THE PRESS,
PUBLISHED DAILY (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED,)
BY JOHN W. FORNEY.
OFFICE, No. 111 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

THE DAILY PRESS,
EIGHTEEN CENTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier. Mailed to Subscribers out of the City at EIGHT DOLLARS PER ANNUM, FOUR DOLLARS FOR SIX MONTHS, TWO DOLLARS FOR THREE MONTHS—invariably in advance for the time ordered.
☞ Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. Six lines constitute a square.

THE TRI-WEEKLY PRESS,
Mailed to Subscribers out of the City at FOUR DOLLARS PER ANNUM, in advance.

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.
606. ARCH STREET. 606.
FINE SHIRT AND WRAPPER EMPORIUM.
Full Assortment of
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,
IN GREAT VARIETY.
SUPERIOR QUALITY, AND AT MODERATE PRICES.
G. A. HOFFMANN,
Successor to W. W. KNIGHT.
ja3-stuth 3m 606 ARCH STREET, 606.

THE FINE SHIRT EMPORIUM,
Nos. 1 AND 3 NORTH SIXTH STREET.
JOHN C. ARRISON,
(FORMERLY J. BURR MOORE,)
IMPORTER AND MANUFACTURER OF
GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS
IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT MODERATE PRICES.
N. B.—Particular attention given to the making of Shirts, Collars, Drawers, &c. ja24-tap4

FINE SHIRT MANUFACTORY.
The subscriber would invite attention to his IMPROVED CUT OF SHIRTS,
Which he makes a specialty in his business. Also, constantly receiving,
NOVELTIES FOR GENTLEMEN'S WEAR.
J. W. SCOTT,
GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE,
No. 814 CHESTNUT STREET,
Four doors below the Continental.
ja17-1t

PAPER HANGINGS.
PHILADELPHIA
PAPER HANGINGS.
HOWELL & BOURKE,
CORNER OF
FOURTH AND MARKET STREETS,
MANUFACTURERS OF
PAPER HANGINGS
AND WINDOW CURTAIN PAPERS,
Offer to the Trade a LARGE AND ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF GOODS, from the cheapest Brown Stock to the Finest Decorations.
N. E. COR. FOURTH AND MARKET STREETS.
N. B.—Solid Green, Blue, and Buff WINDOW PAPERS of every grade. feb13-2m

CARPETS AND OIL CLOTHS.
GLEN ECHO MILLS,
GERMANTOWN, PA.
M'CALLUM & CO.,
MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, AND DEALERS,
509 CHESTNUT STREET,
(Opposite Independence Hall,)
CARPETINGS,
OIL CLOTHS, &c.
We have now on hand an extensive stock of CARPETINGS, of our own and other makes, to which we call the attention of cash and short-time buyers. feb14-3m

SEWING MACHINES.
STILL THERE!
AT THE OLD STAND,
628 CHESTNUT STREET,
Second floor, opposite Jayne's Hall,
WHEELER & WILSON
SEWING MACHINES.
The undersigned has not removed, but is ready at his Old Office to supply customers, at the lowest prices, with every style and quality of
WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINES.
Machines to hire; also, with first-class operators, to private families and hotels, by the day.
Machine attachments constantly on hand.
Such as require repairing and operators taught.
HENRY COY.
de25-3m

SINGER'S
SEWING MACHINES,
For Family Sewing and Manufacturing Purposes.
810 CHESTNUT STREET.
ja17-3m

THE WILCOX & GIBBS
FAMILY
SEWING MACHINES
have been greatly improved, making it
RUTHLESS NOISELESS,
and with Self-adjusting Hemmers, are now ready for sale by FAIRBANKS & EWING,
se27-tf 725 CHESTNUT Street.

