The Press.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1862.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAST SPEECH OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.—"The conspiracy to break up the Union is a fact now known to all. Armies are being raised, and war levied to accomplish it. There can be but two sides to the controversy. Every man must be on the side of the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war. There can be none but patriots and traitors."

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A PAPER FOR THE CAMP AND FIRESIDE.

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS.

CONTENTS OF NO. 11, FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 25.

ENGRAVINGS.—The Main Street in Munfordville, Kentucky, which contains the Court House now used as a Hospital—General McCook's Headquarters at Munfordville, Kentucky—Fac Simile of the Ten Dollar Confederate Treasury Notes.

WAR TALK.—A Scouting Adventure; or, The Boots that Kicked Against Secession:

FROM KENTUCKY.—A Brilliant Victory at Somerset, Ky.—Col. Carfield's Victories—Arrival of Ten Contrabands from Bowling Green—The Return of the Cairo Expedition.

FROM MISSOURI.—Reconnoissance to Columbus, Ky.—The Cairo Bubble Burst—The Movement from Paducah—Battle of Silver Creek—The Gunboat Engagement near Columbus—Twenty-three Rebels Captured; Cannonading up the Tennessee—Gen. Sigel—Reported Battle near Ironton; Six Thousand Rebels, under *Jeff Thompson, Defeat Eight Hundred Federal Troops*—From Rolla—Admirable Order of Gen. Grant to Government Troops on the March—Missouri's Pacification—The Federal Force in Missouri—A Forward Movement.

FROM GEN. WOOL'S DEPARTMENT.—Interesting *from Fortress Monroe.*

FROM THE SOUTH.—The Rebel Generals of the South—The Dead Union Prisoners at Richmond—Slavery and the War—Destructive Fires—Later from Texas; Another Capture by the Enemy—Fresh Arrival—Arrest of Union Prisoners—*Disloyal and Dangerous Inhabitants*—Released Federal Prisoners—Miscellaneous Items—Appointment of Army Sutlers.

EDITORIALS.—The Latest War News—Death of Ex-President Tyler—Lake Defences.

THE LETTERS OF "OCCASIONAL."—Taxation—Henry Horn—The new Secretary of War—The Preservation of the Union—The Battle of Somerset.

LATEST NEWS.—The War in New Mexico—The War in Kentucky—State of Affairs at New Orleans—From Kansas.

SPECIAL DESPATCHES FROM THE CAPITAL.—Important from Manassas; The Rebels Evacuating their Position at that Point, and Falling back further Southward—Views of the Hon. James Guthrie—General Sumner—Still Another Division from Pennsylvania—Gen. Lane's Staff—The Confirmation of Gen. Cameron as Minister to Russia.

MISCELLANEOUS.—From Fortress Monroe—The Late Fight at Pensacola—The British steam-frigate "Immortalite"—*The Rebel Fortifications on the Upper Potomac.*

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.—The Money Market—Weekly Review of the Philadelphia Markets.

WAR WIT, POETRY, &c.—Toby and his Gun—Chesterfield Tactics—*The Crab Apples*—At Port Royal; 1861—Song for the Irish Brigade—Tennyson's New Lyric.

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THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

Some additional particulars of the recent victory at Somerset, Kentucky, will be found in our columns this morning. By a report from Louisville we learn that the Union loss was 39 killed and 127 wounded—a small number considering the desperate fighting that was done. Our forces captured fourteen cannon, one thousand four hundred horses and mules, besides all the quartermaster's and commissary stores belonging to the rebels. General Thomas had crossed the Cumberland river, and, at last accounts, was in hot pursuit of the enemy. It is supposed that he will capture an additional number of prisoners. The Tennessee regiments, composed of men who were driven from their homes in East Tennessee for expressing Union sentiments, by Zollicoffer and his rebel horde, had a fine opportunity to repay their oppressors. All accounts agree that they fought like tigers, and it is claimed that they took a battery at the point of the bayonet. The President, through Secretary Stanton, has paid an eloquent tribute to the bravery and daring of the officers and men engaged in the battle.

The Somerset Kentucky correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, in his letter from that place, dated the 16th instant, says:

"A man, John Smith, who was instrumental in capturing several rebel prisoners some time since in Huntsville, Scott county, East Tennessee, has just returned from Scott county. *The Union men are rising and forming companies. Five companies have already been formed.* There are ninety-one men in the largest company, and the others vary from that down to thirty men. He was at a gathering last Saturday, at which there were three hundred Union men. They need guns very much, though a great many have their rifles. Ammunition is very scarce, and it seems that some ammunition which was sent in for the benefit of the Union men, from these camps, has been appropriated by those to whom or by whom it was sent, and they are making a small speculation by selling it. There are dozen men in all countries and among all classes, but I trust this is not true."

