THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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The Pittsburgh Gazette.

VERY LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, March 21.

SENATE.—Mr. Graham presented a remonstrance from Collins township, against the improvement of Hilard Avenue.

Mr. Bigham read a bill authorizing the Minersville Railway to remove their track from Wylie and Fifth streets.

The following bills were passed: Incorporating the Coatsville Railroad Company; Incorporating the French Creek Bridge Company, but if the commissioners build the bridge this company is not to exist; Incorporating the Johnstown and Armagh Turnpike Company; Incorporating the Western Mining Company; supplement to Independence Oil Company; authorizing an election in Oil City on April twenty-sixth; supplement to Garrick Oil Company. Adjourned.

The State Improvement bill, another river oil scheme, was read last night in the House, but was not considered, nor is it probable that it will be.

HOUSE.—The following were passed: Incorporating the Central Turnpike Company; relating to bridges in Allegheny County; supplement to act incorporating Allegheny Turnpike Company; relative to weighing coal in Pittsburgh; incorporating the following Mining Companies: Bullion, Union, Franklin Union, Pacific, Paducah, Gold, Hydraulic and Midas; to authorize Courts to increase tolls and exercise chancery jurisdiction over Turnpike and Plank Road Companies; to establish a ferry over the Upper Allegheny; giving the Mayor of Allegheny City two hundred and fifty dollars more salary out of the County Treasury.

RUMORS FROM RICHMOND.

Abdication of Jeff. Davis.

GENERAL LEE SUPREME DICTATOR.

One Last Desperate Effort to be Made.

THE SUBJECT CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The *Herald's* special says it was reported in Washington, yesterday, that Jeff Davis had abdicated the position of President of the rebel Confederacy, and handed over the reins of his sinking government to General Lee, with the understanding that the latter, as supreme dictator, would make one last desperate effort with such resources as are left within his control.

All kinds of provisions are now bringing fabulous prices in Richmond, and every male in the city capable of carrying a musket has been pressed into the army.

A cabinet meeting was held at Washington, yesterday, at which it was understood that the present condition of affairs at Richmond formed the subject of consideration.

SHERMAN MARCHING TOWARDS GOLDSBORO.

REBEL PROPERTY DESTROYED AT FAYETTEVILLE.

A Battle Near Goldsboro Probable.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The *Herald's* Wilmington correspondent of the 16th, says: All the refugees, deserters and prisoners brought in by Sherman are being brought to that place, two steamboat loads arriving that day.

On the 14th Sherman left Fayetteville, marching towards Goldsboro. Before leaving, the extensive arsenal was completely destroyed. It was the best in the South. Every cotton mill and several residences were also destroyed. Six small steamers were also burned.

The negroes who have followed Sherman will be sent to South Carolina, consigned to the care of General Saxton.

The rebels will make a stand, if at all, near Goldsboro. Johnson having united with Bragg, and large reinforcements having come from Richmond, give a combination with which they hope to defeat Sherman and Schofield combined. If successful, they calculate to return and crush Grant.

Our released prisoners are sent North as fast as possible. Their condition is horrible; thirty and forty die daily.

General Terry is to take the field immediately.

INTERESTING FROM EUROPE.

NAPOLEON AND THE MEXICAN EMPIRE.

SHIPMENT OF GOLD TO AMERICA.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The City of London, from Liverpool the 8th, via Queenstown the 9th, arrived this morning with one day's later dates.

It is reported that the Emperor Napoleon has firmly resolved to maintain the Empire of Mexico.

The London *Star* repudiates the rumors of a possible war between England and America.

The London *Times'* city article alludes to the probable shipment of gold to New York, owing to the dullness in exchange consequent upon the heavy supplies of Federal bonds to the Continent and the arrival of Savannah cotton at New York.

Liverpool, March 9.—Cotton flat. Manchester market quiet and steady. Breadstuffs quiet and steady. Provisions dull. Lard firm.

London.—Consols, 83¼@83¾ for money; Erie Shares, 35¼@35¾; 5-20's, 53¼@54.

M. De Montholon has been appointed French Minister to Washington, and M. Dano Minister to Mexico.

Bonds 67¼. 85c.

