THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

VOLUME LXXVIII--NO. 38. PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1865. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

VERY LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 1, 1865.

SENATE.—Mr. St. Clair read a bill amendatory of the State license laws.

Mr. Bigham presented a protest from the Western Pennsylvania House of Refuge, against excepting Fayette county from the provisions of the act of incorporation.

Also, one from the Pittsburgh Coal Exchange, against the increase of tolls on the Youghiogheny.

Mr. Graham presented a remonstrance from the citizens of Allegheny against an increase in passenger railway fare.

Also, one from citizens of Lawrenceville, against an increase of borough taxation.

Also, read an act incorporating the Pittsburgh Iron and Steel Company.

Also, read an act applying to Pittsburgh the regulations already existing in Allegheny City in reference to weighing coal.

Mr. Hoge called up the bill allowing the School Directors of Franklin, Venango county, fifteen thousand dollars to build a school-house. Passed.

Mr. Bigham read an act dividing the Third Ward, Pittsburgh, into the Third and Tenth wards, which passed finally. All north and east of the line, running along Grant from Liberty to Diamond, is the new ward.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Glass presented a remonstrance of the Coal Exchange to an increase of tolls on the Youghiogheny. Messrs. Colville and Glass presented remonstrances of the Western House of Refuge relative to excepting Fayette county from the provisions of the act of incorporation.

Mr. Herron read a bill divorcing Alexander and Sarah McCune, whose husband is in the Dixmont Asylum.

Mr. Glass read a bill incorporating the Oil Creek Boom and Oil Company. Also, creating a tenth ward in Pittsburgh. This passed finally. Also, increasing the pay of the Sheriff of Allegheny, for the care of prisoners, to three thousand dollars.

Mr. Slack presented a bill authorizing the First German Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Pittsburgh to remove the dead to their cemetery.

Mr. Kelly presented a bill incorporating the Monongahela Valley Telegraph Company.

Mr. Pershing presented a bill incorporating the Cambria Mining Company.

Mr. McAfee presented a bill giving the Youghiogheny Shaft Company the right to the minerals in certain parts of the Youghiogheny river. Adjourned.

FROM CAIRO AND BELOW.

Rejoicings Throughout Louisiana.

GEN. DAVIDSON'S OPERATIONS AT NATCHEZ.

MORE DEATHS FROM THE ECLIPSE EXPLOSION.

CAIRO, Feb. 1.—New Orleans dates to the 25th, show no change in the markets.

In accordance with Governor Hahn's proclamation, the 24th was observed throughout the State as a day of festivity in honor of the emancipation of Missouri and Tennessee. Some forty thousands persons outside of the city celebrated the day. The news of the capture of Fort Fisher had been received at New Orleans on the previous evening. This gave increased spirit to the enjoyment of the occasion. Court adjourned, and the streets were crowded with white and black people. Public and private buildings and shipping were draped with national flags. The military schools and numerous societies of colored people were in the procession. Speeches were made by Governor Hahn and several others of the general and State governments, and colored orators. One hundred guns were fired, and the city was brilliantly illuminated at night.

A Natchez letter says Gen. Davidson, since assuming command of that District, has extended his lines on roads leading out of that city, so as to protect several plantations, and all troops now encamped outside the city. All contrabands at Natchez and Vidalia are ordered to work on farms back of the latter place, and furnished with rations, under the supervision of Col. Michel, Superintendent of Freedom. Col. Larrec commands the post at Natchez.

Wagon loads of supplies, driven beyond our lines from Vidalia, under proper passport, were captured by guerrillas. The owners lost everything, but were permitted to go on without anything to prejudice the interests of Jeff. Davis.

Twenty of the wounded by the explosion of the steamer Eclipse have died since their arrival at Vicksburg, and it is thought several more cannot survive.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN SAVANNAH.

Two Whole Squares Destroyed.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The steamer Sierra Nevada, from Savannah and Hilton Head on the 29th, has arrived. Among the passengers are Maj. Gen. Leggett and Brig. Gen. McCallum.

On the evening of the 27th ult. a disastrous conflagration occurred at Savannah, destroying considerable property, but without any loss of life.

On the morning of the 28th another fire broke out, destroying two squares in the Third district. Buildings were torn down to prevent the spread of the flames, as the wind was blowing strong from the east. Some fiend had placed a keg of powder at the side of the Arsenal, on the corner of York and Walker streets, undoubtedly to blow up the city, as the Arsenal contains some thirty tons of powder. The keg was placed in the shadow of a tree to avoid discovery, with the top taken off. This brilliant design is attributed to the rebels, who are in anything but an amicable mood in view of their condition.

