The Pittsburgh Gazette.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1865.

CHOOSING LEGISLATORS.

The office of legislator is in itself an honorable one. Why, then, should not honorable men aspire to it? Heretofore many have aspired to it, but of late years the course of legislation has been so disreputable that the number of that class seeking and filling legislative places has been growing less, year by year, until they are numerically too few to control legislation.

One reason for this is to be found in the ridiculous practice of dropping a man from nomination after two years' service. Under the principle of "rotation in office," two years has been settled as the span of a legislator's political life. That is long enough for *him*, and he must step aside to make way for some one else. Hence when a good man, after having offered himself as a candidate and run the gauntlet of the primary meetings, is finally chosen, and proves himself by two years' service to be the right man in the right place, instead of continuing him as long as he is willing to serve, he is, just as he has reached the point of usefulness, unceremoniously thrust aside for some untried and perhaps unworthy man.

As long as this system prevails men cannot be expected to give up a portion of the time belonging to their business or profession to occupy a place that cannot be assured to them for more than two years. If it were the practice to reelect men to the legislature as long as they can command the public confidence there might be some inducement to a merchant or professional man, or farmer, to give his time to the public in a legislative capacity, because he could arrange his business accordingly; but as it is, there is none.

Another reason is to be found in the carelessness which the people show, in their primary capacity, in choosing legislators. Reform, in this matter, must begin with the people. They must seek out the right kind of men, and set a far higher standard of capacity than hitherto. The people must return to the old Jeffersonian doctrine, and test a man's fitness by inquiring, "Is he honest? Is he capable? Is he faithful to the Constitution?" And when they have found the man, they must resolve to keep him in office long enough, should he prove faithful, to give some idea of stability to the place.

We have few men of leisure in this busy country. Everybody has something to do or ought to have; and we hate, therefore, no class of men, such as they have in England, who can give their time to legislation, because they have nothing else to do. We must, therefore, of necessity choose quite a majority from the active men of the country —men who have some profession or business to follow. So long as the present practice continues it is idle to expect that competent men will have to look to their profession or business for their future, and to whom a term of service as legislators can be nothing but a hinderance, will seek an election to the legislature. The remedy lies with the people. They must resolve, in the first place, that they will have better men, and in the second place, that when they have found them, they will not ostracise them as soon as they learn to fill the place properly. We commend the matter to the earnest consideration of those within whom lies the initiation of the reform.

THE CONNELLSVILLE ROAD.

We cheerfully give place to the communication below, and ask for it the careful attention of our readers.

The impression left upon our minds by the remarks of Mr. Cass was that the needed legislation could be had if the proposition he offered were accepted. As however, he stated, his colleagues disclaim this idea, and after their willingness to undertake the construction of the Connellsville road, believing that the present rights of that road are sufficient, the case assumes a different aspect. All our opinions were based upon the contrary impression.

The proposition below, is evidently made in good faith, and as the great aim of the business men of Pittsburgh is to get the road built, there is every reason for giving to it early and careful consideration.

EDITORS GAZETTE—We have read your editorial remarks on the proceedings of the meeting of the business men of the city relative to legislation in regard to the franchise of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, and request the permission of reaching our readers a few words in correction of some statements.

Mr. Cass did not "positively intimate" that if he had the lease there would be no difficulty about the legislation necessary to restore the franchise. We believe that the present rights of the P. & C. Road are sufficient, and we had no intention of asking the Legislature to restore the corporate franchise which it is alleged has been taken away. Mr. Cass stated emphatically his belief that this Legislature would not rescind the action of the last, and this was but repeating the statement of Mr. Watson, and what was inferred from the speech of Mr. Hughes. We believe that sufficient legislation may barely already exist in its enabling us to carry out our offer, if accepted.