"Some one thousand four hundred or one thousand five hundred troops passed through Montgomery, last week, to join Zollicoffer's force. They came from Virginia, through Knoxville, and there are seventy thousand soldiers at Knoxville. The Secessionists report that the soldiers in Virginia are starving, and are compelled by necessity to get away from there. They won't fare much better at Knoxville, where salt is $10 a bushel; hogs, $12 a hundred, *gross*; beef, $7.50 a hundred, *gross*; sugar, common brown, 25 cents per pound; coffee—none to be had; *domestic*, 50 *cents per yard*; and everything else in proportion. But these prices are nothing to the gentry of the so-called Southern Confederacy, for each one of them carries a die about with him, and whenever funds run low, why, out comes the die, and funds are struck off. Nobody dares to reject this money, for people who live in glass houses don't like to throw stones."

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* states that the President informed a Senator that the original plan of the Burnside expedition had been given up because the rebels had got hold of it. The attention of the new Secretary of War has been directed to the fact that Secessionists in the District of Columbia are in constant correspondence with the rebel leaders, and that rebel spies reside in Washington. A prominent citizen has given information that a well-known rebel army officer is secreted among his family friends there. He has not yet been discovered by the Government detectives, but the fact that he was in the city last week is established beyond a doubt.

The Evansville, Indiana, *Journal*, in speaking of the following significant editorial—which means a good deal more than they say outright:

"Price is in full retreat southward. Price will probably continue in full retreat, for there are several—indeed, no less than three—Federal armies, each as large, better armed, and better equipped, converging upon him. His past victories have been rendered valueless. Federal forces have been massed in Kentucky too great for a man of Sidney Johnston's caliber to venture to *attack*, and the paralyzing of Price through the withdrawal of McCulloch has rendered the overrunning of Missouri to the Arkansas frontier an easy task to the Federals. We're forced back out of Missouri—check-mated in Kentucky. Chase has obtained his money in Wall street.

The blockade is unbreakable by us as yet. In one word, we're hemmed in. We've allowed the moment of victory to pass. We were so anxiously watching the operations of England, that we stand aghast on turning our eyes homeward again to find ourselves ten-fold worse off than we were ere the commencement of Price's last forward march, and that scoursedly used scoundrel, the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Day follows day, and in lieu of being weakened, we find the Federal armies, at all points, being strengthened, almost every article of manufacturing and domestic necessity quadrupled in price, and our money will soon be exceeding scarce, for lack of paper and pasteboard wherewith to make it.

We pay fifteen cents a piece *for sperm candles*, and are told we ought to be glad to get them at that. Our twelve months soldiers time will soon be up, and we cannot help asking, as they do themselves, what have they been permitted or led to do? It is an old and over-proven truism, that where two nations are at war, that which has the least means must find success in early and rapid action, for it can gain little by time, while the other finds in time the power to bring into efficient use his more varied means.

Cabined, cribbed, confined as we were, and evidently would be, our shortest, clearest, and most noble policy was to find in the rapid use of our early Revolutionary enthusiasm an overmatch for the slower and less spirited but more enduring North. Where shall we ask relief? Where should we ask it save in the camps on whom have been lavished our hearts' blood, our hopes, our wealth, our whole; where but upon the banks of the Potomac? When shall we see an end of the farce there being enacted at our expense?

Indirectly, every mouthful we eat is taxed; our babies wear taxed caps and shoes, our boys write on taxed paper, our girls wear taxed calicoes, our men do a taxed business, and hopelessly ride in a taxed hearse to a taxed grave, and we, forsooth, are hurting "the cause!" if we dare to turn from Messrs. Mason and Slidell to look at the country we were born and bred in, and, having looked, we are hurting the cause if we dare tell what we see.

Our cause is right, it is holy. Our suffering may be God's price of success, but who, seeing what might have been, and knows what is being suffered through its being undone, can refrain from cursing the selfishness or idiocy that stopped the conquering Beauregard, that arrested the march of Price, that checked the gallant Jackson.

We have gazed imploringly on the lion, while the fox has been weaving his toils. Our press and our people have trusted long enough. We now ask, are we to continue hemmed in for another six months, and lack all things, or shall our armies *on to Washington*, and lack nothing.

Taxes upon Knowledge.

The attempt to levy a postage upon newspapers which do not go through the Post Office has fallen to the ground. Congress has signified its non-approval. In times like the present, it is vitally necessary that the required public revenue shall be raised, whatever its amount, but it is desirable, too, that *justice* should be an element in the operation. The proposed plan of making newspapers pay for post-office accommodation not afforded was *unjust*—because it was *unequal*. It subjected newspapers to no tax in the places of publication; it would have taxed them out of it. Thus one class of readers would have been exempt, and another class must have paid.