From the Potomac Army—The Rebel Peace Commissioners—Gen. Grant.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The *Times'* Army of the Potomac special, dated yesterday, says:

"Several meetings took place in front of our lines on Monday, relative to the Peace Commissioners, but no decisive action was made. The absence of General Grant from his headquarters was the cause of the delay.

The greatest quiet prevails along the lines. The men moved about in full view of each other, while the flags of truce were in consultation.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 1.—Lieut. General Grant arrived here to-day, from Fort Fisher, on the gunboat Rhode Island. The hospital steamer Tonawanda also arrived to-day from Fort Fisher with 130 rebel wounded.

There is no news of importance.

From Cairo—Skirmish with Guerrillas.

CAIRO, Feb. 1.—The steamer Hardy, from New Orleans on the 25th, has arrived with a large number of passengers. A great number of persons are leaving the department in consequence of Gen. Canby's draft order.

The steamer City of Cairo brings 94 bales of cotton from Memphis.

There was another skirmish between the guerrillas and our pickets back of Memphis on the 25th. Several of the former were killed.

Andrew Jackson Donelson passed here for Memphis to-day.

Movements of Sherman's Army.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The Richmond *Whig*, of January 29th, has the following:

ALBANY, Jan. 26.—Private advices from Savannah state that Sherman commenced his movements on South Carolina on the 27th with three columns, the main column going towards Charleston, taking with it nearly all his transportation, and the other two columns are in light marching order, and are moving by separate roads towards Branchville.

General Hill has issued orders requiring all non-combatants to leave Augusta.

The Constitutional Amendment Before the Maryland Legislature.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 1.—A message was sent to the Legislature to-day by Governor Bradford, announcing the passage of the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, with the recommendation that Maryland immediately concur in the amendment.

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP THE CITY.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

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FROM WASHINGTON.

Meade Confirmed Major General in the Regular Army.

LIST OF REGULAR ARMY GENERAL OFFICERS.

Why Colonel Wolford was Arrested.

THE IMPORTATION OF WAR MATERIALS.

A Colored Lawyer Admitted to Practice in the U. S. Supreme Court.

CANAL AROUND NIAGARA FALLS.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Brigadier General Geo. G. Meade was to-day confirmed by the Senate as Major General in the regular army, his commission to date from the 18th of August last. The Senate was occupied on his nomination for about three hours.

The Secretary of War has communicated to the Senate a list of officers of the regular army. The general officers are given in the following order: Lieutenant General Grant, Major Generals H. W. Halleck, W. J. Sherman, Geo. G. Meade, Philip H. Sheridan, Geo. H. Thomas, Brigadier Generals Irvin McDowell, Wm. Rosecrans, Philip St. George Cooke, John Pope, Joseph Hooker and Winfield S. Hancock.

The papers transmitted to the Senate to-day in answer to a call for information from the Secretary of War show that Col. Wolford, of Kentucky, was arrested incompliance with a telegram from Lieutenant General Grant, for making speeches charged to be of an insurrectionary character and discouraging enlistments. Subsequently he pledged himself to refrain from opposition to the Government and was therefore released.

The President to-day sent in a message to the Senate enclosing communications from General McDowell, relative to the recent attempt to send arms and munitions of war out of the Department of the Pacific to Mexico. Under date of August last he applies the Government of the seizure of a large quantity of arms, nominally going to Colorado, but really to Mexico. He also states that a French ship had been in the harbor taking in supplies for the French fleet at Acapulco. The seizure was made by the authority of the President's proclamation of November 21st, 1862, forbidding clearances for exportation of arms from the United States.

A letter from Thomas Brown, special agent of the Treasury Department, urges the clearance of arms ostensibly for Liverpool under the President's modified order, allowing charge portation to the original place of shipment. The Collector of the Port refused to allow their clearance under the construction of the President's order, and claimed that the arms were intended for Mexico.

The Surveyor General, E. P. Beale, urged particularly a clearance, on the ground of aid to the Mexican Republic against the Monarchy. The clearance was not allowed. The arms, it appears, were intended for General Vega, and consisted of 208 cases of muskets, originally imported into New York by Man & Co., from Hamburg.