The Seven-Thirty Loan.

PHILADELPHIA, March 21.—The subscriptions received yesterday at the Government subscription agency amounted to $3,125,650.

The interruption by the flood, of telegraphic and mail communications for the last three days, have seemingly diminished subscriptions.

It is almost certain that the 7-30's now on market, will be entirely gone before Saturday night, there being only $23,000,000 left. The anxiety to secure investments which increases with the increasing decline in gold, promises to lead to the absorption of the whole of this issue within a few days.

Bank Robbery—Monitor Dictator.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The Central Bank was robbed yesterday of 10-40 and 5-20 bonds amounting to $69,000.

The monitor Dictator arrived here to-day from Hampton Roads. Her officers speak of her in the highest terms. A portion of the time she made twelve knots per hour, using only twenty-four furnaces out of fifty-six.

The Davis, Lee and Grant Correspondence.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The correspondence between Davis, Lee and Grant, concerning a Military Convention to settle our difficulties, is published and contains no new facts except the one that Davis closed the letters with giving Lee authority to act with these words: "Enter into such an arrangement as will cause at least a temporary suspension of hostilities."

Dispatches from Sheridan.

BALTIMORE, March 21.—The steamer Europa has arrived at Washington, and brings Maj. H. B. Compton, bearer of dispatches from Maj. Gen. Sheridan. He also brought with him seventeen rebel battle-flags, captured by Sheridan, during his raid, seven of which he captured himself, from Gen. Early's headquarters.

Price of Gold.

NEW YORK, March 21.—There has been more activity in Gold, principally from the buoyancy of the shorts, to settle their late sales. The price has fluctuated between 155@160¼.

FROM BATCHER'S RUN.

AN ATTACK FROM THE REBELS EXPECTED.

SHERMAN AND SCHOFIELD REPORTED MOVING UP.

UNEXPECTED WAR CLAP PREDICTED.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The *Commercial's* Hatcher's Run correspondent, under date of March 18, says our troops there had been under arms thirty-six hours, expecting an attack from the enemy. Movements within the enemy's lines for several days gave rise to this expectation. Our troops are eager to have the attack made.

An early evacuation of Petersburg is looked for.

It is reported that Sherman and Schofield are moving up the Weldon Road. Our troops were never in more magnificent spirits.

The *Commercial* says a war clap will soon be heard in a quarter least expected by friend or foe.

The *Commercial's* special from Trenton, today, says the Washington train was detained two hours at Matuchin by breaking an axle. Only two persons were injured.

GOLDSBORO OCCUPIED BY SHERMAN.

Junction Formed with Gen. Schofield.

SHERIDAN STILL AT WHITE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Passengers who arrived to-day from City Point, say news from Sherman reached there Sunday, through two scouts, who left last week. He had occupied Goldsboro without opposition, having connected with Schofield.

Gen. Sheridan is being supplied at White House with everything he may need for his future movements. His army is still idle.

Orders Regarding Fraudulent Permits.

CAIRO, March 20.—The steamer Belle of St. Louis, from Memphis, has arrived, with 800 bales of cotton for St. Louis.

To prevent goods from being sent into the enemy's lines by land or water by means of fraudulent permits, General Washburne has issued orders which prohibits the permitting of goods to go beyond the lines of occupation, except to persons who actually come from beyond such lines and bring in cotton and other products, and dispose of the same to the Government purchasing agents. The order abolishes the system by which steamboat loads of goods have been allowed to leave Memphis to be traded with the enemy.

From Venezuela—Wretched Condition of the Country.

NEW YORK, March 21.—We have news from Venezuela dated Caraccas, February 24th. The country is described as in a most wretched state of anarchy. Most of the provinces were isolated from the capital, all mail communications being destroyed by the warring factions. Only two of the legations of the republic, one in Paris and the other in Lima, Peru, were in existence.

El Federacho, the organ of the Falcon Government, says they are shedding blood, and nobody knows why. In Trujillo, called the Sovereign State of the Andes, many believe that indescriminate disorder, murder, arson, &c.

From New Orleans.

