night was delightfully pleasant.

In the cities there was the usual amount of drinking and carousing, and the police were kept busy all day in preserving order and picking up offenders. Mayor Lowry had before him no less than fifty two cases; and besides these, quite a number were discharged after they had been locked up long enough to become sober. In