THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

VOLUME LXXVIII---NO. 59. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1865. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

VERY LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

IMPORTANT FROM GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

The Rebels Certainly Evacuating Petersburg.

PROBABLE ABANDONMENT OF RICHMOND.

The Movements Closely Watched.

LEE'S WHOLE ARMY UNDER MARCHING ORDERS.

Another Raid Laid Down James River Expected.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The *Tribune's* Army of the Potomac correspondent of the 23d, says: "This evening a report came in from the front of the 9th corps that the enemy showed some signs of leaving that point of their lines and moving to the right. They have begun a movement toward North Carolina."

The *Tribune's* Washington special says: Advices from Gen. Grant's headquarters are to the effect that the enemy are certainly evacuating Petersburg and manifesting signs of sending troops South, and whether it is to reinforce Beauregard or an abandonment of Richmond will soon appear. They are closely watched by an army largely outnumbering them and superior to them in every detail that goes to make up soldiers.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—A letter to the *Herald*, from the 6th army corps, on the 23d, says that deserters state that several brigades of Hill's corps have gone South to reinforce Beauregard, and the whole of Lee's army is under marching orders.

Another letter, dated the 24th, says it is known that a considerable portion of Lee's army, yesterday, was ordered to make four days' cooked rations, and to prepare to carry considerable ammunition on their persons. More will probably be ascertained to-day.

Additional precautions are being taken at City Point, and other places, for the proper reception of rebel rams which are expected soon to make another attempt at a raid down James river.

NEW YORK, Feb 25.—The *Post's* Washington special says: A letter from Gen. Grant, dated the 24th, was received at noon to-day, which says that if Sherman's successes continue a few days longer the country can safely indulge in exultation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—A letter from the Army of the Potomac says that deserters report a continued arrival of fresh troops from Beauregard to Lee and that both the rebel and Union armies are extremely watchful.

FROM CAIRO AND BELOW.

Importance of Mobile to the Rebels

SECRET SOCIETY EXPOSED IN NEW ORLEANS.

&c., &c., &c.

CAIRO, Feb. 26.—The steamers Liberty and Belle of St. Louis, from Memphis, passed up. The former with 213 bales of cotton for Evansville, the latter with 71 bales for St. Louis.

Vicksburg correspondents say that deserters from Dick Taylor's army declare that there is no intention on the part of the rebel authorities to abandon Mobile. That city always has been a depot for arms and military materials of all kinds, and that the cannon and supplies recently taken to Selma formed a part of the armament and stores intended for the use of Mobile. The rebels believed Selma will be assailed soon, and are trying to put it in a good defensive condition without weakening Mobile.

The same correspondent says: The report that Forrest has twenty five thousand men under him is untrue. He has not over twenty thousand. Forrest and Dick Taylor are together and cannot muster over twenty five thousand men.

It is conjectured that one of the two corps which recently left Columbus, Miss., has gone to Mobile.

Three iron-clads have been stationed at the mouth of Red River to frustate any raid on that stream into the Mississippi the rebels may design making, and also prevent any rebel troops crossing.

It is rumored that Brigadier General Merrillth has been reinstated.

The steamer Luminary, from New Orleans the 19th, arrived en route for St. Louis. Much excitement exists at New Orleans in consequence of the publicity given to, and exposure made of, a secret society having permanent organization and regular meetings. The society proposed to be Union, but recent developments prove it to be ruled by Confederate sympathizers, whose object is to get political power, and through that power protect secessionists of that city from their just deserts.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 24, VIA CAIRO, 26.—The *Bulletin*, of this morning, says the rebel leaders lately issued orders to have all detachments of their troops, together with such conscripts as they have gathered, sent South without delay. We have reason to believe that a large portion of the rebel forces lately about Memphis have already gone to their destination, which is said to be Mobile. The raid into Arkansas developes the fact that much suffering exists from scarcity of food.

