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BY JOHN W. FORNEY,
OFFICE, No. 111 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

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The Press.

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THE WAR PRESS,
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1863.

THE REBELLION.

General Hunter Assumes Command of Gen. Foster's Expeditionary Force—Suppression of Treasonable Papers in Missouri—Improved Morals of the Army of the Potomac—What Gen. Rosecrans is Doing—The United States Revenue Tax.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH—GEN. HUNTER'S REINFORCEMENTS.

We have advices from Hilton Head down to the 11th inst. It appears that when Gen. Foster left to come North he turned over his command to Gen. Naglee. After his departure the following order was issued by Gen. Hunter, but whether in consultation with Gen. Foster or not we cannot say, but presume that it was done with the full knowledge and consent of the latter, as he manifested, when here, no feeling of dissatisfaction towards Gen. Hunter:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, Port Royal, S. C.,
February 11, 1863.

The undersigned hereby assumes command of the reinforcements recently arrived in this department from North Carolina; such troops on their arrival here, having become a portion of the Tenth army corps.

Brigadier Generals Henry M. Naglee and Orris S. Ferry will remain at Hilton Head, Port Royal, S. C., commanding divisions, will cause the various staff officers of their commands to report and make due returns and reports to these headquarters. They will also cause the chief quartermasters of these divisions to turn over all marine transportation brought down with them to Lieut. Col. J. J. Elwell, chief quartermaster of this department.

The divisions commanded by Brigadier Generals Henry M. Naglee and Orris S. Ferry will remain intact. It is present the intention of Gen. Naglee, as senior officer, assuming the command of all the United States forces on St. Helena Island, with the exception of those stationed at Port Royal, who will continue to report to Post Headquarters, Hilton Head Island, until further orders.

D. HUNTER, Major Gen. Commanding.

General Hunter's order suspending the land sales has not, it seems, had the intended effect, for on the 11th inst.—the day advertised for the sale of Beaufort parish, Port Royal Island, S. C., to commence—the tax commissioners convened before a curious multitude and bid off a town lot. The price paid is stated to have been about $1,000. It was generally considered cheap, and the multitude were in favor of continuing the auction; but the commissioners adjourned the sale until the next day.

DISLOYAL NEWSPAPERS SUPPRESSED.

HEADQUARTERS, ST. LOUIS DISTRICT,
OFFICE OF PROVOST MARSHAL,
ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14, 1863.

I. The following extract, from general orders No. 5, Headquarters, Department of the Missouri, October 1st, 1862, is republished for the information of those to whom it may be applicable:

"I, ********** No public trade or commercial business shall be carried on within this department *except by persons strictly loyal.* No license shall be given to disloyal persons, and any license or authority to such persons, which has been or may be given by any officer, civil or military, within this command, is rescinded and void."

II. Pursuant to the above, it is ordered that persons in this district found to be engaged in selling or distributing disloyal papers, speeches, or other documents, or permitting their places of business or trade to be used for such sale or distribution, will be thereafter debarred from carrying on such business or trade. No man can be *strictly loyal*, whatever he may claim to be, who, during a rebellion like this, engages for gain in such a business as to encourage among the people opposition to the Government in its efforts to suppress it.

By order of Brigadier General E. A. Carr, commanding.

GEO. E. LEIGHTON,
Major and Provost Marshal, St. Louis District.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The following letter, from a private in the Army of the Potomac to Hon. W. W. Windom, of Minnesota, is full of interest:

FALMOUTH, Feb. 8, 1863.

I arrived in Falmouth in due time, and went immediately to the regiment, as I had a number of things for the boys. I found all the boys in good health, and, I am glad to say, in better spirits than a few days from when I was with them a week before. They begin to think that General Hooker is *the* man, after all. Here is an example: Sharpe's Rifles (Company K), which I heard when passing through the regiment yesterday. A jolly Irishman was disposing of a certain article of dress and enjoying himself for the first time the luxury of a piece of "bread." "Bedad," says he, "and if Gen. Hooker will fight as he did when I was in the service of the rebels," It is often spoken of by them that since Hooker has had command, they have had more liberty than ever before. You should see how rapidly General Hooker is gaining the confidence and respect of the troops; and another thing, I have, on many occasions, during the day, heard the wish expressed that he could have been in command of the enemy. This I believe to be the wish of the whole, or at least most, of the army.

GEN. ROSECRANS AND HIS SUCCESSOR.

MURFREESBORO, Feb. 16, 1863.