J. S. Rock, (colored) of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, was to-day, on motion of Senator Sumner, admitted as an Attorney and Counsellor in the Supreme Court of the United States.

A bill passed by the House to-day provides that a ship canal be constructed as a military work for the use of the Government, around the Falls of Niagara, in New York, commencing at some convenient point below the same stream or upon the shore of Lake Ontario, which shall not be less than one hundred and five feet wide on the surface, ninety feet on the bottom, with twelve feet depth of water, with locks, not less than two hundred and seventy-five feet long and forty-five feet wide.

The President is authorized to appoint a Topographical Engineer to be associated with two Civil Engineers and Surveyors, and from them shall determine and locate the route of the canal. In order to accomplish the early completion of said canal for military purposes and to relieve the Treasury, as far as practicable, from large expenditures of money, the President is authorized to contract with any company he may deem advisable, which shall be hereafter chartered for such purpose by the Legislature of any one of the United States, the construction of the canal, and to convey to the company so contracting, of way, and all lands which the United States may require under the act. The canal and Niagara river shall be the military, national, postal and public highway, connecting the Lakes Erie and Ontario, and shall be established as such to the United States and the people thereof forever. The canal is to be free of toll to the United States, but not to other vessels. Six millions dollars is to be loaned by the United States, advanced and paid in bonds in the denomination of one thousand dollars each, payable in twenty years from date at the interest of six per cent., and to be reimbursed to the Federal Treasury from tolls. The United States reserves the right to purchase the canal. The President is authorized to contract for the construction of a marine railroad for the transfer and passage of gunboats, vessels and other lake craft around the Falls, in place of a canal. If he shall on investigation deem such railroad to be more advantageous, and useful and convenient for all government purposes. The bill is yet to be acted on by the Senate. Thirty-seven Western men voted for it, and not one against it. Of the Pennsylvania votes, six only were cast in the affirmative.

The Paper Duty—Constitutional Amendment—Peace Rumors—The Florida Capture, etc.

Special Western Associated Press Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The *World* has an editorial on the paper duty question, and looks upon the proposition of the Senate as a swindle upon publishers. It refers to the action in the West, and thinks that the Senate should concur with the House in the proposed reduction.

All the daily papers except the *Journal of Commerce* and *News*, have editorials on the passage of the Constitutional Amendment.

The *Herald* thinks it prepares a foundation for the speedy alliance of the North and South on the basis of the Monroe doctrine.

The *World* has steadily opposed the measure, but does not manifest much regret at its passage. All other papers speak with full approval.

There is much excitement to-day on peace rumors. The *Times* has thus far believed no peace possible from Blair's mission. To-day it thinks the rebel commissioners are not coming to Washington with any hope of treating for separation. The *Herald* says all peace rumors on both sides are short-sighted nonsense, and hopes for no peace except that made by our arms. The *World* withholds its opinion until the facts are published.

A Rio Janeiro paper publishes a statement concerning the capture of the pirate Florida, and says: Mr. Webb and the Brazilian authorities were in collusion, and the capture was made with the full knowledge and assent of the latter.

A Savannah letter says: The cotton fleet is about ready to sail, and will be convoyed by a gunboat.

Many of the wounded from Fort Fisher have been sent to Savannah and are recovering rapidly.

A Galveston letter says: The blockade runners find no difficulty in passing through our fleet. The line of steamers from Galveston to Nassau via Havana, make their regular trips without any trouble.

The steamers Frances and Will-o'-the-Wisp recently ran out in the same night.

New York Stock and Money Market.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The Stock market weak and lower. Reports of peace negotiations have unsettled confidence, and there is no disposition to buy and very little to sell. Government Stocks generally lower. The demand for 5-20's is quite limited, foreign orders having apparently been supplied. Coal and Miscellaneous List generally lower under the peace rumors of to-day.

Gold has been very weak and unsteady. Operations light. Money continues easy. Foreign Exchange very dull.

The public Petroleum Stock Exchange opened to-day. Numerous speeches were made and much enthusiasm shown.

At the Petroleum Board the stocks were active. Sales of Excelsior at 1250, Germania, 95; Highgate, 90; Buchanan Farm, 185; Empire City, 540; United States, 25. The Petroleum market rules firm, but quiet. Sales of 100 bbls. Refined at 85@86c, 100 do Crude, at 45@46c. Refined in Bond is quoted steady at 65@66c.