The Proposed Celebration of the Union Victories.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—At an adjourned meeting of the committee for a celebration of the Union victories, held at ten o'clock this afternoon, Moses Taylor in the chair, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee on resolutions: Chas. F. Daly, George Opdyke, Hamilton Fish, Henry Hilton, Edward Pierpont, Wm. Evarts, Wm. N. Allen, E. F. Shepard and others. The committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the solemn pledges given to the Government by the people of the city of New York, assembled in the city on the 20th of April, 1861, have been redeemed with fidelity and honor. That after four years of blood, where the majesty of the laws has been vindicated and the national banner restored to the soil of every State in revolt, it is fitting and just that upon the same spot, the tidings of victory should be mingled with the acclamations of a grateful people.

Resolved, That since the cities of New Orleans, Memphis, Vicksburg, Nashville, Savannah, Columbia, Charleston and Wilmington have been freed from the terrors of the insurgent arms, and have again been received under the protecting care of the Government, it is our duty to teach them by examples and acts of kindness, that it is safer and wiser to obey the law than to shun its control.

Resolved, That the people of the city of New York do hereby invite the cooperation of every loyal municipality in the Union to unite in a general celebration of the successes of the Union arms, on Saturday, the 4th of March ensuing, at midday that both by the sound of cannon, ringing of bells and uprise of the voices of the people the national heart may be made glad and grateful, and honor to the dead and to the gallant men who preserved the life of the Union.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The Committee of Arrangements will be in constant session during the week at the Astor House. All communications in respect to military parades and civic processions, telegraphic dispatches from other cities, and other matters relating to the active details of the celebration, may be addressed to Col. Frank E. Howe, Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements.

Louisiana Legislature---Mississippi River Obtructions, &c.

CAIRO, Feb. 25.—The steamer Swan, from New Orleans on the 18th, passed up for St. Louis.

The Constitutional Amendment, abolishing slavery, was ratified by the State of Louisiana, on the 17th, by both Houses. In the Louisiana Legislature, Mr. Hills introduced a memorial signed by about 5,000 colored men, asking for rights and suffrages.

A resolution was read and referred to a select committee of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce on the 17th, and a committee appointed and instructed to memorialize Congress for an appropriation for removing obstructions in the passes of the Mississippi river. The mud and other materials accumulated there have become so great as to prove a source of considerable risk, delay and inconvenience to underwriters, shipowners, &c.; also, to represent to the Postmaster General the delays and irregularities of the mails by these obstructions, and the great injury resulting therefrom to the business of the city, and secure, if possible, the correction of these evils.

The 7-20 loan by the First National Bank of Cairo to date, amounts to $187,000.

The steamer Alice Dean, from Memphis for Cincinnati, passed with 363 bales cotton.

THE CAPTURE OF WILMINGTON.

Admiral Porter's Report.

PARTICULARS OF THE FIGHT ON THE 20th AND ADVANCE ON WILMINGTON.

Decided Manifestation of Union Feeling.

SAD SIGHT OF UNION PRISONERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The following has been received at the Navy Department:

U. S. FLAG SHIP MALVERN,
CAPE FEAR RIVER, Feb. 22, 1865.

Sir:—I have the honor to inform you that Wilmington has been evacuated and is in possession of our troops.

After the evacuation of Fort Anderson, I pushed forward the gunboats up as far as the water would permit. The army pushed up at the same time on the right and left bank of the river.

After sounding and buoying out the middle ground at Fog Island, I succeeded in getting the gunboats over, and opened fire on Fort Strong, the work commanding the principal obstructions, and where the rebels had also sunk a large steamer—the North Eastern. Our fire drove the rebels away from the fort. Now and then they would fire a shot, one of which struck the Sassacus below water mark, and set her to leaking badly. There were no lives lost.

That night, the 20th, the rebels sent down two hundred floating torpedoes, but I had a strong force of picket boats out, and the torpedoes were sunk with musketry. One got in the wheel of the Osceola and blew her wheelhouse to pieces and knocked down her bulkhead. There was no damage done to her hull.

