PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE. CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

BENATE.

Joint resolutions, proposing certain amendments to the Constitution (allowing soldiers to vote) were

Joint resolutions, proposing certain amendments to the Consutation (allowing soldiers to vote) were considered. Mr. Turrell, who had offered the original bill in 1863, traced its course and the efforts he had need since that time to secure its passage.

The Joint Committees appointed to fix a time for the Legislature to visit the Agricultural College, in Centre county, reported that all necessary arrangements had been made to leave Harrisburg on Thureday, March 17th.

On the final passage of the bill allowing soldiers to vote, the yeas and nays were required by the Constitution, and were, yeas 18, nays 7. The Democrats, en the ground that the Senate was not legally organized, either did not vote or voted 'no.' The only Democrat that voted 'yea' was Senator Kinsey, of Bucks.

Speaker Penney asked leave to make a personal explanation, and spoke in substance as follows:

At the last session of the Senate, I was elected, by your partiality, to fill the chair of Speaker. Since then, I have endeavored to discharge the duties of the position with a conscientious regard for my oath. If I have failed, it has not been from any fisposition or desire to wrest the rights from any fisposition or state that I have I stered to many things apparently harsh, but have received no discourtesy to myself of which I can complain. I will

any disposition or desire to wrest the rights from any Senator.

It is proper to state that I have listered to many things apparently harsh, but have received no discourtesy to myself of which I can complain. I will endeavor to define my potition.

At the beginning of the session I came here as Speaker, duly qualified and elected. According to custom I called, the senate to order, believing that it was my duty to act until organized. I believed, also, that it was my duty when the body was organized to continue to act until my successor was elected. This view I adopted, with a due regard to my oath, and too the position without consultation, but not from any impulse. I have always believed that the Senate was a continual body, and that it had necessarily been made so by the Constitution. When I took the oath of office I took all the contingencies and responsibilities, among which was that of filling the Executive chair. When I came, chosen by you, to discharge the duties, I came with the clearest conviction that it was my duty to preside until a successor was elected. I believe that under-any other construction the Constitution would be deficient and a complete farce, and that the State might be left without a Governor, a Senate or any official to preside at the head of affairs.

Permit me to reheare the state of affairs. We found the country in a condition leading every patriotic man to look with anxiety upon the working of its machinery, and requiring every citizen to observe all the principles of fundamental law. I assumed the responsibility of retaining the chair. While doing so I have always yielded the right of the Senate to choose another presiding officer if it thought proper. I found the Senate evenly balanced and the country in a state of war. It was necessary that the Government should be maintained in its perpetuity, and I took the responsibility. I am willing to admit that I coose to violate what had been the precedent for years, that is for the Speaker to step out of the chair. My view of the pract

stances, I was convinced that my proper course was to retain the chair until the Senate required me to vacate it.

I have endeavored to confine myself to parliamentary law until the rules of the Senate were adopted. I have been charged with being a nearper (although always with courtesy to myself.) Such charges have not effected me in any way. The only credit I claim is that of having acted conscientiously. It has been said in argument that practice and precept are in favor of the vacation of the chair. On this I have stated my views. It has also been said that when one-third new members take their seats the office of Speaker is vacated until they have voted for a new incumbent. I have searched the law in vain for any such decision. The rule, if carried out, would prove too much, for if every new member is entitled to vote for speaker, a new speaker would have to be elected when every new member takes his seat.

I believe that there are three methods by which the functions of a Speaker cease, viz:

By the resignation of the incumbent.

By the limitation of his time by law.

By the resignation of the incumbent.
By the limitation of his time by law.
By the expiration of his term as Senator.
In the present case there was no resignation.
There is no law on record fixing the time for which, he shall hold his office, and there is no present illustration of the last proposition.
The Senate has determined not to proceed to the election of a Speaker. The Senare has determined not to proceed to the election of a Speaker.

I do not pretend to say further than that, as far as my own experience goes, I have had the opinions of men of both parties, both Republicars and Democrats, up to the time of the meeting of the Legislature, that the Speaker elected at a previous session held his office until a successor was

rious session held his office until a successor was elected.

Senators seem to think that my occupation of the chair obliges them to vote against propositions to which they would otherwise lead their sanction. It thus places me under peculiar personal circumstances, for legislation is retarded. It seems to me that if I am the impediment to the legislation of the State, it is, my duty to resign. My own condition and desires must always be subservient to the public interest. I have, however, no desire personally to be the presiding officer, although flattered by your partiality. If I can, then, by resigning my position, facilitate the public interest, I do so cheerfully, with many thanks to my associate Senators, and imputing no motives of disrespect to any one.