On Thursday Col. James Monroe, of the 12th Illinois, Gen. J. Harlan's division, left camp with him 500 men of his own regiment, and 20 of Stokes' Tennessee cavalry, and started out to break up the quarters of the enemy in the direction of Cainville. Four miles from the town he encountered a body of rebel cavalry, belonging to Morgan's command, 500 strong. After a sharp conflict he completely routed them, killing twenty, wounding a large number, and taking six prisoners. He also captured fifty horses, and destroyed nearly 300 stand of arms.

Colonel Monroe returned late last night. During the action three of his men were wounded. The loyal address by the Ohio officers still continues to meet with the heartiest approval of the troops, and I have not yet heard of a single man who refused to sanction it.

General Rosecrans gave it his warmest approval. The Pennsylvania regiments have been seeking Generals Rosecrans and Negley, with patriotic songs of their own composing.

The letters of the commanding general to the Ohio Legislature and City Council of Cincinnati are passed about from man to man, increasing the admiration which the soldiers entertain for their leader. Through-out the camps there is an encouraging feeling of enthusiasm and goodwill.

The weather continues horrible, raining one day and snowing the next.

It is definitely ascertained that John Morgan's command, 3,000 strong, are near Cainville.

THE REVENUE TAX—WHERE THE INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT CONSCRIPTS.

Total amounts remitted to the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, *on account of* internal revenue tax, by the collectors of the several States, to January 31, 1863:

Maine	$139,063 05
New Hampshire	76,000 00
Vermont	91,000 00
Massachusetts	1,250,000 00
Rhode Island	183,000 00
Connecticut	189,808 85
New York	2,205,255 03
New Jersey	325,485 10
Pennsylvania	1,353,783 78
Delaware	22,000 00
Maryland	312,143 21
District of Columbia	36,016 49
Virginia	4,715 00
Kentucky	267,010 05
Missouri	427,000 00
Ohio	847,680 68
Indiana	169,595 00
Illinois	367,742 55
Michigan	142,103 55
Wisconsin	120,975 00
Iowa	50,000 00
Minnesota	8,017 33
California	230,115 86
Total	$9,067,538 77

The above are exclusive of receipts from corporations, from salaries, and from stamps.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Progress of the Work of Reorganization of the Army—Management of Courts Martial—Dismissal of Incompetents—Orders Relative to outstanding the Troops, &c.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Monday, Feb. 16, 1863.

Nearly every day brings a new order from the new commander relative to the discipline or *morale* of the army. The following is the latest issued:

COURTS MARTIAL—CAPTS. BERRY AND SEYMOUR, SECOND NEW YORK CAVALRY, DISMISSED.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, Va., Feb. 11, 1863.
GENERAL ORDERS No. 11.

1. The general commanding has been informed that General Orders Nos. 154 and 162, of 1862, from the War Department, authorizing the enlistment of volunteers into the regular service, have been rescinded.

2. The proceedings of general courts martial in cases of commissioned officers, where the sentence extends to dismissal from the service, having in several instances been forwarded by division and separate brigade commanders to the War Department instead of these headquarters, the act of Congress of Dec. 24, 1861, relative to courts martial in the army, is republished for general information.

An act relative to courts martial in the army:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in time of war the commander of a division or separate brigade may appoint general courts-martial, and confirm, execute, pardon and mitigate their sentences, as followed and sentenced in the sixty-fifth and eighty-ninth articles of war to commanders of armies and departments: *Provided*, That sentences of such courts, extending to loss of life, or dismission of a commissioned officer, shall require the confirmation of the general commanding the army in the field to which the division or brigade belongs: *And provided further*, That when the division or brigade commander shall be the accuser or prosecutor, the court shall be appointed by the next highest commander.

Approved Dec. 24, 1861.

With foregoing act in his hand he has modified and not dismissed as yet the sentence of death by various army courts-martial, until the same shall have been approved by the President.

3. The attention of all officers concerned is directed to paragraphs 881 and 886, General Regulations, which are as follows:

"Paragraph 881. Every court-martial shall keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings, to be authenticated by the signatures of the president and judge advocate; which shall also certify, in like manner, the sentence pronounced by the court in each case. The record must show that the court was organized as the law requires; that the court and judge advocate were duly sworn in the presence of the prisoner; that he was previously asked whether he had any objection to any member, and his answer thereto. A copy of the order appointing the court will be entered on the record in each case."

"Paragraph 886. The judge advocate shall transmit the proceedings, without delay, to the officer having the authority to confirm the sentence, who shall state, at the end of the proceedings in each case, his decision and orders thereon."

4. Subsistence stores may be sold and issued to citizens residing within the limits of this army by commissaries of subsistence, under the following restrictions:

1. *A certificate*, under oath of the purchaser, that he is without the means of subsistence, and that he is unable to sustain life without being permitted to make such purchases. The certificate to be approved by the corps commander, to whom application is made, who must thereupon direct the sales.