Some of the vessels picked up torpedoes with their torpedo nets the next morning. I spread two fishing nets across the river yesterday evening.

General Ames, with his division, moved within a short distance of the fort and had a sharp encounter with the rebels. On hearing the musketry and seeing where our troops were, I opened fire on Fort Hall along the enemy's line. The fort responded with three or four shots, but was soon silenced. This morning we heard that General Terry was within their works and the road was clear to Wilmington. The Montauck could not get across the shoals without lightening, which was a work of some labor. I had the pleasure of placing the flag on Fort Strong. At noon to-day we all fired a salute of thirty-five guns, this being the anniversary of Washington's birth-day.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
D. D. PORTER,
Rear Admiral.

To GIDEON WELLES, Sec'y of the Navy.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The *World* has a letter from Wilmington of the 22d, giving the particulars of its capture. It says: "We are conquered slavery is dead; and to secure our freedom and independence we must, whenever it becomes necessary, lay the institution itself on the altar of sacrifice. Slaves are but property, and should be given up whenever the country demands the sacrifice. It is not a question of taste and preference, but one of dire necessity—a choice of fearful evils. The time has arrived; the crisis is here. Cry aloud, in the name of God and country; let the sacrifice we are called upon to make be nobly, solemnly and sublimely laid upon the altar."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The Richmond *Whig* contains the following:—"There was no confirmation at the War Department last evening of the rumor current in the street to the effect that Wade Hampton had encountered the enemy and administered to him a severe whipping.

The Richmond *Enquirer*, of the 23d, has an article urging the arming of the negroes. It declares that the war was begun by the gulf States in opposition to the wishes of the border States; that the gulf States rejected all advice and hurried Virginia and other border States to bear the weight of a war they never desired. After mentioning the ruin and devastation of the border States, it says: The tide is now rolling toward those States who made the fight, and who affirmed success or universal destruction, and who swore an oath. The bonds has been broken, and they, by whom the first blow was stricken, are the first to desert those whose breasts have so far received the fury of the storm raised by others. On Monday the compact of mutual support was broken. The bill to use slaves so as to secure an honorable existence was defeated in the Senate, chiefly by votes of the gulf States that had previously contributed their share to the common defense. Slaves must be given or we may perish. They who watch the destinies of the State declare its wants and demand relief. The army demands that its depleted ranks shall be strengthened by more man of whatever color, and it is sometimes impolitic to refuse the demands of an army like that which Lee commands. The border States insists that such laws as are necessary to save the State shall be passed, even though these laws affect the slaves in the South, as the war has affected them on the frontier. Perhaps it would be well for the Gulf States to reconsider their vote. Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky will yet see that their people will not be slaves in order that the inconveniences of war may not be felt on the Congaree and Tombigee.

The *Sentinel* urges the Senate to reconsider its action and pass the bill for arming the negroes as a means of saving the country. Gen. Lee, in his letter urging the use of negroes, favors volunteering, with a promise of their freedom. He opposes any plan for impressing them.

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Congressional Business.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The large amount of business necessary to be transacted will engage Congress day and night until the adjournment, without affording opportunity for the deliberation that its importance demands. A large number of public bills, including those necessary for the army and navy, have not yet received laws, and the Amendatory Enrollment bill is still pending.

The Indian Appropriation bill is yet, with other important measures which have passed the House, to be acted upon by the Senate, including the Bankrupt and Illinois and Newport Falls Ship Canal Bills.

The House too has yet to consider various important measures which passed the Senate.

The amendatory Internal Revenue bill is ordered for to-morrow in the Senate, and this will, with the amendment, be returned to the House.

The latter body will also have to consider the Arkansas and Louisiana election cases, the Committee on Elections having reported favorably on receiving representatives from those States.

The Six Hundred Million Loan bill has not been considered in either House.