Speaker Penney them resigned his position, and on motion, the Senate proceeded to elect a new Speaker.

Speaker.

The vote was, Mr. Penney 17, Mr. Clymer 16, so Mr. Penney was declared duly elected, and was escorted to his seat and sworn in by

Adjourned.

ROUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. McMurtie offered the following rule for the government of the House:

That hereafter no petitions, letters, remonstrances or memorials shall be read in public, but that the name shall be handed by the members to the Clerk on Mondays and Thursdays of each week, having the name of the member presenting the same, together with the date, subject matter, and committee to which said petition shall be referred indorsed on the same. Indefinitely postponed.

and committee to which said petition shall be referred indorsed on the same. Indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Hakes offered the following:

Resolved. That the Governor be requested to tender the thanks of this House, in the name of the people of this State, to the Governor and citizen soldiers of the States of New York and New Jersey, for their prompt and patriotic aid in driving the revels from the free soil of Pennsylvania, and thereby saving the Capital from devastation and rain, at a time when the people of Pennsylvania, and thereby saving the Capital from devastation and rain, at a time when the people of Pennsylvania and the state of the same devastation and rain, at a time when the people of Pennsylvania and initia at its disposal.

Mr. Smith (Chester) moved to amend by striking out all after the word thereby, and inserting the following: Defeating the efforts of traitors at home, and driving the slaveholding traitors from the free soil of Pennsylvania.

The amendment was agreed to—yeas, 49: nays, 39. And the resolutions as amended was adopted.

Mr. Nelson offered the following resolutions:

Wherea, Many thousands of the true sons of Pennsylvania are in the armies of the United States, imperiling their lives and all that is dear for the preservation of the Union made by our fatters, and

Whereas, At the time the majority of them enlisted they received little or no bounty, and have seen very long and hard service: and

Whereas, The high prices of living has rendered the present wages too small to meet the wants of their smilles at bome, &c.:

Resolved. By the Senate and House of Representatives, that the difference between the presentatives, that the difference between the presentatives, that such difference be paid to all such soldies as a reo or hereafter shall be drafted, or who youndered for two or three years previous to November last; that such difference be paid to them or their order has soon as possible out of any moneys in the Treasury of the State of Peansylvania not otherwise appropriated and that

OUR PRISONERS AT RICHMOND.—The Utica Herald says: "We learn from Lieut. Estes that the rebel authorities have recently impose some unnecessary and very aggravating restric-tions upon our prisoners confined in Richmond They are allowed to write only six lines at time to their friends at the North, and that but once each week. The lieutenant has received from an imprisoned friend one of the six-line letters, which is not exactly in keeping with the intention of the regulation, as the writer used the widest paper he could obtain, wrote in diminutive style, and abbreviated as much as pessible. The restriction is despicable, and must have been inspired by pure malevolence. Rebel prisoners should be similarly dealt with so long as it remains in force.

MURDER IN ALLEGHENY CITY .- On Monday night a young man, named Howard Hamilton was killed by stabbing, in Allegheny city, Pa. An individual named Sims, has been arrested for the murder, and three rowdy companions of his are also into custody. The Coroner's jury point out Sims as the murderer.

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SANITARY COMMISSION to be held in this city in the month of JUNE next beg leave to announce that a

PUBLIC MEETING

in behalf of the FAIR, will take place at the ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

ON THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 10th, at 8 o'clock.

Addresses, explanatory of the objects of the Fair will be made by hight hev BISHOP CLARK, of Rhode island; hev. Dr. BELLOWS, of N. York; Hon. Judge SKINNER, of Chicago, and others HASSLER'S ORCHESTRA' WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

On and after Mouday next, tickets may be pro-cured gratuitously at the *genty of the Commis-sion, No. 1307 Chestnut street; Union League House, at the principal Bookstores, and at the Academy of Music. mh4-6t GETTYSBURG BATTLE