Such sales shall not at one time exceed the quantity necessary to sustain the applicant and the members of his family five days.

2. Issues to destitute citizens may be made under the same restrictions, upon returns approved by the Provost Marshal General of the Army of the Potomac.

The parties in all cases will be required to take the oath of allegiance before sales or issues are made to them.

3. Captains Benjamin C. Berry and Allen M. Seymour, 2d regiment, New York cavalry, having deserted the regiment while on a march to meet the enemy, Jan. 21, 1863, and having left this army without proper authority, and continued absent up to the present time, are dishonorably dismissed from the military service of the United States, subject to the approval of the President.

By command of Major General HOOKER.
S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant General.

General Hooker is infusing a fresh vigor and life into the army. The impression which prevails to some extent through the country, that the Army of the Potomac has become demoralized, is without foundation. Political prejudices, and diversity of opinion as to the merits of different generals, may have led to considerable discussion on the part of the troops, but this is all. Officer and private alike have never wavered in their patriotism and devotion for the old flag, which they enlisted to defend.

New and stringent regulations for preventing desertion should have long since been adopted. It should not be surprised were the number of deserters from the armies in the East to amount to fully one hundred thousand.

The weather continues very changeable; yesterday mild and beautiful, to-day blustering and stormy.

ARMY OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

The "Queen of the West" of Again—Attack upon Steamers—Union Man Hung—The Great Mississippi Canal—Another Canal—Condition of the Army—Guerrilla Operations, &c.

GEN. ELLET ON ANOTHER RUN.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 16, 10 P. M.—Advices from Vicksburg to Friday say the Queen of the West has been supplied with coal, and had gone on another expedition down the river.

It is believed that a grand movement is to be commenced shortly which will put Vicksburg in our possession. The movement is so formidable in character that it is certain of success. It is feared the enemy may evacuate before it is fully brought to bear. The nature of the movement is contraband.

GUERILLA ATTACK UPON STEAMERS.

The steamers Ed. Walsh and Empress were fired upon by the enemy at Bolivar, Landing on Saturday. The rebels fired fifty-three rounds of shell and solid shot, of which six took effect. Wm. Burk, a private on the Ed. Walsh, was killed. Both the Walsh and the Empress were injured, but not seriously. The gunboat Bragg left Batavia only two hours before. There were no rebels near the enemy there. The Conestoga was sent to look after them. The enemy is supposed to be Stark's regiment. The images of warfare were entirely changed in this instance—no summons was made to surrender, and no blank shot was fired. The officers commanding the boats behaved gallantly, steaming through the raining missiles, and reaching here with little damage. Burk leaves a wife and family at St. Louis.

A UNION MAN HUNG.

Roney Hutchinson, from Danville, Kentucky, was arrested by the Confederates at Pontotoc, Mississippi, last week, with a belt around his body containing $25,000 in counterfeit Confederate notes. He was tried up and hanged till dead.

THE MISSISSIPPI CANAL.

The work on the canal is still in progress, and the hopes entertained that *it will be deepened and cut out* so as to be made of practical utility. Large dredges from Louisville were soon expected here to assist *in the digging. Another inlet or mouth is being cut* through a line with the current of the river, and the whole canal widened and deepened. Active *operations are not likely to be commenced for some* time. It is supposed that the object is to make the canal of sufficient depth to allow of the passage of the gunboats and transports through, when the battery at Vicksburg commanding the mouth of the canal will be silenced, and the whole fleet brought to *co-operate with Banks in the attack upon Port Hudson*, which it is believed can be easily carried by an attack from the north. The combined forces will then attack Vicksburg, landing the troops at a point south of the city, cutting off their communication with the interior, and attacking them in nearly an opposite direction from that made by General Sherman.

READY TO RUN THE GAUNTLET AGAIN.

The ram Queen of the West was still at the foot of the mouth. It will be recollected that the Queen failed to make the attempt to pass Port Hudson only because she was afraid her fuel would give out. Should her coal supply be sufficient, the Queen will come down a barge of coal past the batteries, which will enable the Queen to move wherever she pleases.

CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

The sickness of the troops was principally confined to those who were in the former expedition up the Yazoo. Their health is much improved, and altogether affairs are wearing a more flattering aspect.

The fleet of transports is still at Young's Point.

THAT OTHER CANAL.

A corps of experienced engineers is engaged in operations looking to the opening of a canal from Lake Providence, via Tensas, Red river, and the Mississippi, but nothing is now definitely known in reference to this projected enterprise.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Col. Bissell's sappers and miners left Memphis, for Vicksburg, on the 12th.