CLOTHES-WRINGERS.
THE GREAT CLOTHES WRINGER.
"PUTNAM
"SELF-ADJUSTING CLOTHES WRINGER"
is warranted to be superior to any other in use.
EVERY FAMILY SHOULD POSSESS A CLOTHES WRINGER.
BECAUSE,
1st. It is a relief to the hardest part of washing-day.
2d. It enables the washing to be done in one-third less time.
3d. It saves clothes from the injury always given by wringing.
4th. It helps to *wash* the clothes as well as *dry* them.
WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO PROCURE ONE OF THIS KIND,
BECAUSE,
FIRST. The rolls being of vulcanized rubber, will bear hot and cold water, and will neither break nor tear off buttons.
SECOND. The frame being of iron, thoroughly galvanized, all danger from rust is removed, and the liability to shrink, swell, split, &c., so unavoidable in wooden machines, is prevented.
THIRD. The spiral springs over the rolls render this machine self-adjusting, so that small and heavy articles as well as articles uneven in thickness, are certain to receive uniform pressure.
FOURTH. The patent fastening by which the machine is tightened to the tub, we believe to be superior in simplicity and efficiency to any yet offered.
FIFTH. It will fit any tub, round or square, from one-half to one-and-a-quarter inches in thickness, without the least alteration.
RETAIL PRICE:
No. 1, $6.00.....No. 2, $5.00.
☞ Agents wanted in every county.
☞ Reliable and energetic men will be liberally dealt with.
For Sale at the
"WOODENWARE ESTABLISHMENT"
OF
A. H. FRANCISCUS,
No. 433 MARKET St. and No. 5 North FIFTH St.,
ja13-tuths 1m&3m Wholesale agent for Pennsylvania.

GAS FIXTURES, &c.
517 ARCH STREET.
C. A. VANKIRK & CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
CHANDELIERS
AND OTHER
GAS FIXTURES.
Also, French Bronze Figures and Ornaments, Porcelain and Mica Shades, and a variety of
FANCY GOODS
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
Please call and examine goods. de18-1y

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.
ROBERT SHOEMAKER & CO.,
Northeast Corner Fourth and RACE Streets,
PHILADELPHIA,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,
IMPORTERS AND DEALERS
IN
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
WINDOW AND PLATE GLASS,
MANUFACTURERS OF
WHITE LEAD AND ZINC PAINTS, PUTTY, &c.
AGENTS FOR THE CELEBRATED
FRENCH ZINC PAINTS.
Dealers and consumers supplied at
VERY LOW PRICES FOR CASH.
fm27-3m

FAIRBANKS' SCALES.
CAUTION.
The well-earned reputation of
FAIRBANKS' SCALES
Has induced the makers of imperfect balances to offer them as "FAIRBANKS' SCALES," and purchasers have thereby, in many instances, been subjected to fraud and imposition. Fairbanks' Scales are manufactured only by the original inventors, E. & T. FAIRBANKS & CO., and are adopted to every branch of the business, where a correct and durable Scales is desired.
FAIRBANKS & EWING,
General Agents,
ad10-tf MASONIC HALL, 715 CHESTNUT ST.

F. I. G.
ZINC ARMY AND TOILET MIRRORS,
The best in the world *for* finish and durability.
B. M. S.
The best brand Silk Finished
VELVET RIBBONS,
Sole Agent, BENJAMIN M. SMITH,
fe6-3m 155 DUANE Street, near West Broadway, New York.

The Press.

VOL. 6.—NO. 178. PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1863. THREE CENTS.

About Patching.

A month or two since, on a bright winter day,
My dear little wife, in her own pleasant way,
Said: "Charley, my darling, I'm *sorry* to see
That you're out at the elbows, and patched at the knee."

I looked at my elbows, and sure as you're born,
The cloth of my bang-up was thread-bare and torn;
I glanced at my trousers and could not but see,
Some neat little patches adorning each knee.

"My dear little woman," said I, with a laugh,
These worn and patched garments are better by half
Than many I see; pray why should I spend
More money for new ones, while you're here to mend."

A pearly tear glistened in Mary's blue eye—
"Oh, Charley! how cruel!" she cried with a sigh,
"When you wooed me and won me, I did not suppose
That you wanted me only to mend your old clothes."

"Keep no more, darling Mary," I cried, in despair,
"These horrible garments no longer I'll wear;
Dry your eyes, little woman, put on bonnet and shawl,
And together we'll hasten to famous OAK HALL."