The glory of our country has been its Free Press,—untrammeled by taxation, unpurchasable by power, unrestrained except by morality and the law. We notice that some journals complacently accept, and even endorse, the suggestion that a tax shall be levied upon paper. What *must* be the result? Let History instruct us, for History is Experience speaking by Example.

In the year 1712, a stamp-tax was first levied upon newspapers and a duty upon advertisements in England. It was the time of high political excitement in the reign of Queen ANNE, and her Ministry taxed newspapers, even then beginning to be felt as a power in the land, *in order to crush them*. The first duty was a cent upon every sheet, but it was gradually raised to eight cents upon every newspaper sheet, large or small. The design was to gag the Press, and though this was not effected, it limited the number of newspapers, by rendering it impossible for any but a capitalist to establish a journal. In 1836, after a tremendous struggle, the newspaper tax was *reduced from fourteen to two cents, and in* 1855 it was wholly abolished.

Coincident with the establishment of a tax on newspapers, was a duty on advertisements. It commenced, like the other, at a small rate, but gradually advanced. In 1836, and for many years before, each advertisement in a British newspaper, without reference to its being long or short, paid a duty to the Government of *eighty-four* cents. One may imagine the expense of advertising in England at that time. When the newspaper stamp was cut down from 14 to 2 cents on each paper, the advertisement duty was reduced from 84 to 36 cents, and was finally abolished in 1853. Another effort was made by those who wished to strike off the fetters of the Press, and in 1855 the two cent stamp on newspapers was abolished. Still, there remained one fetter more—a tax of three cents per pound on paper. That was removed last year, and, for the first time during one hundred and fifty years, the English people had a free press. The result, at once, was the establishment of newspapers all over the United Kingdom—of newspapers at once cheap and good. Twenty-five years ago, every London paper cost *fourteen* cents, at least, (stamp duty included,) and some sold at more, but now there are numerous good journals in London and other places at *two* cents.

Are *we* to begin where the English have left off? Are *we* to adopt what their bitter experience felt and abolished as a nuisance? Are *we* to fetter Journalism by taxation? What would be the inevitable consequence?—an advance, all over the country, in the cost of newspapers to the public, and a consequent decline in their sale. Taxes upon newspapers and upon paper are the very Taxes upon Knowledge which England has at last shaken off, for ever. Yet, what England repudiates, after long trial, as unjust and oppressive, the United States are recommended to adopt and hug to their bosom!

As for not allowing exchange papers to continue postage free, that is a small matter. Newspapers solicit no favors whatever—except to be left to themselves. Taxation gagged or restrained the Press in England for a hundred and fifty years—yet we are asked to submit to the same process now. Why?—"That the Post Office may be self-supporting." We do not see the *necessity* for this. The State gains more, politically and socially, by the transmission of newspapers, even at a loss, than can possibly be estimated. It has been argued that, in private hands, the Post-Office service would be well performed, and would pay handsomely. We are confident that its deficit would be made good, largely if not wholly, by the collection of a postal duty upon telegraphic messages, which virtually deprive the Post Office of a considerable revenue. THE PRESS first suggested this, a month ago, and we hope to see it carried into operation. But for taxes on newspapers and upon paper we have no liking. We have seen how miserably and unjustly they worked elsewhere, until, at last, condemned by popular indignation, they had to be relinquished. How John Bull will laugh scorn at us, if he ever should hear that, after *he* abandoned, we adopted, Taxes upon Knowledge!

The Source of Election Frauds

A few days since, we called public attention to the character and intelligence of election officers fifty years ago, and gave the names of the return judges in 1810, as corroborative of our statement. For the past twenty-five years the inspectors and judges of elections, as a general thing, have been retrograding in respectability and knowledge, until a brutalized aspect has been given to the conduct of the election officers in numerous divisions of the city of Philadelphia. In these localities, fraud is the prevailing system, and drunkenness in the election officers is a preliminary to the fraud. We have known polls where four out of the five persons legally qualified to conduct the election were drunk, and in several instances our attention has been called to either an inspector, judge, or clerk, lying in a corner of the room, sleeping off the effects of his gross indulgence. It generally happens at such polls, that the *sober* officers are the perpetrators of the fraud, and the drunkenness of the others a prearranged matter, arising out of the necessity for secrecy. In other instances, one or two skilful manipulators are chosen, and the balance of the officers are selected chiefly for their ignorance and known intemperate habits. It would not be safe to trust *all* the officers with a knowledge of the fraud and the mode of its perpetration. When the ballots deposited in the boxes are to be changed, or fraudulent tally-lists substituted for the genuine ones, a desperate operator, of admitted intelligence, is chosen, whose name may be familiar to our courts of justice, and whose courage and depravity are beyond dispute. These qualities are necessary to a complete accomplishment of the fraud, in the similitude of justness. False personation at the polls is the chief reliance of depraved election officers, because this method keeps both ballot-boxes and tally-lists correct. Hence, this means of fraud has been systematized in numerous localities, and a fair election in those quarters is out of the question.