As stated to the meeting, the offer was made only as in good faith, to citizens of Pittsburgh, to complete a continuous road to Cumberland, and them connect with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; and we do not think it necessary to say any more to the business men of this city to shield us from the ungenerous inuendoes of your editorial—that we were governed by some sinister motive. We have never yet been engaged in the "snake" business, and we are rather too old now to commence it.

As to whether the time was opportune, is a matter of taste and judgment. We did not offer to interfere with the elections that were offered by the special champions of the P. and C. R. R., but we did think it opportune and proper to take advantage of this meeting of the business men of Pittsburgh (for such the meeting was) to show them how the road might be built. If anybody has any better or quicker mode, we shall rejoice to see them have an opportunity. When such parties offer, we shall not be among those who will assist their glasses to discover a snake." To the business men of Pittsburgh, with whose interests we are identified, we now leave the matter.

O. W. CASS.
SPENCER HARBAUGH.

FURTHER REMARKS.

Having said this much in justice to the assembled business men of Pittsburgh, there are still some things that we would like to make clear. They are, 1st. We believed that the present rights of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road are sufficient; and we had no intention of asking the Legislature to restore the corporate franchise which it is alleged has been taken away. Mr. Cass stated emphatically his belief that this Legislature would not rescind the action of the last, and this was but repeating the statement of Mr. Watson, and what was inferred from the speech of Mr. Hughes. We believe that sufficient legislation barely already exists to enable us to carry out our offer, if accepted.

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O. W. CASS.
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SHERMAN HEARD FROM.

Gen. SHERMAN has been heard from. On the 8th, a week since, he was at Laurel Hill, about twenty miles east of the eastern border of North Carolina. Laurel Hill is (or was until lately) the terminus of a railroad from Wilmington, which place is about 100 miles South; but SHERMAN appears to pay no heed to railroad lines: he is marching straight across the country to Raleigh, (apparently) Laurel Hill lying in a direct line between Cheraw and Raleigh; and as the latter is only seventy miles in a direct line from Laurel Hill, he may be there today, if he has met with no unusual detention. Both HARDEE and BEAUREGARD appear to be giving him a wide berth.

Gen. SHERMAN left Columbia on the 26th or 26th of February, and reached Laurel Hill on the 8th of March, stopping two days to rest at Cheraw. The distance is about 160 miles, and he traversed it in about eight days, deducting the rest at Cheraw. At the same rate of progress, he ought to be in Raleigh to-day.

THE REPORTED REBEL VICTORY

Which BRAGG has been boasting of and which has so encouraged the Richmond Rebels, turns out to be no victory at all. By a furious onset upon a portion of Foster's advance, BRAGG succeeded in taking a part of two regiments prisoners; but he subsequently lost more prisoners than he took, and has been driven across the Neuse at Kingston. As Kingston is forty miles West of Newbern, and only twenty East of Goldsboro, it will be seen that BRAGG is not accomplishing much in checking FOSTER's advance. Goldsboro, which appears to be within easy reach of FOSTER's army, is only forty-eight miles Southeast of Raleigh by railroad.

Marriage Among the Freedmen.

The marriage records kept among the freedmen since their emancipation, furnish the most curious and instructive chapter of their history. Nothing so conclusively declares the existing stage of their civilization as this.

From this record, kept by the post superintendent at Vicksburg, Captain J. H. Weber, the facts and generalizations below are made. The first marriage under the new law was distinguished. It was celebrated in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 10th, 1865, by Chaplain J. A. Hawley, 63d regiment, United States colored infantry, and the happy man who led off in this new order of things was a reputed son of a former Governor of Virginia, named WM. SMITH. It was extensively noticed in the papers as a "marriage in high life."

Since that time there had been recorded at Vicksburg fourteen hundred and fifty-six marriages, before the first of November. The record is required to show the color or blood of the parties united in marriage, and of the parents of each, of course the colors of six persons should be recorded for each marriage.

Out of these fourteen hundred and fifty-six marriages, there were one hundred and sixty-six persons who were the children of one white parent, and three of them were children of white mothers.

