OPENING OF THE PORT OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1864.—By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, By my proclamation of the Nineteenth of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixtyone, the ports of the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas were for reasons therein set forth placed under blockade; and whereas, the port of Brownsville, in the District of Brazos Santiago in the State of Texas, has since been blockaded, out as the blockade of said port may now be safely relaxed with advantage to the interests of commerce,

Merce,
Now therefore, be it known, that I, Abraham
Lincoln, President of he United States, pursuant
to the authority in me vested by the fifth section
of the act of Congress, approved on the 13th of
July, 1831, entitled an act further to provide for
the collection of duties or imports and for other
purposes, do hereby declare that the blockade of
the said port of Brownsville shall so farcease and
determine from and after this date, that commercial intercourse with the said port, except as to
persons, things and information hereinafter specified, may from this date be carried on, subject to
the laws of the United States, to the regulations
prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and,
until the rebellion shall have been suppressed, to
such orders as may be promulgated by the General
commanding the Department, or by an officer
duly authorized by him, and commanding the said
post. Mow therefore, be it known, that I, Abraham

This preclamation does not authorize or allow This preciamation does not authorize or allow the shipment or conveyance of persons in or intending to enter the service of the insurgents or of things or information intended for their aid or comfert; nor, except upon the permission of the Secretary of War, or some officer duly authorized by him, of the following prohibited articles,

by him. Of the following promoted at detes, ramely:
Cannon, mortars, fire-arms, pistols, bombs, grenades, fowder, saltpetre, sulphur balls, bullets, picks, swords, boarding caps (always excepting the quantity of said articles that may be necessary ne defence of the ship and those who compo for the telected the state and the crew), saddles, bridles, cartridge-bag material, percussion and other caps, clothing adapted for uniforms, sail-cloth of all kinds, hemp and cordage, intoxicating drinks other than beer and light

age, intoxicating drinks other than over and light native wines.

To vessels clearing from foreign ports and destined to the port of Brownsville, opened by this proclamation license will be granted by the Consuls of the United States, upon satisfactory evidence that the vessel so licensed will convey no person, property or information, excepted or prohibited above, either to or from said port; which licenses shall be exhibited to the Collector of said port; immediately on arrival, and, if required, to port immediately on arrival and, if required, to any officer in charge of the blockade, and on leaving said port every vessel will be required to have a clearance from the Collector of the Customs, aca clearance from the Collecter of the Customs, according to law. Showing no violation of the condition of the license. Any violation of said conditions will involve the forfeiture and condemnation of the vessel and cargo, and the exclusion of all parties concerned from may further privilege of entering the United States during the war, for any purpose whatever.

In all respects, except as herein specified, the existing blockade remains in full force and effect as hitherto established and maintsined; nor is it relaxed by this proclamation, except in regard to

relaxed by this proclamation, except in regard to the port to which this relaxation is or has been expressly applied.
In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand

[L 8] and caused the scal of the United States to be Done at the city of Washington, this the eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Findependence of the United States the eight ABRAHAM LINCOLN. eighth. ABRAHAM LI WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST. THE WAE IN THE BUULHWEST.
CINGINNATI, teb. 18.—A despatch from Chattanooga to the Gazette, says that the information received from the rebel army is contradictory.
Some persons declare that Johnston's entire force
is around Dalton, and others that large portions,
including the artillery at Kingston, have gone to reinforce Longstreet.
John Morgan is said to be in the vicinity of Dalton, with a considerable cavalry force, preparing

er a raid. General Watts, of Alabama, had telegraphed to General Watts, of Alabama, had telegraphed to the cutizens of Selma to prepare to receive a number of non-combatants from Mobile, as that city was soon to be attacked by the United States army. The steamer Denbigh was lost recently in attempting to run the blockade from Mobile.

The Mobile papers express the opinion that it is the plan of General Sterman to penetrate to central Alabama, thus compelling the evacuation of Mobile. They also say "There is no indication in the news reports that Grant is preparing for active operations."

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA. DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA.
NEW YORK, reb. 18.—The Herald has received
the following despatch from the headquarters of
the Army of West Virginia:
From reports of deserters and refugees it is evident that the rebels are making extensive preparations along the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.
Guerillas are active in the Kanawha region.
The enlistment of negroes is very brisk at Oumberland.

berland.