> FIELD MEMORIAL. AN APPEAL

TO LOYAL PENNSYLVANIANS The "GETTYSBURG BATTLE-FIELD ME MORIAL ASSOCIATION" was instituted for the purpose of securing, forever, the principal points upon the great bat le-field of the war, in the exact condition in which they were left in July, 1863

when the rebel hordes of the invader LEE were driven back from the free soil of Pennsylvania and when the gallant soldiers of GENERAL MEADE remained in possession of the field which they had won by their valor. The Association have already secured the purchase of CEMETERY HILL, CULP' HILL, GRANITE SPUR and ROUND TOP, with the entrenchments thrown up just upon the eve of the great conflict which was the turning point in the career of the rebellion. The field, with its redoubts. wonderful stone defences, its timber breast-works, isforest heights, with the trees torn by shells and countless builets, and its long lines of earthwork defences, have all been preserved intact, and to so continue to preserve them, as to be a monument forever of the greatest of American Battle-fields is the object of the formation of the Association. To enable a large number of persons to join in this patriotic work, the projectors of the plan placed the subscriptions at ten dollars each. The payment of this sum makes each subscriber a member

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OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND PART OWNER OF THE

There are no salaried officers in this Association, not are there any objects in view in its creation other than those already stated. The grounds were purchased from their original owners at the exact price to be paid for them by the Association, and the points selected, and the prices to be paid for them, met the unqualified approval of a committee of the Historical Ecciety of Prinsplania, appointed for the purpose of visiting the field. The following are the names of the general officers of the Association, and of the Local Committee in Philadelphia :

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THE GREAT

CENTRAL FAIR FOR THE

Philadelphia, 1307 Chestnut Street February 20, 1864.

Sanitary Commission.

The undersigned, members of the Executive Committee of the GREAT CENTRAL FAIR for the Sanitary Commission, beg to invite the co-operation of all their fellow-citizens, especially of those resident in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, in this important enterprise. It is proposed to hold the Fair in Philadelphia, in the FIRST WEEK IN JUNE NEXT, and it is confidently expected that the contributions, coming from a popula ion so benevolent and patriotic w that which inhabits the Central States, and representing the most important and varied branches of industry and art, will secure a result in aid or the funds of the Commission, and for the benefit of the Soldier, at least equal to that which has attended similar undertakings in other cities. It s not necessary to say a word to stimulate sympathy for the soldier. We feel for them all as brethren, and the popular heart seeks only the best mode of manifesting that sympathy in the best mode of manifesting that sympathy in the most efficient and practical way. These fairs in other places have been productive of great results. By this means Chicago has recently raised for this bject \$60,000, Boston \$150,000, and Cincinnati more than \$200,000. We appeal, then, with the greatest confidence to the inhabitants of the Gentral States, especially to those who constitute the great industrial classes, to send as contributious the productions of their skill and workmanship. We appeal to them in the interest of no party, radical or conservative, Republican or Democratic, Administration or anti-Administration. We know only this, that to send our national soldiers in the field supplies to supplement those Government un-dertakes to give them, but which they sometimes fail to receive, and thus to relieve them when sick and in misery, is a work of Christian charity, and that it is a work of intelligent patriotism also, as economizing their life, health and efficiency, on which, under God, the nation depends in this its

time of trouble. We therefore ask every clergyman to announce this humane undertaking to his people, and to advise them to do what they can to further it. W. ask the press to give it the widest publicity and the most earnest encouragement. We call on every workshop, factory and mill for a specimen of the best thing it can turn out; on every artist, great and small, for one of his creations; on all loyal women, for the exercise of their taste and industry; on farmers, for the products of their fields and dairies. The miner, the naturalist, the man of science, the traveler, can each send scmething that can at the very least be converted into a blanket that will warm, and may save from death, some one soldier whom government supplies have failed to reach. Every one who can produce any. thing that has money value is invited to give a sample of his best work as an offering to the cause of national unity. Every workingman, mechanic or farmer, who can make a pair of shoes or raise a barrel of apples, is called on to contribute something that can be turned into money, and again from money into the means of economizing the

health and the life of our national soldiers. Committees have been appointed in each department of industry and art, whose business it will be to solicit contributions for the Fair, each in its own special branch. These Committees will place themselves in communication with those person who may wish to aid us. In the meantime it is recommended that local committees or associations should be formed in every portion of Penusylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, with a view of organizing the industry of their respective neighborhoods, so as to secure contributions for the Fair.

Committees of Ladies have also been org to co operate with those of the gentlemen in soliclting contributions. A list of all these Committees will be shortly

published and distributed. In the meantime those who are disposed to aid us, or who may desire any further information on the subject, are requeste to address CHARLES J. STILLE, Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Great

Central Fair, 1307 CHESTNUT Street. 50HN WELSH, Chairman. CALEB COPE, Treasurer. UALEB COPE, Treasurer,
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