One-third of all the marriages recorded so far are of parents white or partly white on one side or the other. This is undoubtedly below the truth, owing to two reasons; one is that a slight admixture of white blood is almost always set down as black, and the other is a prevalent unwillingness to own any such mixture of races, when it is not quite obvious. Whoever is familiar with the catechism of the people on this subject, which the instructors require, knows how true to be the fact. The general fact seems to be that the lighter colored mulattoes are rather proud of their white relationship, while the darker ones are rather unwilling to own it, or are ignorant of it. This is the testimony of the chaplains, especially of the more sagacious. This feeling of reluctance to answer was more apparent in the case of the children of white mothers. No greater disgrace could attach to a white woman than this intercourse with negroes. But the case was widely different with men. It was no conmon, to be very disgraceful.

A large part of the marriages recorded, especially at first, were of those who had lived together as husband and wife—perhaps for many years. One old man at Memphis was married, with several others, one morning. No sooner was the ceremony completed than he turned and tenderly embraced and kissed his new legal wife, with evident thanksgiving that she was now, in the eye of the law and of civilization, as she had long been in the eye of God, his own recognized wife.

One old man of almost threescore and ten, was thus joined in lawful marriage to his venerable wife. At the conclusion of the ceremony, when the chaplain extended his hand with the usual benediction and dismissed them, as was the custom, in short prayer, they both dropped on their knees together, their eyes streaming with tears of thankfulness, and at the close, still kneeling, the old man reached out both arms and hugged her to his heart, saying aloud, "My dear old woman, I bless God that I can now for the first time kiss my own lawful wife."

One illustration of the cruelty of slavery is found in the fact that in nearly one-third of all the cases recorded, one of the parties had been separated from a former mate by force. Of these one thousand four hundred and fifty-six marriages, five hundred and fifty-two persons answered that they had been married before, and had been sold away or driven away from those who had sustained to them the dearest relation of life. Of these former marriages, thus virtually disrupted, there were born one thousand and seventy-seven children; and who shall measure the sorrows of fathers and mothers thus torn away from their own flesh and blood? or of the children, by this accursed traffic bereft of parents, and left to the nurture of those who cared for them as simply property? This makes no account of the children sold from parents, but only of parents sold from children.

One chaplain married eighteen couples one evening after eight o'clock, at Davis' Bend. Among these thirty-six were thirteen persons who had been separated from husbands or wives "by force," and these thirteen persons were parents of thirty-four children by former connections than the deeply sundered.

There have seemed to be tides in this matrimonial sea. One chaplain married 109 couples in one day, which shows to what perfection the "way" attain, with sufficient practice. He would be "well-to-do" in the world, if northern notions of marriage fees prevailed. Unhappily for the chaplains, they do not. One received a silver dime for marrying a couple. Several times nine parents have been presented with a dime, possibly even ten; and half a dime has been given as a "marriage fee." But the strangest of all was one from a company of eleven couples married at once. A bride, more thoughtful than her evidently worser half, came up to the chaplain and said that she "had not much to give, but begged him to accept a small token of interest in what had been done for her and her family," and handed him a sweet potato! He received it and thanked her politely, and was much pleased with this evidence of her appreciation of the service.

The oldest person married was 88 years old. He brought to the altar an elderly young woman of 50—38 years younger than himself. One man of 80 married a woman of 40. The greatest disparity of ages was 48 years. A mature gentleman of 68 united to himself a girl of 20. She made sure of getting a man old enough to be respected. One old slave-trader married a handsome quadroon whom he had bought for $3,000, and had been offered $5,000 for.

THE ABDUCTION CASE.—We are gratified to learn that Archbishop Kenrick has addressed a note to the Provost Marshal General, Col. Baker, promising to use his influence with whatever parties were engaged in the fabrication of the Hargrave children, to procure their return. He pronounces it a discreditable proceeding, as every one will who becomes fully acquainted with the particulars, and he is evidently convinced that any one officially connected with the Catholic Church should have had a hand in it.