Eighteen guerillas have been captured in Webster county, including old John Dusky. Lient. Snodgrass, of Martinsburg, was one of the robbers of the passenger train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH
CAROLINA.
FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 17.—The flag of trucesteamer New York sailed this morning for City
Point, taking up about thirty women and as many
children; who have decided to reside at the South
during the war. They were from North! during the war. They were from Norfolk. Among the passengers were Rev. M. M. Henkle and family and three rebel officers, all in charge of Major J. E. Mulford, trace officer. The naval despatch steamer Bermuda arrived this morning from the Gulf Squadron. She brings a large mail for New York.

this morning from the Gulf Squadron. She brings a large mail for New York.

An officer (Lieutenant Hatfield) of the 53d Illunois Regiment, arrived here this morning from Yorktown, having escaped from Libby Prison. He says that three others are at Williamsburg, and will be here to-morrow.

Thirty rebel prisoners of war arrived to-day from Newbern, N. C.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1s, 1804.—The House Naval Ocmmittee have an invitation to go to New London, Connecticut, to visit the site there for the new Iron-clad Navy Yard, in preference to League Island. They will probably go next week. From present appearances it will be two or three weeks before they are ready to report to the House upon the subject.

The Committee of Conference on the Eurollment Bill made a report to-day, agreeing upon the main features of the Senate Bill, with amendments, and sonstitution of a few sections of the House Bill.

The commutation is retained at \$300, and a compromise is made in the effect of the exemption FROM WASHINGTON.

substitution of a few sections of the House Bill.

The commutation is retained at \$300, and a compromise is made in the effect of the exemption itereity, which is limited to one year.

The exemption of high officials in the Senate bill is stricken out, leaving as the only classes exemptions emitted by a physically unfit, and soldiers in the field or honorably discharged. If the quota is not filled in any district by one draft another is to be made till the number shall be obtained.

The section anthorizing the Secretary of War to assign drafted persons of religious suruples against bearing arms, to duty in the hospitals, or the carroffreedmen, is reported, with a provise confining such provision to those whose deportment is consistent with the conscientious scruples against bearing arms.

The House provise for drafting colored men is retained, with the essential modification that when the slave of a loyal master is drafted and mustered into the service, thereupon such slave shall be free and the master shall be paid the bounty of one hundred dollars in place of its being paid to the master on his freeing the person. It was held by the Committee that he must not be a slave a moment after his enlistment, and it is understood that this is the disputed point upon which a contest may be expected to-morrow.

The report is signed by Messrs. Wilson (Mass.), Nesmith (Oregon) ard Grimes (Iowa), on the part of the Senate; and Messrs. Schenck (Ohio), and Deming (Conn.), of the House of Representation of the Senate; and Messrs. Schenck (Ohio).

Mr. Kernan (N. Y.) does not concur in it.

The two Houses have not yet taken definite action on the report of the Committee of Conaction on the report ference.

The Senate in Executive Session to-day, confirmed the nominations of Horace Jones, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Quartermater, with the rank of Captain, and Charles Hutchins, of Oregon, to be agent for the territory of Idaho.

CITY COUNCILS.

A petition of cilizens was received; asking for a teenth Ward. One for the building of a bridge catton from the Independence Fire Company, asking to be located as a steam fire engine company. One for the laying of water pipe, and a 1 mp Pennsylvania Hose Company, asking to the Company asking that over 26,000 scholars and 474 teachers of our public schools are compelled daily to occupy 1 ow renied by the city for school purposes, to the certous injury of the health both of teachers and a holars; and as this evil is steadily growing, and to measures have been adopted by the City Uounsils during the past year to mitigate or remove the A stated meeting was held yesterday afternoon

evils complained of, they call upon the present Councils to take such action as will enable the Board of Controllers to provide suitable school accommodations for the children of all such ditizens as may desire to educate their children in the public schools.

The Committee on Water Works presented an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$643 43 to pay certain bills in the Water Department, which, after a short discussion, was agreed to.

The Committee on Defence and Protection submitted the official letter from the War Department, in reference to the quota of the city. This letter has already been published in the BULLETIN.

Mr. Ginnodo offered the following:

Resolved, By select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia, that the citizens of Philadelphia not only desire their representatives to yot for the passage of the bill locating at League Island a National navy yard, but they earnestly expect them to use their very best efforts to put forth every exertion to accomplish the object.

Executed, That a copy of the above resolution he forwarded to our representatives at Washington.

The resolution was agreed to.

The resolution was agreed to.