Rejoicing in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—The announcement was received at the State House early this evening that President Lincoln had signed the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. Upon which Governor Andrews issued an order for a national salute of 100 guns to be fired on the Common at 10 o'clock to-morrow; also recommending that the church-bells be rung one hour, and suggesting similar demonstrations of rejoicing throughout the State.

Gold Quotation.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The gold market is unsettled. The uncertainty as to whether any peace commissioners were on the way to Washington, has a tendency to check the downward tendency. Quotations have fluctuated from 205 to 203, closing at the latter figure.

Gold to-night is 205.

THE PEACE QUESTION.

SINGLETON'S VIEWS REGARDING PEACE.

Editorials from Richmond Papers on the Subject.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The *Tribune* has a special from Washington to-night which says: Mr. Singleton, of Illinois, returned yesterday from Richmond. He had free intercourse with the rebel authorities, and saw General Lee. He speaks freely his impression that there will be no peace, and can be none, unless the rebels are granted their idea of independence, or we abandon ours of re-union. The Confederate leaders are entirely sanguine of their ability to conquer their independence without arming the slaves.

Lodgings have been engaged for three Commissioners—Campbell, Stephens and Hunter.

The *Tribune* has the following from Richmond papers, dated the 30th.

The *Examiner* mentions the departure of the Commissioners for Washington, and declares they were not nominated to the Senate, nor commissioned by the President, and go without any official authority.

It says, editorially: "So far the treacherous policy of the enemy in sending intriguing politicians to flit mysteriously to and fro across the lines and create vague impressions that peace was somehow coming, has succeeded perfectly. The enemy knew the weakness of our President, and made no doubt that if they sent a well-known old Washington schemer he would be at once received, credentials or no credentials, and clasped to the Executive heart, and then a thousand rumors could not fail to fly abroad through the army and among the citizens, and to every remote village in the Confederacy, that peace was in the air. Thus it was hoped that the military nerve of the country would relax, and men would surmise that there is no need to make sacrifices and endure privations at the eleventh hour, and stragglers and absentees would not deem it worth while to come back to their commands, and thus the Confederacy would be in less condition to oppose the advance of the enemy.

"This policy of the prudent enemy has in a great measure succeeded, owing to the weakness of Mr. Davis in admitting unauthorized and unofficial Yankees to private audiences, and their success has blossomed into the rumor that the President has sent three commissioners to Washington, to negotiate something which shall be called a treaty.

Three eminent Southern statesmen have gone to Washington, but they are not negotiators and have no power in that. They are sixteen commissioners from our government, now empowered to represent or to speak for the country, inasmuch as there has been no appointment by the President or Senate—just as Mr. Blair came to Richmond to talk with any one who would converse with him, and was too successful in getting himself recorded at the Executive department, so these three Confederate gentlemen go to Washington to have a conversation with the enemy. The Yankees know perfectly well that they are at the end of their resources if we choose to hold out in resistance; that both money and men their means are exhausted, and their present armies in the field are their last.

It is not so much to conclude peace they send commissioners to open the ball in negotiations, as to deceive and distract us from measures needful for our defense, while they move forward to ward the final investment of Richmond. They prefer to enter it in peace if compromises rather than obtain peace between Richmond and Washington. It was wrong beyond measure to permit this journeying, to and fro, of secret messengers without comment, lest the prominent risk of enervating the military spirit of the country, by turning men's thoughts to dreams and visions of peace at the very moment when every energy ought to be strung and braced for war."

The *Whig* says: "It is of vital importance that we should just now remember that we are dealing with an exceedingly artful and thoroughly unscrupulous foe. It is not impossible that this is an honest and sincere endeavor to terminate the war, and that such may be the result, but it is not safe for us to think so. We confess, with regret, that we see but little evidence, and indulge in the faintest hope, that the enemy are prepared to accede in such terms as we could think of accepting.

"The visit of our Commissioners may be perfectly useful for the purpose of satisfying all parties that no peace can be made with us except on the basis of separation. Many of the late supporters of McClellan are pledged, when satisfied of this, to support unrelenting war. Their accession to the Confederation may also relieve Lincoln from many embarrassments, and give him full swing.

"Knowing that we have a wily and unprincipled enemy to deal with, we repeat that the only safe course is to set to work immediately, and with all possible energy prepare for the spring campaign. If peace should intervene these preparations would have been no harm. If the war should continue, they would fit us to face it. If we permit our minds to be unstrung, and thrown off our guard, growing weaker daily, and they grow stronger, we shall reap a harvest of disasters."