One of the largest and best stocks of Clothing in the world, now on hand and selling very rapidly to people who want to save the heavy advance in price.
WANAMAKER & BROWN,
OAK HALL,
S. E. cor. SIXTH and MARKET Streets.

DRY GOODS JOBBERS.
SILKS! SILKS! SILKS!
AND
FANCY DRESS GOODS,
EMBRACING LATEST
PARIS NOVELTIES,
Together with a general assortment of
DRY GOODS,
IN DESIRABLE STYLES AND QUALITIES, AT
MODERATE PRICES.
JAS. R. CAMPBELL & CO.,
727 CHESTNUT STREET.

1863. SPRING. 1863.
RIEGEL, WEST & ERVIN
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
OF
DRY GOODS,
No. 47 NORTH THIRD STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.
Merchants visiting this city to purchase DRY Goods will find our Stock large and admirably assorted, and at LOW FIGURES. In certain classes of Goods we offer inducements to purchasers unequalled by any other house in Philadelphia. feb19-2m

JAMES, KENT,
SANTEE, & CO.,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
OF
DRY GOODS,
Nos. 239 and 241 N. THIRD STREET, ABOVE RACE,
PHILADELPHIA.
Have now open their usual
LARGE AND COMPLETE STOCK
OF
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS,
Among which will be found a more than usually attractive variety of
LADIES' DRESS GOODS;
Also, a full assortment of
MERRIMACK AND COCHECO PRINTS,
and
PHILADELPHIA-MADE GOODS.
To which they invite the *special* attention of cash buyers. fe18-2m

SPRING, 1863.
YARD, GILLMORE, & CO.,
Importers and Jobbers of
SILKS
AND
FANCY DRY GOODS,
NOS. 637 CHESTNUT AND 614 JAYNE STS.,
Have now open, of THEIR OWN IMPORTATION, a
LARGE AND HANDSOME STOCK
OF
SPRING GOODS,
COMPRISING
DRESS GOODS, SHAWLS, RIBBONS, GLOVES, &c.
Also, a full assortment of
WHITE GOODS, LINENS, FURNISHING GOODS, EMBROIDERIES, AND LACES.
The attention of the trade is requested. fe13-3m

1863. SPRING. 1863.
JOHNES, BERRY, & CO.,
(Successors to Abbott, Johnes, & Co.)
No. 527 MARKET, and 524 COMMERCE Streets,
PHILADELPHIA,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS OF
SILK
AND
FANCY DRY GOODS,
Have now open a LARGE AND ATTRACTIVE STOCK
IN
DRESS GOODS,
Adapted to the Season. Also, a Full Assortment in
WHITE GOODS, RIBBONS, GLOVES, SHAWLS, &c.,
Which they offer to the trade at the LOWEST PRICES.
CASH BUYERS
are particularly invited to examine our Stock. fe11-tf

ARMY CLOTHING, &c.
A. OPPENHEIMER,
No. 231 CHURCH Alley, Philadelphia,
CONTRACTOR AND MANUFACTURER OF
ARMY CLOTHING
Of Every Description.
ALSO,
TENTS,
HAVERSACKS,
PONCHOS,
CAMP BLANKETS,
KNAPSACKS, and
BED TICKINGS FOR HOSPITALS.
MATERIAL BOUGHT FOR CONTRACTORS.
All goods made will be guaranteed regulation in size.
N. B. Orders of any size filled with despatch. Ja7-3m

PAINTINGS, ENGRAVINGS, &c.
JAMES S. EARLE & SON,
IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF
LOOKING GLASSES.
DEALERS IN
OIL PAINTINGS,
ENGRAVINGS,
PORTRAIT,
PICTURE, and
PHOTOGRAPH FRAMES.
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS.
EXTENSIVE LOOKING GLASS WAREROOMS AND
GALLERY OF PAINTINGS,
816 CHESTNUT Street, Philadelphia.
fe31-tf