CAIRO, March 20.—The steamer Strickney from New Orleans on the 15th, has arrived, with 250 hogsheads of sugar for St. Louis. The boat had just landed when she was discovered to be on fire, but it was promptly extinguished without injury to the boat.

There is an inquiry for cotton in the New Orleans market, but no sales. There were small sales of Sugar at 30c for Prime, and 23@24c for Yellow Clarified, and Molasses at 83c for Old Crop, and $1,20 for Prime New.

Sheridan at White House.

NEW YORK, March 20.—The *Herald's* City Point correspondent of the 20th, says: Sheridan arrived at White House on the 19th. He lost only fifty men and two officers. Nearly two hundred negroes came in with him, and he had to turn back large numbers, as he was wholly unable to feed and protect them; latterly, however, he could do better, and the negroes managed to procure their own subsistence on the march.

Burkville Reported Occupied by Union Cavalry.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The *Herald's* Sixth Army Corps correspondent gives a report brought in by deserters, that a force of Union cavalry had occupied Burkville, the junction of the Richmond, Danville and Lynchburg Railroads.

Sentenced to be Hanged.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Kennedy, who was arrested at Detroit, and since convicted of being a spy, is to be hanged at Fort Lafayette, on Saturday next.

Telegrams.

The high wind prevailing last night disarranged the telegraph wires, leaving us with very little news from that source this morning.

Oil in Mexico.

A letter from Mexico states: The interest in discoveries of petroleum continues unabated. Springs of undoubted value have been found at the Huasteca, and at several points in the Department of San Luis Potosi and on the Tampico river, as well as in several places in the valley of Mexico and even on the Pacific side, on the coast of Jalisco, the unctuous fluid is said to abound. Where it will next turn up is yet to be known, but "prospecting parties" are on the alert for every shadow of an indication. Messrs. Covert, McCune, and Poole, American residents of Mexico, have come into possession of some valuable springs, and Mr. William H. Arnoux, representing a number of New York capitalists, has recently left for the United States with important title papers relative to petroleum, almost under the very "Halls of the Montezumas." Mr. Covert leaves Vera Cruz, by the English steamer for Havana and New York, with quitly interesting information, and representing some of the most valuable discoveries yet made in Mexico. The oil is clear and of good quality, and is accessible by navigable streams. Boring is soon to be commenced on a large scale, for which any amount of capital is in readiness. The exclusive right to refine this oil, which, as stated in former correspondence, has been granted to some of the above named parties, makes their monopoly of almost inconceivable value, particularly when it is considered that they have not only the entire world as a market, but some seven millions of Mexican population to supply—a local trade which is every day increasing, and which can defy importation abroad.

A LETTER from the City of Mexico, dated the 1st instant, says: "Pierre Soule, who arrived two weeks ago, from Havana, is reported in the newspapers as having on hand a gigantic Secesh immigration scheme, but of what particular nature is not generally understood; perhaps it is an offshoot of the exploded Gwin affair. A more than usual number of Americans, loyal and disloyal, are in Mexico just now. Major Calhoun Benham, of the rebel army, and formerly United States District Attorney in California, has been here for several weeks, confined to his room by illness, at the Iturbide Hotel. Capt. Beauregard, brother of the General, is in Sonora having passed through this city some weeks since, on his way thither.

ROSIN and turpentine in considerable quantities are made in California, and shipped to Atlantic ports, but as the San Francisco merchants buy for gold, and sell on the Atlantic coast for currency, they have often unusual heavy losses on their cargoes in consequence of the extraordinary fluctuations in prices here. The Californians are also producing borax in such quantities as to render it an article of export, and they are looking anxiously for our Atlantic markets to acquire some steady tone, in order to enable their merchants to make their calculations, with something like certainty.—*Phila. N. Am.*

GENERAL PALMER'S *regime* in Kentucky is not likely to please the pro-slavery people any better than General Burbridge's did. The Louisville *Press* says: "We feel justified in giving absolute assurance to the reader that the claims of our country on its able-bodied and fighting population, *will be alone considered* by General Palmer in the conduct of any necessary recruiting which he may be called on to superintend in our State. The claims of masters to their slaves will be no more heeded certainly than the claims of parents to a son, of a wife to her husband, or of children to their father."