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The *Commercial Advertiser's* Washington special says: It is positively asserted that Stephens and Hunter, the Peace Commissioners, are in that city.

The Missouri Convention.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 1.—After three days spirited debate in Committee of the Whole, the Convention amended and adopted the third section of the State Constitution, detailing specifications. This section takes a wide sweep, and among many others, embraces the following provisions:

No person shall be deemed a qualified voter who has been in armed hostility to the United States, or, on or after the 31st day of May, 1861, to the government of this State, or has over given aid, comfort, countenance and support to persons engaged in such hostility, disloyalty, or communicated with them, advised for which persons to join them, manifested adherence to them, or expressed a hope for the triumph of their cause over the arms of the United States, or has, except under the orders of a superior compulsion, submitted to the authority or been in the service of the so-called Confederate States, or connected with any society inimical to the Government of the United States or of this State, after said 31st day of July, or been a guerrilla or bushwacker, or harbored such, or left the State to avoid a draft, or enrolled himself as a Southern sympathizer; or, having exercised elective franchise in this or any other State, thereafter has under claim of allegance obtained exemption from military service from any foreign government. These provisions not to apply to any act done against the United States while the person doing such act was in the service of a foreign country. Section 4th provides for the registration of voters throughout the State.

The lower House of the Legislature unanimously authorized the Governor to appoint an agent to procure reimbursement from the United States for money expended by the State in repelling invasion.

More Pirates.

NEW YORK, Feb 1.—The steamer Columbia, with Havana dates to the 28th, has arrived.

The French frigate Entrepante, of sixty guns, had been ashore on Caya Blanc, six miles west of Havana, but report says she had been saved.

There was a report at Havana that there were a number of steamers preparing for privateers. Three of them, the Vulture, Lark and Wren, were at Havana, three were reported at St. Thomas and several at Nassau.

The steamer Arcadia cleared at Havana ostensibly for Bermuda, with a cargo of 320 kegs of gunpowder, bars of iron, rope, &c.

The Lima sailed on the 25th for Galveston.

Secretary Seward and the Rebel Commissioners.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 1.—The Annapolis correspondent of the Baltimore *American* announces the arrival there this morning of Secretary Seward, accompanied by his private secretary, who immediately left for Fortress Monroe, on Gen. Grant's dispatch steamer, to meet the rebel commissioners. They were met at the depot by Gen. Berry and escorted to the Executive Chamber, where they were welcomed by Gov. Bradford.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The rebel Peace Commissioners have not arrived here. If they come it will not be before to-morrow.

Mexican Affairs.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 31.—Acapulco advices of the 21st say Alvarez had collected $20,000 in duties and was trying to put the harbor in a state of defence. Flour and corn were scarce and commerce was dead.

Everything was quiet at Colonia.

The armies of Rogar and Garlen had vanished since their defeat.

Gen. Vicaro had received 800 more French reinforcements and was going to march on Acapulco again. The Liberals were making energetic resistance in Asaca Porfirio. Diaz had 8,000 men, well armed, at the Capital.

United States Bonds Not Taxable.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—By the decision of the United States Supreme Court, yesterday, that United States Bonds, used as bank capital, was not taxable, this city will have to refund some $2,000,000 to the banks of this city, which were forcibly levied on in 1863 and 1864.

Deaths of Union Prisoners.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The *Tribune* prints a list of about 1,400 names of Union prisoners who died at Salisbury, N. C., during the sixty days preceding and ending the 18th of December last.

EVENING GAZETTE TELEGRAMS.

FLAG OF TRUCE FROM THE REBELS.

ARRIVAL OF THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS.

Return of Maj. Gen. Warren.

THE LOSS OF THE TROOP-OF-WAR SAN JACINTO.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The *Times'* 5th corps correspondent of January 29th says, in front of Col. Harmin's brigade of Wilcox's Division, 9th corps: About noon to-day a flag-of-truce was displayed on the parapet of the enemy's works, a few rods to the right of the centre. The bearer of the flag stated that Hon. A. H. Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy and Hon. R. M. T. Hunter were desirous of proceeding to Gen. Grant's Headquarters. They were expected, and would have approached our lines via James river, but were unable to do so on account of the ice.

A message was sent to Headquarters 9th Corps, and some time after an officer returned, mounted the rebel works and entered. What the result of the interview was the correspondent was unable to learn.