CARSON'S
SCOTCH-PATENT
SILVER-CLEANING POWDER.
Warranted free from acid, and *the same* as used in the houses of the nobility and gentry of Scotland. It is unrivalled for cleaning Gold and Silver Plate, Looking Glasses, etc. Prepared by A. H. CARSON, waiter, from a recipe given me by the head butler to the Duke of Atholl.
For sale by
HAZARD & CO., Twelfth and Chestnut streets.
I. TOWNSEND, Thirteenth and Chestnut streets.
T. BLACK, 1401 Chestnut streets.
W. H. NAULTY, 1500 Chestnut street.
J. CLARE, Fifth and Prune streets.
And wholesale by WILLIAM PARVIN, 1204 CHESTNUT Street, and
CASWELL, MACK, & CO., Chemists,
Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York,
And Thames street, Newport, R. I.
All orders addressed A. H. CARSON, Western Sub Post Office, Philadelphia. ja20-tuths 2m

COFFEE! COFFEE!! COFFEE!!!—
The best and cheapest prepared Coffee in the city. A trial will convince the most skeptical. No charge made if satisfaction is not rendered.
Prepared and for sale at the
Eagle Steam Spice and Coffee Works,
244 and 246 North FRONT Street,
fe14-3m HOWARD WORRELL.

625 GOLDTHORP & CO., 625
(Late of 16 North Fourth street.)
Manufacturers of
Tassels, Cords, Gimps, Fringes, Curtain Loops, Centre Tassels, Dress Trimmings, Blind Trimmings, Tapes, Braids, Neck-ties, Military Trimmings, etc.
fe3-1m No. 625 MARKET Street, Philadelphia.

JAMES M. SCOVEL,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Master and Examiner in Chancery.
ja8-3m* 125 PLUM Street Camden, N. J.

The Press.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1863.

FIRE-ALARM AND POLICE TELEGRAPH.

Mode of Transmitting Alarms—List of Officers, Operators, &c.—Statistical Tables—Concluding Remarks.

TRANSMISSION OF AN ALARM OF FIRE, ETC.

When the apparatus of one of these stations is set in motion for a fire, it is known instantly at the Central Office, by a simultaneous movement of the fire instrument. The operator in charge, acting upon the warning thus conveyed, at once abandons all other business, be it ever so pressing and important, and hastily examines the magnets, to discover upon which line the alarm is transmitted. As soon as the right one is ascertained, its particular magnet must be what is technically called "adjusted," before the instrument will register legibly the number of the required station. This is a nice operation, and requires a skilful and experienced hand, for the slightest variation of the process either way from a certain point is sure to spoil all, and cause the loss of valuable time in waiting for a repetition of the alarm. A correct record once obtained, the operator immediately notifies the Police and Gas Stations that he is about to strike for fire, by giving the "alarm signal" of ten strokes on their bells struck in rapid succession. This accomplished, he goes quickly to the speaking tube communicating with the watchman in the State House steeple, and orders the bell rung for the district and direction indicated by the register. Returning thence to the instrument, he commences to strike slowly and distinctly upon the gongs in the fire engine houses and upon the telegraph bells everywhere in the department the number of the station so received. A machine invented for the purpose is set going to effect this, or it may be done by striking with the hands upon keys connecting with the various Police, Fire, and Gas Circuits. This latter method is the one most generally adopted, but either may be used, at the option of the operator. Since the commencement of these proceedings but a minute or a minute and a half, at the furthest, has elapsed. In that brief space of time, incredible as it may appear, the alarm has been sent—from a point probably four or five miles distant—to the Central Office, and from thence in all directions throughout the city, and before another period of equal duration is passed, the firemen are in motion towards the scene of danger, and the streets resound with their shouts and the heavy lumbering noise of their powerful machines. The striking is usually continued for ten or fifteen minutes, and longer should the fire prove a serious one and render it advisable. Afterwards, when the bustle and excitement always attendant upon such occasions, has subsided, things are put in their usual trim, and the regular business of the office proceeded with. At six o'clock A. M. and twelve o'clock M. twelve slow and distinct strokes are rung on all these gongs and bells, in precisely the same manner as we have attempted to describe. This is done for the twofold purpose of giving the correct time and of testing the condition of the alarm apparatus. At seven o'clock A. M., five o'clock P. M., and twelve o'clock midnight, the bells in the police stations are struck slowly ten times, followed by a signal for "roll-call," to which the operators respond by striking their *calls*, one after the other in regular succession. Other matters belonging to the routine of business might with propriety be noticed here, but as they are all more or less similar in general outline to the foregoing, so the manner of their disposal is the same in a corresponding degree. Hence their introduction would be a work of supererogation, and would besides only tax and weary the patience of the reader by a necessary repetition of much that has already been said. This result we certainly wish to avoid if possible, and therefore forbear the attempt. It would be folly to expect operations on a scale so extensive to be conducted as continuously without occasional errors or mistakes. No pursuit in life is free from them, and, subject to the same influences and imperfections as every other, there is no reason why this office should escape from like general consequences. They do occur, though rarely, and always a source of as much annoyance to the parties responsible for them, as to those whom they more immediately affect.