Last Wednesday, as the ram Fulton, with a barge loaded with coal, was proceeding to Vicksburg, it was fired into by the rebels at Cypress Bend, from 12-pound field pieces. Two steam pipes were broken, which rendered the vessel unmanageable. One person was killed, and another so frightened that he jumped overboard and was drowned. The boat and barge were hit in twenty-four places. Before the enemy could make the capture, the rams Switzerland and Wilson came up from below, and scattered them by throwing shells. It is not known that any of the rebels were killed. The Fulton was towed down to the nearest port.

The work of cutting an entrance for boats into Lake Providence from the river is proceeding with spirit. Ready access is expected to the Black, Ouachita and Red rivers. General Gorman is pursuing with energy the work of clearing out the old passage, so as to make it navigable to the Blackwater. There is depth of water enough; but stumps, trees, and vegetation choke up the passage. If the plan is successful, it gives admission to the Blackwater; thence to the Tallahatchie; whence the boats can reach the rear of Vicksburg via the Yazoo river. General Gorman has a strong picket force half a mile ahead of the working party, which has had several skirmishes with the enemy. Some were killed on both sides. The enemy are planting cannon at the important spot where the pass enters the Blackwater, and accumulating a force there. They are engaged in filling the channel with trees, to delay the work of the Federals. On Wednesday a boat was detached and dispatched to within two miles of the point of junction with the Blackwater.

On Wednesday a scouting party came up with a body of the enemy, five miles back of Lake Providence. The engagement was a warm one. The Federals lost a few men; but many rebels were killed, and thirty-two prisoners taken, among whom were the colonel and major. More than ninety horses were captured.

CONDITION OF THE GREAT CUT-OFF.

[From the Memphis Bulletin, Feb. 15.]

We learn from persons from the fleet, that no movement is going on. There is no appearance of immediate attack on Vicksburg. If any plan has been matured, and now in the course of operation, it is so well kept up the secret that no one has any idea of its nature. Apparently the men are doing their duty in view the grand end in view, but no one knows what is the object. Active operations are not likely to be commenced for some time. It is supposed that the object is to make the canal of sufficient depth to allow of the passage of the gunboats and transports through, when the battery at Vicksburg commanding the mouth of the canal will be silenced, and the whole fleet brought to co-operate with Banks in the attack upon Port Hudson, which it is believed can be easily carried by an attack from the north. The combined forces will then attack Vicksburg, landing the troops at a point south of the city, cutting off their communication with the interior, and attacking them in nearly an opposite direction from that made by General Sherman.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE EXHIBITION.

at Wallack's theatre, has passed off to the satisfaction of the faculty, students, and the friends of the latter, though there came near being an offensive tumult in one portion of the exercises. A student named Ferguson took occasion to refer, in the course of his essay on "Eloquence," to the emancipation proclamation, and volunteered a "Good boss Abraham Lincoln." In an instant almost half the crowded audience commenced hissing vociferously, and were opposed by the other half with equally vigorous cheering, the combined uproar lasting about five minutes, and greatly terrifying the ladies present.

A NEW PICTURE,

of striking merit, by the celebrated artist Weir, is on public exhibition to-day, for the first time, at the International Gallery. It is styled "The Consecration of a Nun," and represents a majestic chapel interior, with a venerable Bishop in full canonicals blessing a beautiful *religeuse* kneeling at his feet, before the high altar; whilst an acolyte swinging a censor and two assisting priests are the other principal figures. The congregation and choir are dimly seen in the body of the church. The benignant expression of the Bishop's countenance, the beautiful attitude of the nun, and the admirable manonniers of light and color, make the picture more impressive than any modern work I have looked at in some time. Its exhibition at this religious season is happily appropriate. STUYVESANT.

STATES IN REBELLION.

Rebel Rumors of Union Movements—Foreign Relations of the Confederacy in a Bad Condition—Second Bombardment of Galveston—Melancholy Tone of the Richmond Press—The Blockade of Charleston, &c.

NEWS FROM CHARLESTON.

[Telegram to Richmond Enquirer of Feb. 14.]

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 13, 1863.

The French war-steamer Milan passed our bar yesterday, from Baltimore, bound to Port Royal. She is expected here this week. The frigate Ironsides maintains her position permanently among the blockading squadron off Charleston.

A Yankee picket was captured Wednesday evening by our scouts, on Hilton Head Island. He confirms the intelligence of an impending attack on Charleston, and thinks it will be made in about a fortnight.

GEORGIA.