The *Herald's* correspondent in front of Petersburg says: Deserters report that the enemy are reconstructing the railroad destroyed by the 5th Corps in its raid, but are making slow progress. None of the bridges destroyed had been rebuilt. The large bridge near Weldon, N. C., was swept away by the late freshet.

Maj. Gen. Warren has returned, and resumed command of his corps.

The *Herald's* correspondent gives further particulars relative to the loss of the United States sloop of war, San Jacinto. She struck on a reef at Green Turtle Key and "No Name Key," early on the morning of the 1st ult., and boiled. The officers and crew, including forty sick, were all saved and landed on "No Name Key," fifty-one miles west of Key Sal. The vessel has never had deserted. The entire battery of the vessel, together with the stores, sails and other property, was also saved. At last advices the wreckers were dismantling the San Jacinto, but were not allowed to touch any portion of her machinery.

The Raleigh *Confederate* of January the 28th, says: We had the pleasure of a conversation a few days since, with a very intelligent gentleman who just arrived from Richmond, where he had an opportunity for ascertaining with trustworthy accuracy, the condition of affairs. First, we are pleased to learn that Vice President Stephens is quite unqualified in his denunciation of reconstruction. He proposes the most unbounded confidence in our success; is determined very soon to visit Georgia, and address the people and encourage them to resist the invader.

This gentleman, after an association among the very leaders in Richmond, is satisfied that impatient people are about to transpire, of the most encouraging character; that Hunter's Government and people know that our subjugation is impossible, but says he and they are laboring night and main to throw their whole strength upon us in the next few weeks. Against this end preparations are being made.

Vice President Stephens by his present earnestness in the cause, is attracting the confidence of his associates, and his room is thronged with the eminent of the nation. It is not too late for Mr. Stephens to be of much good; he can at least do a great deal to remedy the mischief that his unfortunate views have contributed to work. Our informant had an interview with the President. Among other things, he said with deep feelings: "I left his presence after a most courteous and agreeable reception, deeply impressed with the conviction that he is a wholesouled, earnest, unselfish patriot, whose life and heart and mind are yielded up to the cause.

Late Richmond papers are filled with complaint growing out of a letter is to obtain the certificate of the Postmaster that the letter was sent, but if the sender is responsible for the safe arrival of the letter at its destination. The differences in the systems is very apparent. The instructions relating to the money order system specify "that the money order system is intended to promote public convenience and to insure safety in the transmission of money through the mails; and although the organization and efficiency of the leaving one of the order the name of the payee, or party for whom the money is intended. In the respect a money order differs from an ordinary bank draft or check; no advice or notification of the order drawn, is transmitted by the issuing postmaster, to the postmaster at the office of payment. The latter is thus furnished with all the information he needs, and will then be informed of the names of the remitter and payee before the order itself can be presented, and be enabled to detect fraud if any should be attempted." And under the money order has been left by other payee or remitter, a duplicate thereof will be furnished to the party losing the original. This it will be seen that all the security that is required in the case is fully secured, and no contingency is less possible to accuse to either the payee or remitter. The post offices in all the principal towns are made the receiving and paying offices, and it is designed to make the post office at each county seat a money order office, and require the adoption of this rule exclusively. The orders range in price as follows: Orders for sums from $10, to $20, cents; over $10 and not exceeding $20, fifteen cents; over $20 and under $30, twenty cents.

Book Notices.

"COMPARATIVE GEOGRAPHY. By Carl Ritter. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co."

A sterling work, and worthy of introduction into all schools where Comparative Geography is taught. Prof. Ritter is Professor of Geography in the University of Berlin, and this book has been translated into the German, very faithfully and well, by Wm. L. Gage. The students of Geography will find it well worthy of their attention, and we heartily commend it to their perusal.

For sale by W. A. Gildenfenny, No. 45 Fifth street.

"THE BROTHER'S SECRET. By Wm. Godwin. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bro. Cloth, $1; paper, $1 50.

This novel contains an ingeniously-plotted, but clearly-expressed, and well-sustained tale, containing exquisite passages, and imbued throughout with real feeling. It has somewhat too much of the sensational style to please us fully, but novel readers of the present day do not regard that as any great drawback.

How to Avoid the Draft.