Matters at Memphis.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 23.—All quiet in our lines. No rebels within miles. The trade stores outside the line, owned by merchants of this city, were recently classed by the military authorities and the goods confiscated.

Gen. Roberts, commanding this District, issued two orders one of them, No. 16, imposes very heavy penalties on certain parties, designated as recognized enemies of the Government; the other, Order No. 18, considers sending bills of indictment by the grand jury against certain persons for treason, after such persons accepted the President's proclamation of amnesty, as erroneous. It announces the intention of the military authorities to view all persons complying with the requirements of the President's proclamation of amnesty of Dec. 1863, keeping them in good faith, as fully pardoned of the crimes of conspiracy, treason and rebellion against the Federal Government, and are not liable to trial, therefore, by any tribunal, civil or military.

From New Orleans—Capture of Blockade Runners.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25—The *Herald's* New Orleans correspondent says that on the night of the 6th, two boats' crews from the United States steamer Princess Royal and Blenville, under Acting George S. French, boarded, captured and run to the blockading fleet from under the guns of the rebel forts on Galveston Harbor, the blockade running schooners "Pet" and Annie Sophia, with about twenty-five bales of cotton each.

On the night of the 3d, the song that noted blockade running steamer, Will-o-the-Wisp, while attempting to get into Galveston, went ashore and was rendered useless by the guns of the blockaders.

The Wren attempted to run the blockade outward on the night of the 6th, but was driven back by the Union guns.

New Pirate Vessels Afloat.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The *Herald* says: Late advices from London are that the pirate ram, Olinde had put into the Spanish port of Ferrol, having met with considerable damage in the Bay of Biscay, a fine leaving the French coast. She was considered a failure, and the United States steamer Niagara, and a French steamer, had gone to intercept her.

The new rebel pirate, Ajax, sailed from England some weeks ago, and three others would shortly sail; one of which, the Hercules, in the Clyde, was about ready.

Subscriptions to the Seven-Thirty Loan.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26.—Jay Cooke reports sales of 7-30s on Saturday of over $9,000,500, including one Philadelphia subscription of $500,000, one from Cincinnati of $122,000 and individual subscriptions of $50 and $100 to the number of 6581. The total amount for the week is $27,000,000, and since the 1st of February $68,000,000, leaving unsold about 120,000,000.

LATEST FROM SECESH SOURCES.

Howlings from the Rebel Press.

BORDER STATES DENOUNCING THE GULF STATES.

Gen. Lee Wants the Negroes Armed.

AN ATTACK BY GRANT EXPECTED.

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XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 25, 1865.

SENATE.

A bill to create the office of Solicitor and Judge Advocate of the Navy Department was then taken up.

Mr. Trumbull spoke against, and Mr. Grimes explained its provisions and advocated the bill. Passed.

The House resolution to authorize Wm. H. Powell to paint a picture for the capitol at a cost not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, was called up. Mr. Sumner was sorry to feel compelled to oppose the measure.

Pending the consideration of this question, the morning hour expired.

Mr. Chandler from the Committee on Commerce, reported the House bill to provide that the measurement of tonnage of ship storerooms and packing room above lower deck shall not be included. Passed.

Mr. Foster moved that the Senate take a recess at 4.30 until 7 o'clock p. m., and that the evening session be devoted to the consideration of the bankrupt bill.

The motion to take a recess prevailed, but the question of making the bankrupt bill the special order was lost.

The joint resolution recognizing the State Government of Louisiana, was then taken up, and at 4 p. m. the Senate adjourned.

Evening Session.—Mr. Hendricks called up a resolution to pay for several large loads of hay taken in Kansas. Mr. Carlisle opposed the bill and said if he had not needed Senator's pay to support his family he would have resigned when the senate recognized West Virginia. Mr. Wade moved to postpone the subject till December next. Decided in the negative—12 to 17. The motion to lay it on the table was also negatived.

Without making any decision, the Senate adjourned at 11:45, p. m.

HOUSE.