MR Armstrong, on leave, said this of all other MR Armstrong, on leave, said this of all other matters is the most important that has occurred in the city within the past fifty years. He felt the more anxious in regard to it because he though there was treachery among a portion of those per-sons who should look to the interests of the city. sons who should look to the interests of the city. He then spoke of the sharp business, practiced by some unknown persons in taking both the House and Senate Naval Committees to League Island when the tide was at low water mark and to Caester when the tide was high. There is some person behind this screen to ruin our project.

Mr. Gunnodo, chairman of the committee appointed to visit Washington, said he would not make any remarks about the navy yard question at the present time, but he was alive in the matter and doing all he cculd.

The bill from Common Councill granting the use of Independence Hall for the repose of the repose of the remains of the late Lieut. Col. Me-Aloon, was concurred in.

pcse of the remains of the late Lieut. Col. Me-Aloon, was concurred in.

The bill from Common Council requesting the Bounty Fund Commission not to pay bounties to any persons who shall be credited to any Ward whose quota is full, was taken up, and on motion, referred to the Committee on Defence and Protection.

Mr. Miller offered a resolution requesting the Heads of Department—both of the city and the government—to cease all business on the 22d inst., and that all unite in doing honor to the memory of the immortal Washington.

mmortal Washington.
The bill from Common Council appropriating \$45 000 to survey the environs of the city was referred to the Committee on Surveys.

The supplement to the ordinance prescribing the duties and powers of the City Controller was concurred in. Also, the bill increasing the salaries of the Clerk and Messenger in the City Commissioner's office.

the Clerk and Messenger in the City Commissioner's office.

The ordinance to pay James McCarthy and Wm. Rice for services rendered, was referred to the Committee on Highways.

The amendment offered in Common Council to the League Island bill was concurred in. Also the ordinance making a further appropriation for the relief of the families of volunteers and for other nursones.

purposes.

The bill authorizing the opening of Hancock street, in the Twenty second Ward, was postponed. The ordinance authorizing the purchasing of a sword, to be presented to Major-General Meade, Mr. A. P. White was unanimously confirmed as Mr. A. P. White was unanimously confirmed as Register of Water.

The drawing of the committee to contest the seat of Mr. Omerly, Republican member of Select Council from the Sixth Ward, was postponed until five o'clock next Thursday.

Mr. Nicholson offered a resolution inviting both houses of Congress to visit League Island and partake of the hospitalities of the city, which was postponed.

Adjourned.

COMMON BRANCH. A communication from the President of the Board of Directors of Girard College, announcing the death of Francis P. Magee, elected a director of that institution July 1, 1862, by Common Coun-Petitions for the construction of a bridge over

Petitions for the construction of a bridge over the Schuylkill, at South street, were presented. The Tivoli Hose Company petitioned to be located as a steam forcing hose company.

A communication was received from the Independence Fire Company, asking to be located as a steam fire engine company.

A resolution inviting Select Council to meet a joint convention at four o'clock, to elect a Chief Inspector of Streets, was adopted.

A resolution relative to the death of Lieut. Col. T. A. McAloon, of the 27th regiment Pennsylvania volunteers, granting the use of Independence Hall for the reception of his body, was passed. penetric Hall for the reception of his body, was passed.

The Committee on Finance reported resolutions approving of the sureties of the heads of departments elected at the last meeting. Adopted.

Also, an ordinance appropriating \$225 to pay W. H. Kern for ice furnished to the courts in 1863.

Passed.
The Committee on Gas reported an ordinance creating a loan of \$1,000,000 for the further extension of the Philadelphia Gas Works, redeemable in 1884. Referred to the Committee on Finance. 1884. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Committee on Highways reported an ordinance appropriating \$5,000 to pay G. W. Fitzwater for covering with ashes Broad street, from Columbia avenue to Turner's lane. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Kerr, the resolution from Select Council relative to League Island was taken

Select Council relative to League Island was taken up.

Mr. Kerr moved to amend the resolution so that it should read that the Committee on League Island be requested to call a public meeting, at some central point, to give a general expression of opinion upon the propriety of locating the navy yard at League Island.

The Committee on Reception of Veteran Regiments reported that eleven regiments had been received, and \$1.514 expended. ceived, and \$1,814expended. .
The Committee on Trusts and Fire Department

reported ordinances locating the Warrea Hose Company, on Filbert street, near Eleventh, as a steam forcing hose company; the Columbia Hose Company, Race street, near Eighth, as a steam file engine; the Perseverance Hose Company, Race street, near Third, as a steam fire engine, and William Penn Hose Company as a steam fire engine.