It will be found, on an examination of the list of taxable inhabitants in Philadelphia and the number of votes cast at several elections, that at least twenty per cent. of our voting population are absent from the polls, from one cause or another, running through sickness, indisposition to vote, removal to other localities, death, or absence from the city on the day of election. This fact presents an extended field for false personation, and is fruitful of gigantic villainy. How are these great outrages upon the elective franchise and the rights of citizens to be remedied? Certainly not by offering a premium to the corrupt and profligate to *seek* the position of an election officer, through the stimulant of six or seven dollars he obtains from the city treasury for his services. This position is often sought by men who are compelled to make their mark (X) to the returns, and not unfrequently by those who are too illiterate to spell even the printed titles at the head of the tickets. This fact is of general notoriety. We know of many instances where the assessors of wards were wholly unable to prepare their own books, and therefore compelled to hire others to perform the writing portion of their work. We have one instance in our memory where an assessor was so illiterate that he could not write his name to the receipt for the money which he obtained from the county treasury for his services. Under the Buchanan Administration, there were inspectors of customs in Philadelphia, who, for want of writing ability, were compelled to pay others for making out their monthly returns to the Custom House. We mention these latter facts to show the degeneracy of the times and the lust for office; even in the midst of extended educational advantages.

If any of the elected officers now holding place in the city will turn their eyes upon the certificates of their election, signed by the return judges, they will discover a fact in some of the signatures thereto, that will cause them either to blush with shame, or tremble with apprehension for the future integrity of elections. This will also hold good for the past twenty years. Corrupted ballot-boxes and false returns are the legitimate offspring of selecting persons to conduct elections, whose ignorance or depravity attests that they were selected more for the purposes of fraud than for the performance of a faithful duty. We shall speak of this subject again, and propose a radical remedy.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1862.

The victory at Somerset happened in the very nick of time. It will increase and intensify the confidence of all friends of the Union, and accumulate new horrors upon the traitors. If our cause required a victory, it could have well survived a defeat. But a new catastrophe to the rebels must frightfully accelerate their downfall. Never in history has so monstrous a revolt provoked so overwhelming a rebuke. The violent paroxysm with which the rebellion began, and the few advantages it secured at the start, exhausted its best resources, and made it incapable of permanent resistance to the strong Government, solid, moral, and growing strength of the Federal cause. The intelligence of the death of Zollicoffer and the defeat of his army will overwhelm and consternate the traitors. You have only to read the comments of the rebel journals upon the battle of Drancsville to understand how wholly unprepared they are for another and a greater calamity. Zollicoffer was not only one of their best generals, but he held the key of one of their best positions—a key, in fact, to the gateway into Eastern Tennessee. This key in our possession, the path is opened into a region filled with brave Union men. And if, as we now confidently expect, Buell has attacked, at Bowling Green, the main body of the rebels under Breckinridge and George B. Crittenden, Columbus must be evacuated, Grant will come down the Mississippi and menace Memphis, and thus the conquest and subjugation of the rebels in all that important part of Kentucky and Tennessee will have been accomplished. Bear in mind, that nearly all our late expeditions are equally formidable and fresh. Burnside, with his army in North Carolina; Sherman, with his in South Carolina and Georgia; Phelps, in lower Mississippi; and Jim Lane, preparing for a desperate rush upon Arkansas and Texas; without counting the naval movement now rapidly being perfected at New York, under command of Commodore Farragut, and the tremendous mortar flotilla, under command of Capt. D. D. Porter, are only so many evidences of the invincible prowess of the Federal Government, and its almost inexhaustible resources. The utmost confidence is entertained and expressed, that all these expeditions will be victorious. The fact is, the so-called Confederacy is rapidly rotting away. How can its army contend against such an array as is now brought to bear upon almost every salient point of the revolted territory? Its credit gone, its currency depreciated, its ports closed, its people starving, and every variety of schism corrupting and corroding its counsels, all hope of foreign aid dispelled by the masterly statesmanship of Mr. Seward, what can prevent its speedy and its effectual overthrow?