A resolution was adopted inquiring of the Secretary of War whether any rebel prisoners at Rock Island and elsewhere have been enlisted into the service of any of the States, and if so, how many and where.

A resolution was adopted directing the Secretary of War to inform the House whether orders have been issued to prevent colored persons leaving Washington without a pass.

The House resumed the consideration of the Amendatory Enrollment bill.

The House bill, appropriating $15,000 indemnity to A. Morrison for his real estate in Nashville, taken by the military authorities as necessary for defense of that city, was taken up. A special report was appended that this relief is not to be considered a precedent.

The Richmond papers cannot conceal their mortification over the capture of Charleston and Columbia. The occupation of the latter by Gen. Sherman, they acknowledge to have been very unexpected at Richmond, and serious apprehensions are expressed in reference to the ability of Beauregard to make any effective opposition to the northward advance of the federal forces.

The bill to arm the negroes, which the rebel House of Representatives passed on the 25th inst., was indefinitely postponed in the Senate on the following day.

The rebel journals give some Texas items of interest, including accounts of the defeat of a rebel force on the South Concha river in that state by the Indians. The fight is said to have been a most desperate one. The Indians are giving the rebels there much trouble.

The Austin *Gazette* is suspicious that the operations of the Union troops are forunners of a grand advance on northern Texas in the spring, by way of Red river. The works found at Galveston are being improved and enlarged.

It was said that the Mexican town of Matamoras has ceased to be a free port.

The Union force reported by the rebel papers as having recently moved from Knoxville, Tennessee, toward North Carolina, is now said by them to consist of between 4000 and 5000 men, under Gen. Gillem.

THE CAPTURE OF CROOK AND KELLY.

Return of the Pursuing Cavalry

THEIR MISSION UNSUCCESSFUL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The force from Sheridan's army, sent in pursuit of the rebel cavalry who, last Tuesday, dashed into Cumberland, Md., and captured Brig. Gens. Crook and Kelley, returned to Winchester on Thursday, saying been unsuccessful in recovering those officers.

The *Times'* special says that Brigadier General Hatch arrived in Washington from Richmond on parole, and will soon be exchanged.

The *World's* special says that Mr. McCullough's name has been sent to the Senate for Secretary of the Treasury and Francis Clerke for Comptroller of the Currency.

Guerrilla Raid Across the Potomac—Arrival of Rebel Deserters.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—A night or two ago a squad of guerrillas crossed the Potomac in the neighborhood of Edwards' Ferry, and drove in a picket of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, of the Eighth Delaware Cavalry, who are on duty there, and carried off a number of horses.

Part of the gang visited a store in the neighborhood and took all the articles they could carry off and then retired across the river into Virginia, not without loss, for one of their number was killed and two others so seriously wounded as to render it unsafe to hold them upon their horses while recrossing the river.

One of our men is supposed to be mortally wounded.

The mail steamer to-day brought to Washington about 160 rebel deserters. Desertion still continues in large numbers, but instead of coming into our lines at night as heretofore, the soldiers before Petersburg, take a broad day desert, bringing their guns with them. Comparatively few old men are among them, and many are mere boys.

Celebration of Washington's Birthday in the Armies—Exchange of Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Washington's Birthday was celebrated with great spirit throughout the Potomac and James Armies. As a part of the festivities, the rebels in front of Petersburg were treated to a vigorous shelling early in the morning.

The exchange of prisoners is still being pushed forward rapidly and uninterruptedly on James river.

Rebel Gen. Johnston Ordered to Report to General Lee—Estimate of Sherman's Force.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Richmond papers state that Gen. Joe Johnston has been ordered to report to Gen. Lee for duty.

The rebels estimate Sherman's effective force, of all arms, at 50,000.

Affairs are becoming interesting in the vicinity of the enemy.