Boreis another subject on which Yankee genius may immortalize itself, if it can hit upon a method by which the coming draft may be avoided. There have been a number of original suggestions to that end, and if the "catto bodies" have not acted upon them, here are a few more from the Wheeling *Intelligencer*: "One suggestion is to get lodged in jail on a healthy charge. The President Marshal does not want any jail birds. Another suggestion is to eat camphor and get fits. A man who has fits is not fit to be a soldier, and is not required to go unless he sees fit. Eat camphor, therefore, and avoid camp fire. The last and most desperate suggestion is to partake each day of about a quart more whisky than you actually need from now until the draft commences, and become a confirmed sot." Should these fail, the next best thing is to enlist.

Newspaper Change.

We observe, by the *Dispatch* of yesterday, that Messrs. D. O'Neil and Alex. W. Rook have purchased the interest of the late R. C. Flesson in that paper, and are now associated with J. Herron Foster, Esq., in its publication. Mr. O'Neil has long been connected with the press of Pittsburgh, and is well known as an editor and reporter of no ordinary ability. He has taken charge of the general news and local Departments of the paper, and has the tact, the industry and the experience necessary to meet the requirements of the position. Mr. Rook is one of the oldest and best practical printers in the city, and will hereafter have charge of the mechanical department of the paper. We need not say that we wish the new firm abundant success.

VALENTINES IN BOOK FORM.—Messrs. L. Prang & Co. have just issued two valentine books, beautifully printed in oil colors, each book containing twelve pictures and verses. Valentines in book form are something entirely new, and they are so much superior to the other valentines we have seen, and so free from anything offensive to the purest taste, and so finely executed, that we take pleasure in commending them heartily. For sale at the periodical and book stores.

LIBRARY LECTURE.—We would remind our readers of Mr. Abbott's lecture to-night, at Concert Hall. His subject, "Our War and General Grant," is one of universal interest. The lecture has been prepared, we believe, from material gathered by the lecturer in his researches for the series of articles now being published by him, entitled "Heroic deeds of Heroic Men." We trust the audience to-night will fully equal in point of numbers that of Tuesday evening.

HOUSES and Lots at auction, this evening at 8 o'clock, at McClelland's, 55 Fifth Street. Will be sold, seven Dwelling Houses and Lots on Chesnut Street; also one eligible Building Lot on Roberts Street, 7th Ward.

A MEETING of the Undine Boat Club will be held this evening, at 7 o'clock, at No. 57 Fifth street. General attendance is requested as business of importance will be brought to their notice.

By order of the President.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The County Expenditures.

The annual statement of the County Controller, Henry Lambert, Esq., has been prepared and is now in the hands of the printer. From it we learn that the entire amount of the expenditures, during the year 1864, was $993,413.71, and was made up as follows:

For judgments, interests and expenses on Railroad Bonds	$ 125,814 17
Funded debt, Volunteer Bounty Bonds purchased	16,037 50
Interest on Volunteer Bounty Fund	4,652 50
Sinking Fund	25,000 00
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	3,721 20
Ordinary County expenses	197,159 37
Total	$393,412 74

From the above it will be seen that the leading item in our county expenditures is our railroad indebtedness. While the ordinary expenses of the county have been but $107,159, the railroad bonds have required $136,814. Of the $2,500,000 of original six per cent. bonds issued to railroad companies, there are now in possession of the county and in the Bank of Pittsburgh $1,813,000, leaving unsettled and outstanding only $687,000. Thus it will be seen that very gratifying progress has been made in the way of compromising the railroad bonds, and the time is not far distant when, under the present excellent management of our financial affairs, the entire debt will be wiped out.

Under the head of "ordinary expenses," we note the following items:

Commissioners' office	$ 5,222 02
Controller's office	3,881 50
Treasurer's office	4,001 99
Sheriff's office	2,374 13
Solicitor's office	750 00
Court House	2,731 97
County Jail	8,227 91
Court House and Jail	6,251 14
Court of Quarter Sessions	10,355 33
Court of Common Pleas	4,493 83
District Court	4,318 10
Supreme Court	513 50
Election expenses	5,115 74
Printing, Stationery, &c	2,717 64
Aldermen and Justices	316 17
Constables	1,929 30
House of refuge	21,813 92
Western Pennsylvania Hospital	4,115 73
Lock rents	21 50

The estimated expenditures for 1865 foot up $287,716.32—to meet which a tax of *ten mills* on the dollar of the valuation will be assessed. The last valuation for the county was $98,000,000; and if, under the present triennial assessment, the valuation should exceed $31,300,000, the levy for county purposes will be fixed at *nine mills*. Last year the assessment for county purposes was ten mills.