Dispatches from Sheridan.

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Price of Gold.

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Narrow Escape of Early.

Custer at the same time moved toward Ashland Station. On the road Early turns up again. One squadron of the Eighth New York had the right, and exchanged shots with a detachment of about one hundred and fifty men, which ran away as soon as the Eighth began to make preparations to use the sabre. Prisoners captured at this time and deserters said all the cavalry north of the Potomac would be concentrated at Gromt Squirrel Bridge, across the South Anna, as this was on the road to Ashland. Constant vigilance was kept up to obtain information and prevent a surprise. It was while doing this that Custer received information that Early was just ahead of him with about one hundred and fifty men. Lieut. Col. Whittaker was immediately ordered to advance as rapidly as possible with detachments from the First Connecticut and Second Ohio. As the men galloped past Custer, he announced that the man who captured Early and the commander of his company should receive thirty days furlough. The boys pushed on with a cheer, and every staff officer asked and obtained permission to join in the chase. The chase commenced when within about six miles of Ground Squirrel Bridge, and so unexpected was the approach of our troops in that direction to Early, that he was sighted and his command forced to disperse for safety, when within two miles of the bridge.

This movement caused a corresponding movement on the part of our men, and each separate detachment was followed through the dense pine woods, over streams and marshes until a late hour in the night. Capt. Burton, on the staff, having the fastest horse, at one time ordered Early's Adjutant General to surrender, under the supposition that he was the General himself. Early was in three yards of the Adjutant at the time. Burton being alone, the demand to surrender was responded to by a shot which wounded his horse, causing him to fall, fastening the Captain by one leg to the ground. This opportune movement was improved by Early, and he again plunged into mire and the pines, this time closely pursued by Capt. Hazleton, of the First Vermont. Early was finally forced to cross the South Anna, two miles below the bridge, at a point where, under different circumstances, no man would have ventured to cross. Here, too, he was so closely followed that, to distract his pursuers, he ordered his companions to take three parties, and made his escape on foot accompanied only by an orderly. The pursuit was kept up, however, for ten miles further, but night coming on, the hero of the Valley, by the merest accident, escaped.—*Army Cor. N. Y. Times.*

Relief from England for the Freedmen.

A suggestion having been made through the columns of the London *Morning Star* for the outfit of ships with clothing and other necessaries for the relief of the freedmen and women of the Southern States of America," a meeting was held on the 28th ultimo, at the house of the projector, Mr. Thomas Cook, in London, in furtherance of their design. Mr. Cook explained the object he had in view, and stated that since he had written to the *Star* he had been ruminated that in several places throughout the country somewhat similar efforts had been set on foot. He had received encouraging letters from the principal cities and towns, and believed that the establishment of a movement of this description in London would stimulate the country town to the same effort. Among the places from which letters came were Northampton, Bath, Edinburgh, Darlington, Peterborough, Cheltenham, Maidstone, Cardiff, Birmingham, Brighton and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A long discussion ensued, in the course of which several suggestions respecting the best steps to be taken for the procuring of a suitable vessel, and the best conveyance for her, to convey the necessary materials to fill it, were made by Dr. Haynes, Mr. Lewis Coffin, Mr. Petrie, Mr. Bell, Mr. Cook, the Rev. Cranmond Kennedy, of New York, and Mr. T. B. Smithies, of the *British Workman*, who offered the use of the office of that paper, in Paternoster Row, for the reception of subscriptions of clothing, &c.; Mr. Rowland Hill, of Bedford, and the chairman.

The Franco-Danish Rebel Ram.