Mr. /Loughin opposed the ordinance. The steam fire department is now very large and repensive, and he thought that Council should refuse their assent to the location of any more steam Mr. Eckstein considered it better to have too

many such engines than not enough. There might be a small fire to-day while to-morrow there might be a large fire when those companies are required. It is always better to be prepared for an arrangements. emergencies.

After some further discussion the ordinance. After some further discussion the ordinances were passed.

Mr. Charles B. Trego was then unanimously elected a Director of Girard College, in place of Francis P. Magee, deceased.

The committee to whom was referred a resolution ecclaring the seat of John S. Painter vacant reported that the said Painter having resigned, the committee had nothing further to do. They reported an ordinance appropriating 50 to pay the expenses of the committee, in clerk hire, subponaing witnesses, &c.

Mr. Creswell thought that this was a reckless expenditure of money. Mr. Painter had resigned, and there was no necessity for subponaing witnesses, &c.

Mr. E. kstein responded that all this exponse was incurred before Mr. Painter informed the

Mr. E. kstein responded that all this exponse was incurred before Mr. Painter informed the committee that he was going to resign.

The ordinance was passed, as was also the resolution discharging the Committee from the further consideration of the subject.

Mr. Wolbert moved to take up the ordinance appropriating \$44,495 to the Superintendeur of the Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph, for the purpose of extending wires, removing signal boxes, &c. Agreed to. The members of Select Council then entered the room, and both branches went into joint convention to elect a Chief Inspector of Streets. The following was the result of the election: Mahlon H. Dickinson, 37; John J. Meany, 20.
Mr. Dickinson was declared elected, and the members of Select Council retred. The appropriation bill for Fire Alarm Telegraph signals was then read. signals was then read.

Mr. Loughlin thought that this bill had not been maturely considered, and that it should not be pussed. The duty of Councils is to protect the interests of the city, and he held that the Committee on Trust and Fire Department would not do with their own money as they have done with the public money in this matter.

Mr. Creawell tempered that the Albertain Parks.

their own money as they have done with the public money in this matter.

Mr. Creswell temarked that this bill had been passed by the old Committee on Fire and Trusts.

Mr. Loughlin replied that the former Committee on Trusts, at a meeting at which there was a bare quorum, agreed to report such a bill, but afterwards, upon mature deliberation, they saw the error of their ways, and refused to report it If they will soon hear from the public in a manner which they won't like.

Mr. Wolbert moved to add a provise that no warrants shall be drawn until the items are approved by the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department. Agreed to.

The bill was passed finally.

Mr. Loughlin introduced an ordinance increasing the salaries in the Highway Department about twenty per cent, from the first of January, 1861. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A resolution directing the Commissioner of Highways to notify the Seventeenth and Nineteenth streets o cupied by them was offered, and was referred to the Committee on Railroads.

The ordinance authorizing a further loan, not exceeding \$1,250,000, to aid the enlistment of volunteers, was taken up, and was passed unantemously.

ARMY CONTRACTS AWARDED.

The tollowing contracts were awarded yesterday by the Army Equipage office in this city: Jos. T. Page, Philadelphia—1,000 grey finance! shirts, \$1 63. Hunt, Tillinghast & Co., New York—50,000 grey knit shirts, \$1 40; 50,000 do. do. \$1 37; 50,000 grey knit shirts, \$1 40; 50,000 do. do. \$1 37; 50,000 grey knit shirts, \$1 41; 150,000 do. do. \$1 314; 50,000 do. do. \$1 41; H. Grambo, Philadelphia—150,000 haversacks, at 62c.; Charles Spencer, Germantown—100,000 pairs stockings at 31½c.; Jos. M. Toy. Philadelphia—100,000 haversacks, at 62c.; Charles Spencer, Germantown—100,000 do. do. at 35½c.; 100,000 do. do. at 35c.; 100,000 do. do. at 15c.; 100,000 do. do. do. at 15c.; 100,000 do. do. do. at ARMY CONTRACTS AWARDED.

each. Evans & Hassail Philadelphia—30 national colors, infantry, \$40 39, 600 cavalry guidons, \$7 34; 1500 staffs for ambulance flags, 16%c. Frank S. Trout—6600 gross suspender buttons, 6%c; 6000 do. do., 6%c. Jos. D. Whetham—1000 drumcords, 18c, each. GROCERIES. CHAMPAGNE AND HOCK WINES—Bouche
Fils & Co., Cabinet Champagne, in half pints
and quarts. Moet & Chandon Imperial Green
Seal, pints and quarts. Piper Heidsie & and
Charles Heidsieck, pints and quarts. Laubenheimef. Budeshe mer and Marcobruner. for sale
by "HOMPSON BLACK & SON, Broad and
Chestmutstreeta. by THOMPSON Chestrout streets. THOICE HAMS-All the best brands of Cincin-

onati Surar Cured Hams for sale by THOMP. SON BLACK & SON, Broad and Chestnut sts. A LMENIA GRAPES.—Choice Almeria Grapes in large clusters and first order, for sale by M. F. FPILLIN, N. W. corner Arch and Eighth MOFFEE. -Prime old Government Java Coffee Jalco, Maracaibo, La Guayra, Rio, &c., for sale by M. F. SPILLIN, N. W. corner Arch and Eighth streets.