On glancing over the above brief statement of their financial affairs, the tax payers of the county will find cause for congratulation. If the railroad debt were once canceled, the taxation would be comparatively light, and would not require more than four or five mills on the present merely nominal valuation. With such an immense railroad debt to provide for under the terms of the compromise, and with the greatly reduced ability of manufacturing interests of the county, it is highly creditable to Mr. Lambert that he has been able to keep down taxation to its present limit. We do him but simple justice when we state that to his judgment and fidelity the public are largely indebted for the present hopeful condition of their momentary affairs.

Postoffice Money Orders.

The system of transmitting money orders through mails, though it has been in operation for several months, does not seem to be yet fully understood or appreciated by the public. Whether this is owing to the supposed security of the registration system heretofore adopted, when valuable letters were placed in mails, or to the want of proper information in reference to the postal money order system is difficult to tell. It is generally known that by the registration of a valuable letter the Department, in no way, becomes responsible for its safe delivery, or even its detention, yet that method is still resented to, to a great extent. The only object in registering a letter is to obtain the certificate of the Postmaster that the letter was sent, but if the sender is responsible for the safe arrival of the letter at its destination. The differences in the systems is very apparent. The instructions relating to the money order system specify "that the money order system is intended to promote public convenience and to insure safety in the transmission of money through the mails; and although the organization and efficiency of the leaving one of the order the name of the payee, or party for whom the money is intended. In the respect a money order differs from an ordinary bank draft or check; no advice or notification of the order drawn, is transmitted by the issuing postmaster, to the postmaster at the office of payment. The latter is thus furnished with all the information he needs, and will then be informed of the names of the remitter and payee before the order itself can be presented, and be enabled to detect fraud if any should be attempted." And under the money order has been left by other payee or remitter, a duplicate thereof will be furnished to the party losing the original. This it will be seen that all the security that is required in the case is fully secured, and no contingency is less possible to accuse to either the payee or remitter. The post offices in all the principal towns are made the receiving and paying offices, and it is designed to make the post office at each county seat a money order office, and require the adoption of this rule exclusively. The orders range in price as follows: Orders for sums from $10, to $20, cents; over $10 and not exceeding $20, fifteen cents; over $20 and under $30, twenty cents.

First Ward Meeting, Allegheny.

A large number of the enrolled citizens met at the First Ward School House, in Allegheny, yesterday evening, for the purpose of adopting means by which they could best relieve themselves from the draft under the impending call of the Government for more men. The citizens of the ward have been holding meetings almost nightly for the purpose of considering the matter, but the attendance was invariably light, and it was impossible to obtain an expression from the masses. The meeting called for last night, however, brought out a good attendance, and the hall was well crowded, and everything indicated that they were determined to "take the bull by the horns."

The meeting was called to order by Robert White, Esq., Chairman. Several reports of minor importance were read and received. A committee were then appointed to prepare an order of business, who, after a brief absence, reported a series of resolutions to the effect that the attempt to raise sufficient funds by volunteer subscription to enlist enough men to fill the quota of the ward, had proved a failure, and that further attempts to obtain subscriptions by that means be abandoned. After considerable discussion the resolutions were adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

Another meeting was immediately organized, of which Mr. S. Riddle was chosen Chairman, Wm. Thompson, Secretary, and Mr. Saville, Treasurer. The Chairman briefly announced the object of the meeting. A new plan was proposed, which, after some discussion, was adopted. It fixed the rate of subscription at $50 for each one who may desire to avail himself of its benefits. Lists were at once opened, and in a few minutes $3,600 was subscribed. After some further delay the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the officers of the association. The indications now are that the required amount will be at once subscribed, and that the ward will fill its quota. Full information in regard to the matter can be had by calling upon Mr. Saville, Federal street.

The Crawford County Bank Robbery.

The Crawford *Journal* contains the following account of the arrest and confession of the party who robbed the Bank of Crawford county: All surmises and speculations have been put to flight by the arrest and confession of the book-keeper of the Bank, Mr. Charles H. Dyer, of Romeo, Michigan. He has hitherto borne an irreproachable character, and his father is wealthy and of the highest respectability. By his confession it appears that he had no accomplices, and what seemed the work of two or three was all done by him. He unfastened the windows and the gas-pipe while Mr. Olmsted was