Included in the interesting budget of news from Paris, is a report which promises a sensation equal to the famous fight of the *Kearsarge* and *Alabama*. As a rule, Council, composed of the chief emissaries of the Confederacy, and which closed its sittings at Paris, on the 31 inst., it is understood that a decision was come to, authorizing Page, the commander of the *Stonewall*, to attack the United States fleet in Ferrol harbor. That fleet is composed of the *Niagara*, the *Sacramento*, and (it is presumed) the *Iroquois*. There are, at all events, three our national vessels watching the *Stonewall* in Ferrol harbor. These vessels are bravely manned, are subject to the orders of a commander—Captain Craven—who will take up the challenge the moment it is given, and should *speed* become an element of account in the expected encounter the Niagara can, with ease, outdistance (at seventeen) knots and a half, or that vessel afloat. But in the matter of armor-plating, unless Captain Winslow's invention has been extemporized, our fleet would stand at a considerable disadvantage. The rebel ram, moreover, has a formidable 300-pounder on board. Such an engagement as is anticipated would, of course, be a violation of the neutral rights of Spain. But if the rebel ram wins the fight, there will be no alternative left Captain Craven but to return their fire.—*N. Y. Times.*

The Fall of Gold in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, March 18.—There is great uneasiness here in business circles relative to decline in prices of all articles owing to the fall in gold.

Merchants and traders whose confidence in the rapid decline of the rebellion, and consequent probable heavy decline in the prices, were careful to keep very light stocks on hand, and hence they are safe. On the other hand, those whose hope led them to have a lingering faith in the Confederacy, the defeat of Grant and Sherman, and the consequent continuance of advance in gold, are caught with heavy stocks, purchased at rates which will leave a very insufficient margin for the heavy decline in prices, which they now see inevitable. The result is painful.

There are apprehensions of large failures and ruinous losses. The consumers, however, take it joyfully and thankfully.

A note from the rooms of the American Board states that the treasury is becoming seriously embarrassed. One half of the current financial year is gone; but instead of receiving one-half of the $600,000 voted at Worcester, they have received less than one-third of the sum ($189,564). Indeed, the donations and legacies have advanced only $9,456 beyond those of last year. On the other hand, the expenditures are uniform and imperative. Remittances must be sent to the missions, if possible, even though the income received is wholly insufficient.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ is soon to sail for South America on a scientific exploring expedition to test his glacial theory. He will be accompanied by eight assistants, and the entire expense of the trip—some $20,000—will be borne by Mr. Thanial Thayer, of Boston. Prof. Agassiz expects to bring home with him the largest collection of tropical specimens which has ever been gathered. The Cambridge Museum, which they will enrich, has received, in voluntary contributions during the last year, $9,800, and $24,000 has been expended upon it in the same time.

In the three States of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, fuller crops will be planted than perhaps during any of the past three years. It is true that large numbers of the young and able bodied men have enlisted as soldiers, left their places are taken by others just turning or growing up, and by *Southern refugees*, who are flooding the Southern counties of Illinois and Indiana.

ACCOUNTS from all parts of Europe speak of the extreme cold of the past winter. Wolves have been unpleasantly abundant in Prussia, having been driving out of Poland by the cold. At Lisbon the inhabitants have suffered greatly. There have been only two snow storms in Lisbon during the present century, one in 1813 and one in 1837.

THE Democratic journals all disparage the inauguration ball, because the aristocracy, of Washington society did not attend, and was made up largely of the people. It would appear a singular Democratic complaint if it were not that Democracy means in this country abject servility to an aristocratic class.

THE Rev. Dr. Howe, an Episcopal pastor in Charleston, refusing to pray for the President of the United States, has been very courteously refused permission by the military authorities of that city to hold his accustomed service—a precedent which is said to be working a more wholesome feeling among the people.

CURIOUS FREAKS OF WEATHER.—The Superior *Gazette* of February 8th, says that up to that time, enough snow had not fallen to enable the people to haul in their wood. At the same time, at Portage Lake, not fifty miles farther northerly, snow lay on the level from six to seven feet.

THE Buffalo *Express* is glad to learn that the peach growers in that vicinity, on Grand Island especially, report that their orchards never promised better. Should no untoward turn of weather occur, the prospect of peaches and cream next fall is excellent.

THE Richmond *Whig* says that General Singleton had nothing to do with the tobacco seized at Fredericksburg. It was bought by an agent of a mercantile house in New York. The quantity sent to Fredericksburg was valued at $700,000.

A SERMON by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher was read to the colored people of Charleston on a recent Sabbath by a member of General Saxton's staff.