The Columbus (Georgia) *Times* says:

We have been somewhat reminded of a former period by the appearance of our streets within the last few days. Drays loaded with cotton have been perambulating Randolph street *en route* to Muscogee depot, with a frequency unknown since the beginning of the war, and men are seen walking about with more haste and eagerness than we have witnessed in many a day. The cotton platform of the Muscogee road is crowded with bales; as though some people were disposed to regard the opinion of Chancellor Kent on the question of "blockade" as authority. The staple is freely selling at twenty cents, and this is about the only thing that balks the reminiscence of former times.

The Savannah *News* of the 9th inst. says:

"We are authorized to apprehend an attack from the Yankees on Savannah at almost any moment. It is idle for us to speculate on the subject. We feel confident that our military authorities are on the alert, and that they need no prompting from the press. When the enemy comes he will find us ready and resolute. We do not feel the least apprehension for apprehension of the result. Let every one promptly and courageously perform his duty, and the vain-glorious boast of the Northern invaders will be cooled on our city, as they have done from attempts on Richmond and Vicksburg. They will learn to their cost that Southern women and more cities to be surrendered to their infamous rule."

The Rome *Southerner* says the wheat crop is very promising. The unusual amount of land has been sown, and unless it should be visited by the Yankees, a liberal harvest the crop in this region will be immense. The *Scientific American* says that Dr. Bauer has left this question in an unsatisfactory condition, according to his published report, for the Confederate Government, that he found any specific poison in the rye coffee which he examined, and his conclusions are just as legitimate against the use of rye for bread as they are against its use for coffee.

THE NEW POST OFFICE.—The new post office will be inaugurated next Monday at three o'clock in the afternoon. The affair will be celebrated by a Bible-reading by the postmaster, and a number of prominent citizens will make speeches. A number of Government officers will likewise partake of a banquet at either the Continental or Girard House. The general committee of arrangement is as follows: A. G. Cattell, chairman; G. W. Childs, E. L. Carey, Samuel Hazard, Christopher Hoffman, Charles Magarge, P. B. Mingle, Thomas W. Price, Thomas O'Neil, James Steel, Jas. Gowen, Jas. Dougherty, Jas. Dallas, Henry Gibbons, Geo. L. Buzby, C. J. Peterson, Henry Budd, Robt. P. King, George Cookman, L. G. Mytinger, Samuel J. Wiggins, Charles Gibbons, Charles Craig, T. W. Miller, Josiah Bryan, Thomas Allman, W. Duke Murphy; Lorin Blodget, secretary. Committees on invitations, reception, banquet, toasts, music, finance, etc., have also been appointed.

ARRIVAL OF SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS.—Yesterday afternoon a number of sick and wounded soldiers arrived at Philadelphia, for the Citizens' Volunteer Hospital, Broad and Prince streets, and were kindly cared for. They will be sent this morning to Turner's Lane Hospital. Among the number are the following from

PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENTS.

Cyrus Martin, F, 45	J We Griffin, K, 115
John Porter, K, 45	Jno Karanah, K, 96
John McKinley, B, 45	Jno McDonald, C, 90
Geo A Scahldt, F, 110	Jno Brannan, B, 110
Andrew J Gray, C, 150	Lewis Martin, K, 49
Nathan Pick, D, 150	Jacob Stark, A, 50
Jacob F Nelson, E, 150	Tobias Richard, G, 50
Geo F Rhoads, F, 150	J L Leary, B, 23
Peter Rementer, F, 150	J H Leary, B, 90
Martin Brayman, D, 150	Jno Smith, E, 110
Jno A Pearson, D, 150	J Leary, B, 23
Henry Marris, A, 150	C W Burdick, K, 145
Hugh Dunning, K, 116	Robert McCline, E, 136

The following belonged to

NEW JERSEY REGIMENTS.

A Skidmore, F, 20	Seth Meeks, E, 1
Peter Vannansdale, F, 15	Thomas Mack, F, 7
Albert Horton, B, 25	

A STATED MEETING of the Franklin Institute was held last evening, at their hall, in Seventh street, above Chestnut. After the usual preliminary business, an improved stereoscopic case, invented by Col. E. G. Chorman, was exhibited. The lenses are mounted upon a piece of metal, or other suitable material, and hinged to a detached block, which slides within the case. A common card case may be used for this purpose, the cover being so contoured for the lenses, frame, and its block as to fit within it, and the case closed, so that the whole may be readily carried in the pocket. If its desired, the lenses may be entirely removed, and the case used only for cards.

Several glass tubes (from Thomas Shaw) were exhibited, as showing a peculiarity in the manner of fracture, arising from the manner in which they are formed.