Col. BAKER, by an ingenious device, has trapped and will no doubt forward to Governor's Island, between 500 and 600 bounty jumpers and deserters, and twenty-seven bounty brokers. The half of an uptown fire company figured among the jumpers.

We hear from Philadelphia that less than Sixty Millions of the Seven-Thirty Loan were left unsubscribed for on Friday night. At this rate, the entire Loan will be taken in about two weeks. We also hear that it is the intention of the new Secretary of the Treasury to employ the agency that has been so successful with the Seven-Thirties, to popularize the new Six-Hundred Million Loan.

THE United States owns upwards of 1,000,000,000 acres of public lands susceptible of cultivation. They own at least 2,000,000 acres of gold and silver bearing lands. The arable lands are worth at least $1,000,000,000, and the mineral lands are worth at least $8,000,000,000, making a total of $9,000,000,000.

VERMONT ratified the Constitutional Amendment prohibiting slavery at a special session of her Legislature on the 9th inst. The bill passed the Senate unanimously, the House by 217 to 2. Vermont is the eighteenth ratifying State.

LAST year the cities of Troy, Utica, Rochester, Oswego and Lockport, elected Opposition Mayors; now they are all right. All of them but Lockport gave majorities for M'Clellan and Seymour last Fall.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

PUBLIC NOTICES.

U. S.

7-30 LOAN.

By authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, the undersigned has assumed the General Subscription Agency for the sale of United States Treasury Notes, bearing seven and three tenths per cent. interest, per annum, known as the

SEVEN-THIRTY LOAN.

These Notes are issued under date of August 15th, 1864, and are payable three years from that time, in currency, or are convertible at the option of the holder into

U. S. 6-20 Six Per Cent GOLD BEARING BONDS,

These bonds are now worth a premium of nine per cent., including gold interest from November, which makes the actual profit on the 7-30 loan, at current rates, including interest, about ten per cent. per annum, besides its *exemption from State and municipal taxation, which adds from one to three per cent. more*, according to the rate levied on other property. The interest is payable semi-annually by coupons attached to each note, which may be cut off and sold to any bank or banker.

The interest amounts to

One	cent per day on a	$50	note.
Two	cents " " "	$100	"
Ten	" " "	$500	"
20	" " "	$1000	"
$1	" " "	$6000	"

Notes of all the denominations named will be promptly furnished upon receipt of subscriptions. This is

THE ONLY LOAN IN MARKET

now offered by the Government; and it is confidently expected that its superior advantages will make it the

Great Popular Loan of the People.

Less than $200,000,000 remain unsold, which will probably be disposed of within the next 60 or 90 days, when the notes will undoubtedly command a premium, as has uniformly been the case on closing the subscriptions to other Loan.

In order that the citizens of every town and section of the country may be afforded facilities for taking the loan, the National Banks, State Banks, and Private Bankers throughout the country have generally agreed to receive subscriptions as par. Subscribers will select their own agents, in whom they have confidence, and who only are to be responsible for the delivery of the notes for which they receive orders.

JAY COOKE,
Subscription Agent, Philadelphia.

Subscriptions will be received by the

First National Bank, Pittsburgh, Pa.,			
Second	"	"	"
Third	"	"	"
Fourth	"	"	"
Citizen's	"	"	"
Park & Mandf'rs National Bank, Pittsburgh, Pa			
Pittsburgh National Bank of Commerce,			"
Iron City	"	"	"
Tradesmans	"	"	"
Farmer's Deposit	"	"	"
Mechanics	"	"	"
Union	"	"	"
Allegheny	"	"	"
People's	"	"	"
German	"	"	"
First	"	"	of Allegheny.

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ATTENTION, VOLUNTEERS.—A

LOCAL BOUNTY OF $500,

In addition to the Government Bounty, will be paid for

SIXTY VOLUNTEERS,

RESIDENTS OF FIRST WARD, ALLEGHENY.