Those who remember the great struggle of 1860, and who *know* that Judge Douglas most conscientiously supported the Administration when at last hostilities became inevitable, must be frequently amused at the expedients of certain politicians, especially in your State, who advertise for popular favor because they have been Douglas Democrats. Nearly all these tricksters supported the fusion electoral ticket, and assailed the advocates of the straight-out Douglas ticket in the last Presidential campaign. Would that their affection for the memory of the dead patriot had been but slightly exhibited for the living leader! With scarce an exception, these active candidates for office were either captains or followers in the Democratic party when that party sustained Buchanan's most infamous Administration. They were never heard of in denunciation of Lecompton or the English bill. They were silent, if not hostile, when Douglas was pursued by the bloodhounds set upon his track by James Buchanan, and literally hunted to his grave. When the murder of the ever-lamented Broderick startled the whole nation, the cry for vengeance upon his assassins found no echo in their hearts. When Wm. F. Packer and John C. Knox denounced the usurpation of James Buchanan, these pure Douglas men denounced and excommunicated them. *The Press*, which dared to do right from the first, and which grappled with the Great Criminal in 1857, and hung upon his flanks even to the expiration of his dynasty,—which defended the brave men who refused to bow the knee to the oppressor, and never compromised with those now in *arms against the country*,—*The Press* was tabooed, ostracised, and slandered by these superfine Douglas Democrats. Nothing gave them more pleasure than to assist in reading Governor Packer out of the Democratic party at State Conventions, while the Third Auditor of the Richmond Treasury, Robert Tyler, presided,—nothing delighted them more than to applaud the invectives upon *The Press* of that scolding *Thersites*, Wm. H. Witte, their favorite candidate for Governor. The object of these impostors is plain. They want to *use the masses of the Democracy to get place* for themselves, and to embarrass the prosecution of the war. There are no Breckinridge Democrats now—they seem to have followed their great leader into the Confederate army. The new heraldry is the dead Douglas and not the living traitor. It is to be hoped that this last sham will be promptly rebuked and exposed. *No Douglas Democrat can follow the* Democratic organization under the lead of Reed, Welsh, Wharton, Diefenbach, and Hodgson, without being wilfully and willingly deceived and betrayed. The motto which should animate the genuine Democracy of Pennsylvania is that uttered by Douglas in his last speech: "There can be no neutrals in this war; there can be none but patriots and traitors." This motto is constantly ridiculed and repudiated in the expressions and actions of the present leaders of the Democratic party.

OCCASIONAL.

The Victory at Somerset.

The following despatch was received by Hon. ANDREW JOHNSON, and was sent to us from Washington, late last evening. It is from an officer in Gen. BUELL's division, and perfectly reliable:

SOMERSET, KY., Jan. 21, 1862.

Hon. ANDREW JOHNSON:

Gen. ZOLLICOFFER is killed. I know it, for I have seen his dead body. We have achieved one of the most glorious victories on record. The rebels fled, leaving everything behind. We have taken about 1400 horses, and eighty wagons.

L. G. HOUK,
Qr. Master.

This intelligence, so gratifying to all true men, is especially so to glorious ANDY JOHNSON, who now sees the way to the Eden of Home and friends open to our arms.

Hon. William Wilkins, of Pennsylvania.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1862.

This veteran statesman, who has been in public life for nearly sixty years, appeared in the Senate this morning, in company with Senator Cowan, and was presented to most of the members of that body. He is probably the greatest living link between the historic past and the historic present, recalling equally the patriotism of Washington and Jefferson, and the perfidy of Davis and Toombs. Mr. Wilkins, notwithstanding his age, looked well, and listened with great earnestness to the glowing speech of Garrett Davis. His voice is full, his manners graceful, and his health excellent. He writes with almost clerical accuracy, and although *about the same age* as James Buchanan, is as careful, and much more clear, in his calligraphy. Better than all, Mr. Wilkins is a loyal Democrat. No doubt he has been gratified by the manner in which he has been received by loyal men of all parties. Some of these days, when "Occasional" has time, I trust he will draw the portrait of the greatest among the living statesmen of Western Pennsylvania.

X.

THE OPERA.—"Il Barbiere di Siviglia" will be produced at the Academy of Music, to-morrow night, by the Italian Opera Company; Miss Hinkley and Madame Strakosch appearing as *Rosina* and *Bertha*, and the sweet-voiced Brignoli as *Count Almaviva*. In addition, one act of Donizetti's "La Favorita" will be sung on the same evening. On Saturday night, "Don Pasquale," and a portion of "Il Trovatore," will be given, in which Hinkley, Brignoli, Manousi, and Susini, will sing in their respective rôles. The tickets issued for last Saturday's performance will be received to-morrow (Friday) night *only*.

LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1862.

Official Announcement of the Victory.—The President Hastens to do Honor to the Brave.

The following general order in respect to the battle of Mill Spring, (near Somerset, Ky.,) has just been issued:

"GENERAL ORDER IN RESPECT TO THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRING.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, Jan. 22, 1862.

"The President, Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, *has received information* of a brilliant victory achieved by the United States forces over a large body of armed traitors and rebels, at Mill Spring, in the State of Kentucky.

"He returns thanks to the gallant officers and soldiers who won that victory, and when the official reports shall be received, the military skill and personal valor displayed in the battle will be acknowledged and rewarded in a fitting manner.