HORSE-HAIR JUSTICE.—Says G. G. Goodrich, "I once knew a boy, in the olden time of Webster's Grammar, who found this definition in his book: "A noun is the name of a thing; 'as horse, hair, justice.' But he chanced to misconceive it, and read it thus: 'A noun is the name of a thing; as, horse-hair justice.' He was of a reflective turn, and long he pondered over the wonderful mysteries of a noun. But in vain; he could not make it out. It so happened that his father was a justice of the peace; and, one day, when the boy went home, the old man was holding a justice's court. There he sat, in state, among a crowd of people, on an old-fashioned, horse-hair settee. A new light suddenly broke in upon our young hero's mind. 'My father,' said he, mentally, 'is a horse-hair justice, and, therefore, a noun!'"

An interesting discovery has just been made in a tumulus at Ekaterinodaw, in Russia. It consists of a treasure which is formally consigned to a chief of the Huns. Among the different articles is a heavy—gold diadem, in which is a cameo of amethyst of ancient Roman workmanship, also a large collar, bracelets and drinking cups, with handles formed by animals, the whole of which are in gold of remarkable workmanship.

AT a recent Sunday meeting of the Mormons at their tabernacle, in Salt Lake City, one G. Q. Cannon, who was afterwards seconded by Brigham Young himself, denounced the "Gentiles" or unbelievers in their midst, in unmeasured terms, and declared that in "nine months Utah would be as free of Gentiles as the President's message is of reference to Utah."

PAYMENTS TO FAMILIES OF PRISONERS.—An official circular from Acting Paymaster-General Brice announces that, in consequence of the general exchange of prisoners of war now going on, payments to families of prisoners will be suspended until further orders. This is done to avoid inadvertant double payments.

Two full regiments of colored men have been formed at Hilton Head from the slaves that followed Sherman out of Georgia. The campaign through South Carolina is expected to give us twenty-five to thirty thousand fighting negroes.

A FIRM RATION FOR THE ARMY.—By order of the War Department a ration of fish, viz: 14 ounces of dried fish, or 18 ounces of pickled fish, will be made hereafter to troops once a week in lieu of the fresh beef ration.

EVENING GAZETTE TELEGRAMS.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Great Activity in Lee's Army.

HILL'S CORPS UNDER MARCHING ORDERS.

An Attack on Gen. Grant Meditated.

DESERTERS STILL CONTINUE TO ARRIVE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The *Herald's* army of Potomac correspondent says: Unusual movements and activity have been observed in the rebel lines around Richmond during the past few days, indicating designs of some new enterprise, on the part of Gen. Lee; and it is surmised that he is alarmed by the progress of Sherman's and the other national forces. He has concluded that the time for giving up both Richmond and Petersburg and falling back to Lynchburg or some other defensible position, has at last arrived.

General A. P. Hill's corps of this army is said to have been under orders on Thursday of this week to be prepared to march at a moment's notice, and considerable commotion within the rebel lines was displayed yesterday. There are also rumors that Lee meditates an attack on Grant.

All these matters, taken in connection with the fact that the rebel journals have received orders from the authorities to be particularly reticent regarding military affairs, gives color to the belief that something more than ordinary is in process of execution within their lines. The influx of rebel deserters, however, remains unintermitted.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: A dispatch received here from Gen. Grant's headquarters states that extraordinary activity is displayed along the rebel line near Petersburg to-day. Extensive changes of location of divisions have been made, and on some parts of the line the pickets have been doubled, and other demonstrations of some importance or movements are given. It is the opinion of veteran officers at the front that they are about to evacuate Petersburg and fall back across the Appomattox.

SUPPRESSION OF MILITARY NEWS.

The Negro Bill Indefinitely Postponed.

THE UNION MOVEMENT ON NORTHERN TEXAS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—As the rebel newspapers have received an official notification to suppress military news, we are without any late intelligence regarding Gen. Sherman's progress in South Carolina.

The Richmond papers cannot conceal their mortification over the capture of Charleston and Columbia. The occupation of the latter by Gen. Sherman, they acknowledge to have been very unexpected at Richmond, and serious apprehensions are expressed in reference to the ability of Beauregard to make any effective opposition to the northward advance of the federal forces.