Meeting in Oil City in Reference to Oil Losers by the Flood.

A meeting of the citizens of Oil City, and merchants interested, was held at that place on Saturday. D. Reisinger was called to the Chair, and J. Bushnell appointed Secretary and Treasurer.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That an Executive Committee be appointed to take charge of all oil and empty barrels lost by the flood which might be found between Oil City and Wheeling, Va.; said committee to gather the said property, take it to Pittsburgh and retain possession of the same until it could be properly identified by the owners; and that said committee take charge of all oil and empty barrels not marked, advertise the same in accordance to law, and, if not called for and identified, it shall be sold, and the proceeds divided among the losers in proportion to the amount of loss by them sustained.

Resolved, That the necessary expenses incurred shall be borne by the losers of this property in proportion to the amount recovered. And further, that all parties interested in the city of Pittsburgh be requested to appoint a committee to co-operate with this committee in carrying out the foregoing resolutions.

The following committee was appointed in accordance with the foregoing resolution: D. Reisinger, Wm. Haldeman, Wm. Parker, J. J. Undergrift, James Miller and R. Foster.

At a called meeting of the Executive Committee, all the members present, it was

Resolved, That the river between Oil City and Pittsburgh be divided into two sections, and that two skiffs leave Oil City on Monday morning, the 20th inst., to search for lost oil and barrels, ascertain the marks and names of those persons who have charge of the property, and report to the committee at Oil City at the earliest moment.

Resolved, That the committee which may be appointed in Pittsburgh be requested to patrol the Ohio river in a similar manner, and have the property brought to Pittsburgh at the least expense possible.

Resolved, That the dealers in oil, and refiners of Pittsburgh and vicinity, are requested not to purchase any oil unless from persons well known to the trade, and that they be requested to report to this or the Pittsburgh committee, any lots of oil which may be offered by outside parties.

Resolved, That due notice shall be given by handbills of the proceedings of the action of this committee.

The foregoing resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman appointed Messrs. W. I. Young, Job. Battless, A. A. Partridge and R. R. Taylor, to take charge of the four skiffs about to be sent to patrol the river.

Meeting adjourned to meet on Monday, the 20th inst.

Book Notices.

"THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD." A man mighty in the Scriptures. Northampton, Mass.: Hutchings & Childs.

A rather fanciful title for a neat and interesting biography. It is the life of the Rev. Thos. Scott, who flourished in England a century ago, and who was well known to our forefathers as the editor of Scott's Family Bible and author of Scott's Commentaries. He commenced life as a Shepherd, but gradually worked his way into higher employments, and became finally one of the most distinguished men of his day. The little volume before us tells his history in a very attractive and instructive way.

For sale at any of the United Presbyterian Board of Publication Rooms. Price 75c.

"THE OLD LOG SCHOOL HOUSE." By Alexander Clark. Philadelphia: J. W. Daughaday.

This volume of pleasant tales and sketches has been lying on our table for some time, unread for want of opportunity. We have since read the principal story, which gives title to the book, and have been much pleased with it. With a little more skill and care, and a little more of the spirit of novel writing, it might have been worked up into a popular novel. It gives a narrative of what fell several persons who lived in a remote rustic neighborhood, newly reclaimed from the solitude of nature, received the rudiments of their education in an old log schoolhouse, the first erected in that region. The incidents are said to be drawn from real life, and it is manifest from the personages who figure in the story the author is indebted to his own personal observation. There is in the story an abundance of plot for a first class novel, and the reader's chief regret is that the rich materials have not been more fully worked up. For sale by the publisher.

A New Class of Speculators.