"The courage that encountered and vanquished the greatly superior numbers of the rebel force, pursued and attacked them in their entrenchments, and passed not until the enemy was completely routed, merits and receives commendation. The purpose of this war is to attack, pursue, and destroy a rebellious enemy, and to deliver the country from the danger menaced by traitors. Alacrity, daring, courageous spirit, and patriotic zeal, on all occasions and under every circumstance, are expected from the army of the United States. In the prompt and spirited movements and daring battle of Mill Spring the nation will realize its hopes, and the people of the United States will rejoice to honor every soldier and officer who proves his courage by charging with the bayonet and storming entrenchments or in the blaze of the enemy's fire.

"By order of the President,

"EDWIN M. STANTON,
"Secretary of War."

The following official order has been issued by the Secretary of War:

"Ordered, That the War Department will be closed, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays against all other business but that which relates to active military operations in the field.

"Saturdays will be devoted to the business of Senators and Representatives.

"Mondays to the business of the public.

"EDWIN M. STANTON,
"Secretary of War."

Official Accounts of the Victory.

The following despatch was received at headquarters to-night:

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 22, 1862.

To Major General McClellan, Commanding the United States Army:

The following has just been received from Gen. *Thomas*:

The rout of the enemy was complete. After succeeding in getting two pieces of artillery across the river a distance of fifty yards, he abandoned the rest with all the ammunition in the depot at Mill Spring. They then threw away their arms, and dispersed through the mountain by-ways in the direction of Monticello, but are so completely demoralized that I do not believe they will make a stand short of Tennessee.

The property captured on this side of the river *is of great value, amounting to eight six-pounders* and two Parrott guns, with caissons filled with ammunition; about one hundred horse wagons, and upwards of twelve hundred horses and mules; several boxes of arms, which have never been opened, and from five hundred to one thousand muskets, (mostly flint locks, but in good order;) subsistence stores enough to serve the entire command for three days, and a large amount of hospital stores.

"As soon as I receive the report of the brigade *commanders*, I will *furnish a detailed report of the* battle. Our loss was thirty-nine killed, and one hundred and twenty-seven wounded. Among the wounded were Colonel McCook, of the Ninth Ohio, commanding a brigade, and his aid, Lieutenant Dort, of the Eighteenth United States Infantry. The loss of the rebels was Zollicoffer and one hundred and fourteen others killed and buried, one hundred and sixteen wounded, and forty-five taken prisoners, (not wounded.) Five of whom are surgeons, and including Lieutenant Colonel Carter, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.

"(General THOMAS.)

D. C. BUELL, Brigadier General commanding."

Secret Sessions of Congress.

The joint committee on the conduct of the war have agreed upon an amendment to the joint rules of the two houses, to the effect that, whenever any member rises in his place, and states that the Executive wishes Congress to secretly act on any matter *connected with the war, it shall be the duty of* Congress to go into secret session and deliberate, and come to a conclusion thereon before adjournment. The speeches are to be limited to five minutes each, and any member found disclosing the proceedings shall be expelled.

Executive Session of the Senate.

The Senate to-day, in executive session, confirmed a large number of nominations, among them, JOHN LOTHROP MOTLEY as minister to Austria, and ROBERT PRUYN, of New York, as minister resident to Japan.

Judge of the Supreme Court.

The President to-day nominated NOAH A. SWAIN, of Ohio, as associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge MCLEAN.

Officers of the Navy.

It appears from a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, addressed to the Senate in answer to a resolution calling for information relative to acting lieutenants, masters, master's mates, *paymasters, and acting assistant paymasters*, that they are all employed, and, when not disabled by sickness, have been on duty since the date of their appointment. Only two paymasters on the active list are unemployed. One is unfit for duty, and the other is in Virginia.

The Censorship of the Telegraph.

The House Committee on the Judiciary to-day commenced their investigation into the telegraph censorship. Several witnesses were before them.

The Camp Testimony in the Pennsylvania Election Cases.

Mr. J. ORLANDO TOBIAS, the commissioner appointed *to take testimony in the camps as to the* manner in which the votes were cast, is still industriously at work. One of the officers of the Seventy-third Pennsylvania Regiment, Col. KOLTES, testifies, in substance, as follows: There was no list of taxables in our possession, nor was any such list consulted. He took all the votes cast in his company without any proof. About nine-tenths of the company were foreigners, but no tax receipts or naturalization papers were shown. Several voted who did not belong to the company, but belonged to the regiment. More votes were polled than there were names on the muster-roll.