The bill to arm the negroes, which the rebel House of Representatives passed on the 25th inst., was indefinitely postponed in the Senate on the following day.

The rebel journals give some Texas items of interest, including accounts of the defeat of a rebel force on the South Concha river in that state by the Indians. The fight is said to have been a most desperate one. The Indians are giving the rebels there much trouble.

The Austin *Gazette* is suspicious that the operations of the Union troops are forunners of a grand advance on northern Texas in the spring, by way of Red river. The works found at Galveston are being improved and enlarged.

It was said that the Mexican town of Matamoras has ceased to be a free port.

The Union force reported by the rebel papers as having recently moved from Knoxville, Tennessee, toward North Carolina, is now said by them to consist of between 4000 and 5000 men, under Gen. Gillem.

THE CAPTURE OF CROOK AND KELLY.

Return of the Pursuing Cavalry

THEIR MISSION UNSUCCESSFUL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The force from Sheridan's army, sent in pursuit of the rebel cavalry who, last Tuesday, dashed into Cumberland, Md., and captured Brig. Gens. Crook and Kelley, returned to Winchester on Thursday, saying been unsuccessful in recovering those officers.

The *Times'* special says that Brigadier General Hatch arrived in Washington from Richmond on parole, and will soon be exchanged.

The *World's* special says that Mr. McCullough's name has been sent to the Senate for Secretary of the Treasury and Francis Clerke for Comptroller of the Currency.

Guerrilla Raid Across the Potomac—Arrival of Rebel Deserters.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—A night or two ago a squad of guerrillas crossed the Potomac in the neighborhood of Edwards' Ferry, and drove in a picket of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, of the Eighth Delaware Cavalry, who are on duty there, and carried off a number of horses.

Part of the gang visited a store in the neighborhood and took all the articles they could carry off and then retired across the river into Virginia, not without loss, for one of their number was killed and two others so seriously wounded as to render it unsafe to hold them upon their horses while recrossing the river.

One of our men is supposed to be mortally wounded.

The mail steamer to-day brought to Washington about 160 rebel deserters. Desertion still continues in large numbers, but instead of coming into our lines at night as heretofore, the soldiers before Petersburg, take a broad day desert, bringing their guns with them. Comparatively few old men are among them, and many are mere boys.

Celebration of Washington's Birthday in the Armies—Exchange of Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Washington's Birthday was celebrated with great spirit throughout the Potomac and James Armies. As a part of the festivities, the rebels in front of Petersburg were treated to a vigorous shelling early in the morning.

The exchange of prisoners is still being pushed forward rapidly and uninterruptedly on James river.

Rebel Gen. Johnston Ordered to Report to General Lee—Estimate of Sherman's Force.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Richmond papers state that Gen. Joe Johnston has been ordered to report to Gen. Lee for duty.

The rebels estimate Sherman's effective force, of all arms, at 50,000.

Affairs are becoming interesting in the vicinity of the enemy.

HORSE-HAIR JUSTICE.—Says G. G. Goodrich, "I once knew a boy, in the olden time of Webster's Grammar, who found this definition in his book: "A noun is the name of a thing; 'as horse, hair, justice.' But he chanced to misconceive it, and read it thus: 'A noun is the name of a thing; as, horse-hair justice.' He was of a reflective turn, and long he pondered over the wonderful mysteries of a noun. But in vain; he could not make it out. It so happened that his father was a justice of the peace; and, one day, when the boy went home, the old man was holding a justice's court. There he sat, in state, among a crowd of people, on an old-fashioned, horse-hair settee. A new light suddenly broke in upon our young hero's mind. 'My father,' said he, mentally, 'is a horse-hair justice, and, therefore, a noun!'"

An interesting discovery has just been made in a tumulus at Ekaterinodaw, in Russia. It consists of a treasure which is formally consigned to a chief of the Huns. Among the different articles is a heavy—gold diadem, in which is a cameo of amethyst of ancient Roman workmanship, also a large collar, bracelets and drinking cups, with handles formed by animals, the whole of which are in gold of remarkable workmanship.