AID WHERE IT IS DESERVED.—The Soldiers' Central Aid Society meeting at Grace Church, corner of Twelfth and Cherry streets, are much in need of material and funds to continue their patriotic work of supplying such needed comforts to the sick and wounded soldiers as the army hospitals do not afford. This society has been in existence for more than a year, we believe, and has furnished two of the hospitals with most of the things where most required. It is admirably managed, and our readers will be entirely safe in sending contributions of anything that can be made available by the benevolent society. It meets every Friday morning, at Twelfth and Cherry sts.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.—Yesterday the following awards were made at the office of Army Clothing and Equipage, in this city: James Toft, New York, cavalry standards, at $20 each; Klemm & Bro., Philadelphia, cavalry trumpets, $2.22½ each; Klemm & Bro., Philadelphia, bugles, $2.46 each; Morgan & Wellbank, Philadelphia, drum heads snare, 37½c each; Fitler, Weaver, & Co., Philadelphia, drum cords, 20c each; Stote & Woodman, New York, regimental flags, furnished by tax collectors and not accounted for. Agreed to.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Simpson, Quin, and Painter.

[illegible]

MR. MOORE offered a resolution of inquiry as to the whereabouts of the Chief Engineer of the Fairmount Works, and the cause why the services of the Chief Engineer of the Water Works for the construction of three turbine wheels at Fairmount has been faithfully carried out.

After an extended explanation by Mr. Moore, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Water.

A New Sewer.

MR. QUIN offered an ordinance authorizing the construction of a sewer in Market street, from Twenty-third street to the Schuylkill. Agreed to.

All the resolutions and ordinances adopted in Select Council were concurred in and the Chamber adjourned.

The Mayor's Fifth Annual Message.

To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia:

In communicating a statement of the Government and Police of this city for the past year, as required by the Act of Consolidation, I feel that I may rely upon the continued favor of Almighty God towards this city in preserving to us the blessings of health, peace, plenty, and in bountifully rewarding the industry of its people.

The experience of almost nine years has shown the existing municipal system well adapted in its main features to the requirements of the growing community, and to regulate a district of large extent. The amendments in sections, modelled after those of the State Government, have been found useful, to prevent or stay inconsiderate and unwarranted enactments. Still, there are some things which experience is the lack of exclusive control or over matters of purely local concern. The theory of representative government is that of a compact between the law-maker and those for whom he legislates, and it presupposes an intelligent consent of the exercise of delegated power.

The laws which affect the general rights of person or property, and the projects which affect the common welfare, with those special decrees which can emanate alone from the supreme power of a State, may each and all receive the proper consideration of its legislators; but it cannot be presumed that enactments of merely local application can receive the time and thought which is needed for their comprehension can be had by those who are the representatives of remote places. The grant of municipal privileges to a community is a recognition of superior fitness for the management of its own affairs; and when such powers have been conferred, they should be secure from all encroachment or interference. Years have passed since the city was in error, or willingly, may at will modify the frame of any government, and enlarge or diminish its sphere; but the opening of such a precedent, by taking away the rights of local interest, have been made the peculiar province of the City Council, is an impulse to representatives of those who are concerned, and they should be left solely to their determination.

The system which governed the late districts at the time of consolidation are for the most part yet satisfactory to their former citizens. The Northern administration is frequently embarrassed by want of uniformity. The draft of a revised municipal code, which was authorized in 1860, and which the undersigned commissioners charged with its preparation, after a delay of two years received, approved and adopted by the Select Council, but, with the exception of three conservative unimportant sections, failed to obtain the concurrent action of the other chamber. The necessity of imposing unlike restrictions and unequal penalties upon citizens of the same jurisdiction has been more than once noticed in previous messages, but I feel bound adverted to as an injustice which deserves prompt remedy.

The receipts of the treasury during 1862 were $4,003,472 29 from loans and revenues, $8,526 78 from sale of loan, and $222,047.06 from miscellaneous sources, including credits to the several sinking funds, amounting to $8,[illegible]. The balance in the treasury, at the close of the preceding year, made $7,396,376.37 total assets.

The payments of all kinds by the treasury within the same period were $6,302,672.15, leaving $1,053,704.19 to the credit of the city. The unpaid warrants of 1861 and prior dates amounted to $1,035,360.07 of which $16,001.[illegible] 360.32 have been liquidated; the remaining $102,221.72, with $657,[illegible]36.35, due in 1862, still leave $745,032.68 as a floating debt.

The outstanding warrants drawn before 1862 were provided for in part by the collection of the deficiencies of revenue. The resort to such means of defraying the current expenses of Government cannot be approved. The practice should be discontinued, and the policy of the consolidation of the city, to cover up financial blunders, or to avoid the assessment of proper taxation.