The oil mania has taken a new development. It commenced among keen-sighted capitalists with plethoric porte-monnaies and heavy bank accounts. It extended to men of moderate incomes and restricted means. It descended to the laboring and middling classes of the people, and now it has reached the lowest and crowded upon the lowest step of the graduated platform men term society. Within the past week companies have been started in every section of the oil territory, and the books opened to subscribers for twenty, twenty-five and forty cents a share. The earlier companies were accessible only by the parlor and drawing-room; now the kitchen has equal access to the advantages of unlimited speculation and incalculable wealth. Every servant-maid and waiter, who has hoarded away a few twenty-five cent notes from her or his wages, has brought out the treasure and invested it in parti-colored parchment with a poetical heading, and a couple of signatures on its face, and a twenty-five cent revenue stamp on the back. And the mania has reached further. Business men will cachinate at the story, but the boot-black brigade has invested in oil. The newsboys are following their example. If these new companies "strike ile" it will be a luckier day for the brigade than a deluge of mud, and a merrier time for the newsboys than a day of national victory. The islands of the ocean grow from the tiny coral branches; and the little industrious workers may be Astors and Stewarts in the land from beginnings as humble and obscure as their twenty-five cent investments. We shall see.

Rebels Found in a Hay-mow.

On Friday morning of last week, a gentleman residing a couple of miles from Fairmount, West Virginia, while engaged in pitching hay from a mow to feed his sheep, suddenly stirred up a pair of Graybacks, who had crawled into the mow and concealed themselves beneath the hay. They presented their revolvers and ordered the disturber of their slumbers to give no alarm until they had time to get away. After entering a protest to this effect, they permitted the farmer to go to his house—some half mile off—while they decamped. In a short time a squad of soldiers was on the spot and pursued them as far as it was possible to track them in the light snow within by this time only covered the ground in some places. They both acknowledged being regular rebel soldiers. One gave his name as Evans, and said he was a stranger in that part of the country. The other was recognized by the farmer as a fellow named Martin, formerly of Marion county.

Railroad Accident.

On Tuesday of last week the mail train on the B. & O. R. R., bound east from Fairmount, which was running at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, ran into a switch that through carelessness had been left open, and was thrown off the track. The engine went over the bank and turned upside down, the engineer and fireman falling underneath, but strange to say, neither received a scratch. The baggage car crushed about half the length of itself in, the first passenger car, knocked down the stove and smashed up things terribly. One man had his leg broken below the knee, and many others were badly cut and bruised.

IMPORTANT TO CLAIM AGENTS.—The War Department orders that hereafter no claim presented by any agent, whether banker or attorney, will be entertained by its disbursing officers, unless said agent shall produce a certified copy of his licence, as granted by the collector, or a certificate from the assessor of his district that he is not considered liable to license duty.

INSPECTOR OF HORSES.—General James A. Ekin, of the Cavalry Bureau, has appointed Major Harry B. Van Voorhees Civilian Inspector of horses for this city. Major Van Voorhees occupied the position of Major of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, during a considerable period of the war, but was forced to resign on account of a wound received in battle.

THE ROBBERY AT THE ST. CHARLES.—Mr. Francis McCourt called upon us yesterday to correct certain statements made in regard to the robbery, which he says was committed on Friday night. He states moreover that he was not drunk, as alleged. The gun stolen from him was $175, besides a silver watch valued at sixty-five dollars. The thief has not yet been arrested.

ANOTHER NEW COMPANY.—Capt. John Dyer has received authority from Harrisburg to raise a company in Allegheny City. He will recruit for the First ward until the 31st of March, after which deficiencies will be made up from the draft. We refer those desiring to enlist from this ward to the advertisement, in another column.

ON A STRIKE.—We learn that the employees of the various rolling mills on the south side of the river are on a strike—the proprietors having proposed to reduce their wages.

PERSONAL.—John T. Cochran, Esq., formerly a member of the Pittsburgh Bar, but now practicing in the legal profession in New York City, has arrived in our city on a visit.

OIL OPERATIONS.—As the spring begins to open, active operations in the oil line are increasing, and in two months we will be overrun with oil men and companies, and probably with oil. In the West Virginia regions, we learn that oil was struck in a well of F. A. Lovell, Esq., at the mouth of Copper creek, last Saturday, which, but for the ignorance of those engaged in boring, would have yielded at least ten barrels per day. But it was found in the soap stone, at the depth of 210 feet, and the borers instead of stopping and putting down the pump, continued to bore, thus filling up the oil crevice as with putty. They are now down 235 feet, and indications still all round. Gas was struck in his well at the mouth of Leathewood creek, 19 miles up Elk, at 210 feet. The Sandy well has reached 170 with continued indications.