AT a recent Sunday meeting of the Mormons at their tabernacle, in Salt Lake City, one G. Q. Cannon, who was afterwards seconded by Brigham Young himself, denounced the "Gentiles" or unbelievers in their midst, in unmeasured terms, and declared that in "nine months Utah would be as free of Gentiles as the President's message is of reference to Utah."

PAYMENTS TO FAMILIES OF PRISONERS.—An official circular from Acting Paymaster-General Brice announces that, in consequence of the general exchange of prisoners of war now going on, payments to families of prisoners will be suspended until further orders. This is done to avoid inadvertant double payments.

Two full regiments of colored men have been formed at Hilton Head from the slaves that followed Sherman out of Georgia. The campaign through South Carolina is expected to give us twenty-five to thirty thousand fighting negroes.

A FIRM RATION FOR THE ARMY.—By order of the War Department a ration of fish, viz: 14 ounces of dried fish, or 18 ounces of pickled fish, will be made hereafter to troops once a week in lieu of the fresh beef ration.

Disturbance Among the Miners.

A disturbance occurred last week, at a place called "The Mines," in Union township, among a number of coal diggers employed in Mr. Gray's pit. It seems that Mr. Gray discharged an inferior workman, which gave offense to the other miners, as the party discharged was a member of the Miner's Association, and as such felt bound to defend him. They all quit work, whereupon Mr. Gray employed a number of Germans. The men who had been employed in the pit became greatly incensed at the Germans, and carried their indignation so far as to offer them personal violence, throwing stones at them, etc.

Mr. Gray, having a contract for supplying coal to the Government, and being unable to proceed with his work, called upon the military authorities for protection, and a squad of soldiers was sent over to protect the workmen. So far as we have been able to learn, no arrests were made, but the affair has created great excitement among the miners in the vicinity.

The Sixth Ward Redeeming Herself.

We are gratified to announce that the citizens of the Sixth Ward, at their meeting on Saturday evening, entered with renewed spirit and energy upon the work of filling the quota with volunteers. The meeting was very large and exceedingly spirited, and instead of forming the proposed club, it was resolved to go to work like men and raise volunteers. A committee was appointed, consisting of Hon. James Lowry, jr., Jared M. Brush, James Blackmore, James Oscina and F. A. Hellsey, to visit Harrisburg and obtain the necessary legislation for a *per capita* tax. A mass meeting will be held this evening in the lecture room of the Sixth Presbyterian church, to which every enrolled man is invited.

ACCIDENT IN A COAL PIT.—A serious accident occurred in the coal pit of Mr. King, in Lower St. Clair township, in the vicinity of Knowlson Church, on Friday last. A mass of slate fell from the roof, burying two brothers named Schrecongost, who were employed as miners. Several men were engaged for a considerable time in removing the slate, and the men were both found to have been seriously injured. One of them is not expected to recover.

ENROLLED MEN of the First Ward, Allegheny, as far as the Committee can ascertain, the draft will commence on the first of the month. You are hereby requested to call at once on the Treas. urer at 59 Federal street, and pay your subscription that the recruiting may go on or the draft will take place. Call at any time through the day from 7 o'clock A. M. to 9 o'clock P. M.

COMMITTEE.

ed. S. WELTY has been appointed postmaster at Sheafer's Cross Roads, Westmoreland county, vice Simon Coffman, resigned.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The Legislative Delegation—Visit to the House of Refuge and Dixmont Hospital.

The Legislative Delegation, comprising a portion of the Committee of Ways and Means, and some twenty other members of the House, from different parts of the State, visited our House of Refuge on Saturday morning. They were received, on their arrival at the Institution, by President Pennock, Managers M'Candless, Schoonmaker, Phillips and Jones, Secretary Meeds, H. L. Ring