M ACCARONI AND VERMICELLI.—Italian Maccaroni and Vermicelli of superior quality just landed and for sale by M. F. SPILLIN, N. W. corner Arch and Eighth streets.

HALF PINT: OHAMPAGNE.—Cabinet Champagne in half pints, 48 bottles to the case. Also heidsieck & Co., Gieslor & Co., Grape Leaf, Pearl of the Rhine, qts and pts; Widow Clicquot, pints, the genuine article, for sale by SIM: N COLTON & SON, Broad and Walnut. BETHLEHEM BUCKWHEAT. -The genuine Buckwheat Meal and Oat meal, for sale by SIMON COLTON & SON, Broad and Walnut streets.

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HEIDRIECK & CO'S CHAMPAGNE, very choice Sherry and Madeira Wine, fine Brandy, Younger's Scotch Ale and Guiness's Brown Stout for sale by E.B. CLARKE, Grocer and Tea dealer, Main street, adjoining R. R. depot, Germantown. TYERY CHEAP TEAS. -Finest Young Hyson, V Imperial, Gunpowder, Colong, English Breakfast, Chulans, &c., for sale in original pack-ages, or in small boxes, for family use, at JAMES R. WEBB'S, Walnut and Eighth streets. dez

R WEBB'S, Wallatt and Eighth streets. degs.

R IDLEY'S BROKEN CANDY, Vanilla Gream
Candy, Cornucopias, Chocolate Almonds and
Drops, Burnt Almonds and Mixtures; all fresh.
For Sale by E. B. CLARKE, dealer in fancy and
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Depot. Germantown. FRENCH PEAS, Champignons, and Boneless Sardines, of a fresh importation; for sale by E. B. CLARKE, dealer in fine groceries, Mair street, adjoining Railroad Depot, Germantown. PRESH GROCERIES FOR CHRISTMAS.—
New Raisins, Currants, Citrons, Prunes, Figs, and Almonds. Just received fresh, for sale by E. B. CLARKE, dealer in fancy and staples groceries, Main street, adjoining Railroad Depot, Germantown.

REFINED SUGARS AND SYRUPS OF ALL Refinery and the Grocers' Sugar House, for sale by E. C. KNIGHT & CO., Southeast corner water and Chestini streets

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A FRENCH LADY, educated in Paris, having some leisure hours to discuss the paris. A some leisure hours to dispose of, would like to give private lessons. Best references. Address PARISIENNE. Poiladelphia P. O. 117w, f, m3t\*

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D MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

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P. A. CHADBOURNE, M. D., Secretary.

BRUNSWICK, 1864.

BRUNSWICK, 1864. fel. let

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Matilda, Milesburg and Bellefonts.
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FOR SUNBURY. WILLIAMSPORT, LOOK HAVNE
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FAILS. Passengers taking the Mail Train at 8.00
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of directly through without change of cas between go directly through without change of cais between Philadelphia and Williamsport.

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The Mail Trains and Through Express connect Harrisburg with trains for Carlisle, Chambers burg and Hagerstown.
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ENOCH LEWIS, jan9 General Superintendent, Altoona. Pa.

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P. M FROM WEST CHESTER. Leave at 6.50 A. M., arrive West Philadelphia 8.35 A. M. Leave at 18.45 A. M., arrive West Philadelphia 12.25 P. M. Leave at 2.50 P. M., arrive West Philadelphi 5.20 P. M.

Passengers for Western points from Western connect at the Intersection with the Mail Train at 9.17 A. M., the Harrisburg Accommodation at 3.55 P. M., and the Lancaster Train at 5.25 P. M.

5.25 P. M.
Freights delivered at the Bepot, corner THIRTEENTH and MARKET streets, previous to 11.30 P. M., will be forwarded by the Accommodation Train, and reach West Unester at 3.60 For tickets and further information, apply to

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ja2-tf Eleventh and Market streets.

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