The credit of the city has been fully maintained with the holders of its loans, but those having claims for service or supplies have too often been denied payment, and obliged to dispose of their warrants at a ruinous rate the market offered. Such just cause of complaint has been productive of unnecessary and injurious to a financial system which supplies the treasury with adequate funds during only a portion of each year. The payment, in the month of January, of the semi-annual interest upon the funded debt withdraws from the treasury whatever balance may be on hand from the previous, and leaves it comparatively without means until it can be replenished from the collection of the water rents and taxes. The larger part of these two resources are paid within the earlier half of the year, and during that period the demands for current expenses can usually be met promptly. The receipts of revenue diminish in the latter six months, but the expenditures of the several departments are necessarily unabated, and thus their payment soon becomes inconvenient and embarrassing. For the annual statement of a large amount of postponed warrants, and of an approximating an amount of unreclaimed taxes; or, in other words, the expenses of the city Government, always payable within the year, are based upon estimates of revenue which can never be wholly collected during such period.

To remedy an evil which must fall chiefly upon those who can least afford a discount upon their warrants, it is suggested that the treasurer might issue certificates of deposit for such sums as may be tendered, bearing legal interest, and payable at any stipulated time within six months after date, to be secured by a pledge of the tax levy of the current year, as well as by the faith of the corporation. These certificates would offer desirable means of temporary investment, by those whose funds became generally known, would readily produce supplies for the prompt payment of all claims. Their whole issue should be limited to a reasonable per centage of the assessed tax, and the dates of repayment be regulated by the probable aggregate receipts from successive periods.

The interest which would accrue upon these deposits would not exceed the amount now endorsed upon outstanding warrants, and charged for temporary loans; but, whatever the cost, it is just that the city should provide for the prompt and full payment of its indebtedness, and that its creditors should not be the sufferers from its inefficient arrangements. In other cities, methods of anticipating the revenue differing but slightly from that here suggested have long been advantageously practised. The powers vested in Councils may not suffice for the adoption of such plan, but the needful legislation would be granted by the State authorities in favor of any judicious system that would obviate the discreditable to which the treasury is daily subjected.

The funds of the Girard Trust deposited with the Treasurer were $181,278.42, amounting, with the balance from 1861, of $82,924.77, to the sum of $264,203.22, of which $95,429.57 were disbursed, leaving $168,773.58 to the credit of that account. The several minor trusts had an aggregate balance of $4,622.91, which their respective income increased to $23,487.84; and of which $95,222.27 have been expended in carrying out their intent.

The certificates of loan issued by the Treasurer during 1862 amounted to $2,403,700, besides $385,300 delivered to the trustees of the Gas Works. The negotiation of these securities, made from time to time, as their proceeds were required, varied in price with the fluctuations of the money market—a portion having been disposed of at a discount of $46,350.64. While the remainder yielded a premium of $49,323.12, which was passed to the appropriate sinking funds.

Of the matured debt, $194,162.39 have been called for and redeemed, and $95,100.00 have been cancelled by special direction of Council. The true increase of the municipal debt has thus been $2,427,657.61, the larger part whereof was created and expended for bounties to volunteers and support of their families, or towards preparations for the defence of the city.

The entire funded debt of Philadelphia on the 1st of January, 1863, amounted to $24,354,641.62, of which there were $2,112,794.80 five per cent. and $22,241,846.82 six per cent. loans; of the former, $214,444.76, and of the latter, $110,142.46 previously matured, but had not been presented for payment, although ample provision was made for that purpose.

The twenty-one separate sinking funds, for the redemption of the loans to which they respectively belong, as the same shall mature, held, at the close of the year, $720,756.65 of the six per cent., and $10,398.30 of the five per cent. city securities as permanent investments, with $15,791.76 to be converted into the funded debt whenever feasible. The unissued certificates of the several loans amounted to $705,000, which, when disposed of, will enlarge the debt to $25,000,000; and to this sum must be added a further loan, to replace the advances from the usual resources of the treasury made for the relief of the families of volunteers, or for other purposes, and which have been expressly predicated upon such measure.

The unusual number of warrants drawn during the past year greatly increased the labors of the Treasury department and those of the City Controller, more especially of the latter, in whose department the services of four additional clerks were for a time indispensable. The act of consolidation requires the controller to publish annually a full exhibit of the financial condition of the city and of all its fiscal concerns; but through the inability of stating the accounts, there are occasional discrepancies between some of the details of such statement and the returns made to the Mayor from the department of Finance, which should these are susceptible of ready explanation, and do not affect the general result.