Another officer in the Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, Col. BALLIER, in answer to the interrogatory whether the men in his company were all naturalized, answered: "Does you think dat my mens carries their naturalization papers in their *knapsacks when dey fights for de Stars and Stripes?*" In answer to another interrogatory, whether they were qualified voters, he replied: "I lets them all votes who were fighting for the Stars and Stripes mit te glorious Union." This is a specimen of some of the testimony, word for word, which has been adduced by the commissioner.

Coffee and Rice at a Discount.

It is a remarkable fact, that while green Rio coffee sells in Philadelphia at 16@18 cents per pound, and rice at 7a7½ cents per pound, those articles can be bought much cheaper in this city. Coffee is sold in parcels here to the stores at 10 cents per pound, and rice is sold in the same way at 4 cents. This morning two cents per pound *could not be obtained for rice*, though, as the market reports say, "it was freely offered." These articles, we understand, have been bought by several storekeepers at the figures named. Either the Government or some Northern merchants have been basely swindled. The Government is most probably the sufferer.

Good for Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania is the only State in the Union having fifteen consolidated regiments in the field under one commander.

Died in Camp.

JOSEPH CROSS, company D, Fifty-second Pennsylvania volunteers, and THOMAS HARPER, company A, Sixty-second Pennsylvania volunteers.

Washington News and Gossip.

The rainy, dreary weather still continues. The oldest inhabitant does not recollect the time when the streets of the city were in such a wretchedly muddy condition.

There was quite a brilliant assemblage at the President's reception last night. Mrs. LINCOLN passed through the East Room, at ten o'clock, leaning on the arm of ex Secretary CAMERON.

A man by the name of PARKS, belonging to the Sixty-third Pennsylvania Regiment, attempted to escape from Alexandria, by dressing himself up in citizens' clothes. He was overhauled by the provost guard, and sent back to his regiment.

Col. MCCARTER's Pennsylvania Regiment passed up the Avenue this morning, in the direction of the Chain Bridge. The men, although covered with mud, marched well.

An Indiana captain was knocked down in 4½ street, and robbed of about $300. The city is filled with thieves and sharpers. A few Philadelphia detectives are much needed here.

The friends of Gen. SHIELDS appear much chagrined because he was not appointed a major general.

Messrs. JOHN F. CARTER and C. W. BOTELER, of this city, have purchased the Spa Springs, at Bladensburg. They intend to erect on the grounds a hotel capable of accommodating five hundred people.

The ravages of the small-pox in the city are increasing.

Frozen to Death.

An unknown soldier, belonging to a Pennsylvania regiment, was found frozen to death, in the woods, near the Soldier's Home. It is supposed that he laid down, while in a state of intoxication, and thus met his death.

Miscellaneous.

Last week, Kentucky Congressmen had intimations of a combined movement against ZOLLICOFFER, and it is now understood that the same sort of thing was essayed in the movement that was initiated by the battle of Wildcat, when the loyal East Tennesseans by concert burnt the bridges. But this was all dished by General SHERMAN, who ordered a *retreat* instead of an *advance*; so the loyalists in East Tennessee have since been scourged to the death.

It is said here that Gen. LANDER communicated with Gen. MCCLELLAN, suggesting a rapid movement of General BANKS, to strike the rebel General JACKSON in rear as he advanced towards Romney, but the idea was not acceded to, for the reason, probably, that the enemy could throw troops from Manassas towards Martinsburg by rail easier than we could by road marches.

There is some scarcity of hay here at present, the deliveries being backward by contractors, at $25 a $26 per ton. The horses and mules are therefore the sufferers, because they must have bulk of matter for food, and not grain alone. Though many inferior horses have been foisted upon the service by the arts of corruption, still the most of them would be well enough, if well cared for and properly handled. On the latter head improvement is daily gaining ground.

It will be remembered that General ROSECRANS lately issued orders to his command upon the occasion of their going into "winter quarters." All this seems changed, for he has suddenly returned, and his body guard are reported at Gauley river. Three regiments have joined him from Ohio, and it is probable that he and Colonel GARFIELD will advance towards the great railroad running through Southwestern Virginia to Tennessee.

The Ninety-third Pennsylvania passed through the city this morning, bound for some point beyond the Chain Bridge. All concerned were covered with mud already, and their progress over the river will be like a movement of men and wagons through a ploughed field. On the night before last, six companies of cavalry came up from Alexandria and picketed in the streets throughout the entire night, with a drenching rain the while. This sort of movement shows that things are progressing here, as well as elsewhere, upon a system of graduation, which is the law of nature. Thus, a forced march of twenty-five miles, by a brigade in Kentucky, to join Gen. Thomas, in time to take a stray hand in the battle of Somerset, decided the fate of the day. Our men are now seasoned to make long marches, carrying heavy burdens, and sleeping on the cold wet ground.

The Treasury Note Bill.

The bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means to-day provides that, for temporary purposes, the Secretary of the Treasury *is authorized to* issue, on the credit of the United States, one hundred millions of dollars of United States notes, not bearing interest, payable to bearer, at the treasury, or at the office of the assistant treasurer, in the city of New York, at the pleasure of the United States, and of such denominations as he may deem expedient, not less than five dollars each; and such notes, and all other United States notes, payable on demand, not bearing interest, heretofore *authorized*, shall be receivable for all debts and demands due to the United States, and for all salaries, debts, and demands, owing by the United States to individuals, corporations, and associations within the United States, and shall also be lawful money and a legal tender in payment of all debts, public or private, within the United States; and any holder of said United States notes depositing any sum *not less than fifty dollars*, or other than a multiple of fifty, with the Treasurer of the United States, or either of the assistant treasurers, or either of the designated depositories at Cincinnati or Baltimore, shall receive, in exchange therefor, duplicate certificates of deposit, one of which may be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall thereupon issue to the holder an equal amount in bonds of the United States, coupon or registered, *as may be desired, bearing interest at the rate of* six per cent., and redeemable at the pleasure of the Government, after twenty years from date; or in sums not less than twenty-five hundred dollars; for which, if requested, the Secretary, if he deems it expedient, may issue similar bonds, the principal and interest of which may be expressed in the currency of any foreign country, and payable there; and such United States notes shall be received the same as coin, at their par value, in payment for any bonds that may be hereafter negotiated by the Secretary of the Treasury, and may be reissued, from time to time, as the exigencies of the public service may require. There shall be printed on the back of the United States notes which may be issued under the provisions of this act the following words: "The within note is a legal tender for the payment of all debts, public *and private*, and is exchangeable for bonds of the United States bearing six per cent. interest." To enable the Secretary of the Treasury to fund the treasury notes and floating debt of the United States, he is authorized to issue, on the credit of the United States, coupon bonds or registered bonds to an amount not exceeding five hundred millions of dollars, and redeemable at the pleasure of the Government, after twenty years from date, and bearing *interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum*, payable semi-annually; and the bonds herein authorized shall be of such denominations, not less than fifty dollars, as may be determined upon by the Secretary of the Treasury, or in sums of not less than twenty-five hundred dollars; for which, if requested, the Secretary, if he deems it expedient, may issue similar bonds, the principal and interest of which may be expressed in the currency *of any foreign country and payable there*. The Secretary is authorized to issue the said bonds, at their par value, to any creditor or creditors of the United States who may elect to receive them in satisfaction of their demands, provided that all such claims or demands shall have been first audited and settled by the proper accounting officers of the Treasury; and the Secretary of the Treasury may also exchange such bonds at any time for lawful *money of the United States, or for any of the* treasury notes that have been or may hereafter be issued under any former act of Congress, or that may be issued under the provisions of this act. The United States notes and bonds authorized by this act, as those that have been heretofore authorized, shall be signed by the Treasurer of the United States, or, for the Treasurer, by such person as may be specially appointed by the Secretary of *the Treasury for such purpose*, and shall be countersigned by the Register of the Treasury, or, for the Register, by such persons as the Secretary of the Treasury may specially appoint for such purpose; and all the provisions of the act entitled, "to authorize the issue of treasury notes," approved the 23d day of December, 1857, so far as they can be applied to this act, and not inconsistent therewith, are revived and re-enacted, and *the sum of three hundred thousand dollars* is appropriated to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to carry the act into effect.

THE LOSS AT SOMERSET.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 22.—The entire United States loss in the late fight was 39 killed and 150 wounded.

General Thomas' forces took 14 cannon and 1,400 mules and horses. General Thomas is across the river in pursuit. The steamboat and eight barges used by the rebels were burned. The United States troops used the remaining barges in crossing the river.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 22.—General Thomas now reports the Federal loss at the recent battle at 39 killed and 127 wounded. Among the wounded are Col. McCook, of the Ninth Ohio, and his aid, Lieut. Burt, of the Eighteenth United States Infantry. Of the rebels Zollicoffer and 114 others were killed, 116 wounded, and 45 taken prisoners.

A prisoner says that Geo. B. Crittenden was the first in command of the rebel forces, and Zollicoffer the second. Crittenden fled to the woods, taking the wrong road, and it is supposed he will be captured.

The Federal forces actively engaged were the Tenth Indiana, Fourth Kentucky, Second Minnesota, and Ninth Ohio—their respective loss being in the order named.

They were reinforced, after the first and soverest *engagement, by the Twelfth and Eighteenth Ken*tucky, First and Second Tennessee, Fourteenth, Thirty-first, Thirty-fifth, and Thirty-sixth Ohio Regiments, and Standard's, Whitmore's, and Kenney's batteries.

The rebel forces were estimated at 10,000.

Green C. Clay, of Bourbon county, son of