INTERNAL REVENUE DECISION—SALES OF CATTLE BROKERS ACTING IN PARTNERSHIP.—Any person having paid $10 for a cattle broker's license is authorized to sell cattle, hogs, or sheep, to the amount of $10,000 annually, and no more. But where several such brokers act in partnership in such a manner that the sales of each cannot be separately computed, the law is constructed to allow such firms to sell an amount equal to $10,000 for each member of the firm.

HON. JOSEPH M. ROOT, of Sandusky, has been appointed by the President United States District Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. He is one of the oldest citizens of the Western Reserve, and is a lawyer of much ability and experience. He is an old Free-soil leader, and Wilmot Proviso man, and had a seat in the National House of Representatives in 1847—49, at the same time that Mr. Lincoln was in Congress.

A BRIEF letter from Charleston says a military order has been published, requiring all residents to place upon their dwellings and stores the national flag. Union sentiment there is strong, and thousands daily throng the provost's office, to swear fealty to the Government. Arrangements are being completed to open the Charleston and Savannah railroads, neither having been greatly damaged by shells.

A NEW ORLEANS dispatch of the 11th says, the Mississippi is very high and has overflowed its banks above Baton Rouge, thereby cutting off telegraph communication above that place. Fears are entertained of much damage, as the river is still rising, no rain having been greatly damaged by shells.

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DEATH OF A QUEEN.—The last news from Europe informs us of the death of the Queen Dowager of Holland. She was a Russian princess, born in 1795, and was the daughter of the unfortunate Paul I., Emperor of Russia, and thus a grand-daughter of Catharine the Great, a sister of Nicholas I., and aunt of the present Czar. In 1816 she married King William II., of Holland, who died in 1849.

EMANCIPATION is progressing in Brazil. By the constitution of the Empire slavery will expire in twenty years, but many of the leading statesmen are anxious for its more speedy end. At their request Rev. J. C. Fletcher has issued an appeal to the people of the United States to aid in the cause of slavery to J. C. Wood, 635 Broadway, New York, to be forwarded to Rio Janeiro.

THE COTTON SUPPLY IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Complete returns of the cotton supply in England for 1864 have been made up. They show the receipts of the year to have been 893,634,750 pounds. This is about the same as the imports of 1855, but less than two-thirds of the receipts either of 1860 or 1861. The increase is very marked over the years 1862 and 1863.

IMPORTANT TO CLAIM AGENTS.—The War Department orders that hereafter no claim presented by any agent, whether banker or attorney, will be entertained by its disbursing officers, unless said agent shall produce a certified copy of his licence, as granted by the collector, or a certificate from the assessor of his district that he is not considered liable to license duty.

OWE OF the very best features of the grand results in New Hampshire, is the defeat of General Marcy, the Democratic candidate for Congressman in the First District, who was elected two years ago by eighty majority. His competitor was the heroic Gen. Marston, and he was elected by 1,500 majority, notwithstanding a split in the Union ranks.

THE Warren (Ohio) *Chronicle* tells of a man in that place who had a one-eighth interest in an oil purchase that he had so much coundrum in that he wanted to increase it to one-twelfth.

A sin oil company swindle is in the courts of Philadelphia. The "bottom ring" sold out their associates, and the latter expose and bring suits to recover damages.

The managers of the New York inebriate asylum have concluded, after trial, that they can't cure a drunkard in less than a year.

THE Washington Secessionists profess to have received underground information from Richmond of the resignation of Jeff. Davis.

DIED:

MEHIN—On Sunday evening, at eleven o'clock, Mrs. MARY MEHIN, in the 80th year of her age.

The funeral will leave the residence of James Graham, corner of Morgan and Robinson streets, on WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, at two o'clock. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

McKEE.—On Tuesday morning, March 21st, at 10 o'clock, FREDERICK McKEE, (of the firm of McKee & Bro.,) in the 38th year of his age.

Funeral will take place from his residence, East Birmingham, on TUESDAY, March 22d, at 2 o'clock P. M. The friends of the family are requested to attend without further notice.

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