The tax assessed for 1862, were $3,797,663.08 in aggregate amount, on which after abatements for discounts and deductions of exonerations, $3,526,339.70 have been received, leaving $338,490.64 uncollected. The receipts from the seven preceding years yielded $2,627.31, and payments were made from the receipts of $461,[illegible]41, for the levy of the State. The total receipts of city tax were $501,462.04, of which excess of those paid during the previous year. It has been fully demonstrated that the delay in the collection of taxes arises from the time of payment to the end of the year, does not operate to induce citizens to wait with impatience for the prompt settlement of their taxes, and it is worthy of consideration whether a scale of increasing penalties, to be imposed on all delinquents after the first of July, would not prove satisfactorily.

In a former message, comment was made upon the unfolded absurdities and defects of the existing mode of assessment, which through inherent causes is insufficient and inequitable. The subject has been frequently before Councils, but the Legislature, now in session, alone can provide a remedy, which should be the most judicious method of distributing the burdens of taxation.

The Department of Law, in the performance of its especial duty, has collected $35,220.07 for municipal claims, interest, and costs, besides $34,941.15 from other transactions, in which its services have been required.

The report of the late City Solicitor, which is herewith communicated, offers many valuable and practical suggestions, well worthy consideration. Its author, from the intelligent experience of one whose official power was exercised for nearly the period of the Civil Government, which are therein proposed, particularly those relating to assessments, public printing, municipal notices, and the number of supervisors, are judicious and commendatory.

The Department of Surveys has been engaged with its appropriate duties in the outer districts, and sixteen plans of revision or new regulation were completed, which accompanied all the other plans, make it appear there he deposited a watch, and some money with me, that I gave him a receipt for the watch, and he arrested on the charge of larceny. In the afternoon he came to the station house in company with Hogg; the money and watch were handed back to him, and here to him, and here to the same. Mr. Ross said there was a man at his house that accused Hogg of stealing the watch and money. There was some conversation after this in which Mr. Hogg said he had the watch in the yard, but somebody had stolen it.

Mr. Hogg said he desired to make a statement. The prosecutor had been drinking with him, and he was drunk; he called all hands upto take a drink, and asked for a lunch and got it; he stopped at the house until 9 o'clock, when he left; he had his pocket book with him, he gave Mrs. Ross $30 for extra trouble he had given her; paid with Mr. Ross for the money and watch; after Mr. Ross deposited at the station house; Mr. Plumley insisted on my taking his watch; I hid it in the yard; a boy found it and gave it to me; I gave it to Mr. Ross; I went to look after it he watch was gone; this is briefly the whole story of the case; I have been unjustly in the hands of the law; he came there on Wednesday and remained until Friday evening, and was in bed most of the time.

The case here closed, and the defendants were required to enter bail in the sum of three thousand dollars each to answer a charge of larceny.

A Soldier Charged with Larceny.

Charles S. Dilks, a soldier belonging to the provost guard, was arraigned on the charge of the larceny of the sum of $18.50, the property of Mary Ann Stokes, a German woman, residing at No. 431 Coates street. It appeared that the prisoner had visited the house of desertor, and at seven o'clock on last Monday evening the girl sent a little boy to follow him to arrest him. As the soldiers came in the husband got out of a bed and tried to escape. The prosecutrix alleges that the money was lying on a table in the room, and that the prisoner did it up. When the soldiers came in she blew the light out, and when they left and run out of the store that she saw the accused take the money. She was questioned very minutely on this point, and to explain how she could see the money in the dark she said the light was out, replied that the stove shed light enough for that.

A little girl, about ten years of age, testified to seeing a man standing along side the accused interrupted proceedings, as follows:

Prisoner to Alderman. "I have no more questions to ask."

Alderman to both prisoners. "You are required to enter bail in the sum of three thousand dollars each to answer a charge of larceny."

The prisoners were taken down.

A Singular Alleged Larceny Case.

Carl Ecker and Frederick Ecker, the owners of a public house at the corner of Broad street and Fetter lane were arraigned on the charge of the larceny of a mantle-piece, valued at $80, and a clock, of the same money, between $60 and $65, the property of Charles Hunter, residing at Frankford, Kensington. Hunter testified as follows: It must have been on last Monday week when I went to the place of Mr. Ross: I don't know what it was that I went for, I don't know, or have got from there; the first thing I knew was when I found myself in prison; I was there all night; I was drunk, and he said Mr. Hogg had my watch; he gave me an order for the watch; I did not see it, and he said there would be trouble about it; he then accompanied me to Mr. Ross, and neither of them could tell anything about it.

Charles Massey sworn—I am attached to the Police Department; on Friday morning about eleven o'clock, this man (Mr. Ross) came to the station house and desired to see the Lieutenant, as he had some money he wanted to deposit; I went to the house with him; there he deposited