Apply immediately at the readerooul, at ALEXANDER DYER'S OFFICE, corner Federal and Lacock sts., late Provost Marshal's office.

This is a new local organization.

FOURTH WARD, ALLEGHENY.—At a meeting of the citizens of said ward, held on Monday evening, at Faulhaber's, the following resolution was passed, and ordered to be published: Resolved, That the credit of the wards be put in force after this date be withheld till after the draft, or exempted for under the new law, and that all enrolled men who may be drafted, and have not paid one hundred dollars to the bounty fund, will have their names returned there, and allowed to take care of themselves. One more meeting will be held on THURSDAY EVENING, to give Democrats an opportunity to pay up.

mh15-d2t

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR RENT.—To a small family,

FOUR ROOMS, AND A FINISHED GARRET AND BATH ROOM.

In One in the house, No. 114 Sandusky street, Allegheny. Rent $18, inquire at No. 81 MORGAN STREET, ALLEGHENY. mh15-3t

FOR SALE.—OIL BARRELS.—We offer for sale,

10,000 Thoroughly Seasoned Oil Barrels,

READY FOR USE.

GUTHRIE & SILL,
mh15-2d 304 Fifth street.

FOR SALE OR TO LET—IN THE 8th WARD, Pittsburgh, on the corner of Wharton and Logan sts., two new frame houses, each one story and a half high, containing 5 rooms, each one square from the Monongahela River. Each one supplied with the Pittsburgh Water. Terms easy, and title perfect. Also, one new frame house, containing 5 rooms, on Logan st., between Wharton and Fifth sts. Apply to PETER PATTERSON, No. 66 Third street, above Smithfield street, Pittsburgh. mh15

FOR SALE OR TO LET—A FINE Brick Dwelling House in the Fourth Ward, Allegheny city, on Rebecca st., between Sandusky and Lacock sts., fronting 30 feet on Rebecca st. and running back 100 feet. Has all the modern conveniences, such as gas fixtures, hot and cold water, &c. Terms easy. Apply to the premises, No. 110 Rebecca st., or to JAMES PATTERSON, No. 66 Third street, above Smithfield street, Pittsburgh. mh15

AUCTION NOTICE—THURSDAY MORNING at 10 o'clock at the Mansion House Auction Room, on Fifth street, will be sold a large quantity of Furniture, Carpets, Stoves, &c., comprising Parlor, Chamber and Dining-room Furniture, Mirrors, Oil Cloths, Feather Beds, Mattresses, Bedding, Crockery and Glassware, Kitchen utensils, also, a quantity of Iron and Second Hand Carpets, Oil Cloths, also, Stoves, Stove Pipe, Tools and Several Spools and Forks, together with many articles not enumerated. Sale positive. JOHN H. MCCLELLAND, Auctioneer.

SUNDRIES.

20 bbls Prime Mackerel;
10 " Family Mackerel;
10 " Extra Mackerel;
10 " Extra Shad;
10 " Extra Herring;
10 " Extra Pickled Herring;
10 " Extra Pickled Salmon;
10 " Extra Pickled Trout;
10 " Extra Pickled Cod;
10 " Extra Pickled Blue Fish;
10 " Extra Pickled Lake Fish;
10 " Extra Pickled Pigs Feet;
10 " Extra Pickled Tripe;
10 " Extra Pickled Tongues;
10 " Extra Pickled Beef;
10 " Extra Pickled Pork;
10 " Extra Pickled Sausage;
10 " Extra Pickled Oysters;
10 " Extra Pickled Clams;
10 " Extra Pickled Lobsters;
10 " Extra Pickled Crabs;
10 " Extra Pickled Shrimps;
10 " Extra Pickled Anchovies;
10 " Extra Pickled Sardines;
10 " Extra Pickled Herring;
10 " Extra Pickled Mackerel;
10 " Extra Pickled Shad