Being in the main of an amusing character, and the result either of inattention or a misconception of signals rather than wilfulness, the only effect is to expose the blunderer to the ridicule of his more fortunate companions. Should the matter prove serious, however, it is referred for adjudication to the chief of police, who is thoroughly versed in the rules and regulations of the department, and is, moreover, sufficiently skilled as an operator to understand the peculiarities of the position. Hence he is able to comprehend fully the merits of all such cases, and to decide them fairly and impartially. The operators have great personal respect for this official and unlimited confidence in his integrity, and therefore submit without repining to his decisions, be they ever so adverse to their hopes and expectations.

DUTIES OF SUBORDINATE OPERATORS.

We have deferred a detailed notice of these gentlemen and their duties till now, in accordance with what we conceive to be the best management of the subject-matter of this article, and not through oversight or with the remotest thought of disparagement. Neither do we style them subordinate operators to offensively convey the idea of inferiority, inasmuch as they are as a class of more than ordinary intelligence; but simply to distinguish them from their colleagues at the Central office. Many of them also equal the latter in every respect, the single particular of professional expertness perhaps excepted; but as that is the result entirely of accident of position, the question of capacity is, of course, not affected, and no more need be said here in relation to it. We, therefore, pass to the consideration of topics more pertinent and appropriate.

At nearly every police station a room is set apart for the exclusive use of the operators, which contains, beside the telegraph instrument and local battery, a desk and other necessary furniture. This is their post of duty, and in no case is absence from it allowed them, unless for sickness or other sufficient cause, or by special permission of the superintendent or his assistant. To prevent unwarrantable interference and intrusion, no person other than the operators is admitted into this room, save for the transaction of business. The latter, upon entering it at the commencement of their term of service, are required to report the fact to the central office by telegraphing the initial letter of their last names. The time for doing this is fixed by the following rule, viz:

From May first to November first, day operators will report for duty at seven and a half o'clock A. M.; night operators at seven o'clock P. M.; and from November first to May first, day operators at eight o'clock A. M.; night operators at six o'clock P. M. Having done this in the prescribed manner, they are considered regularly on duty, and will be held strictly accountable for all errors and delinquencies that may occur until relieved. They are furthermore required to attend carefully to the condition of their instruments and batteries, and to keep a correct record of all telegrams received and transmitted. Also, to be always on the alert for fires, to instruct policemen in the use of the signal boxes, to report immediately all lost children and estrays found in their districts, and to send brief, clear, and concise accounts of all coroners' cases, accidents, and the like. In their intercourse with citizens calling for business, they are expected to be uniformly courteous and polite, and to use every exertion to further the purposes of such visits, if consistent and reasonable.

The operators are so far connected with the police department as to be under the authority and control of the lieutenants of police when in the station-houses. This places them in rather an anomalous position at times, as they are thus, to a certain extent, in the service of two masters, with the unpleasant consequences of such an arrangement always impending over them. It also causes them the performance of duties by no means within the legitimate line of their profession; such, for instance, as keeping the lieutenants' books, making out their daily and monthly reports, filling the dignified position of turnkey occasionally, and others not necessary to be enumerated. Many of these it is a pleasure to perform, but others, again, are distasteful, and are, consequently, executed with reluctance. It is rare, however, that there is anything approaching direct opposition on the part of the operators in matters of this kind; and never, in fact, unless they conceive the duties assigned them to be either derogatory in themselves or dictated by personal antipathy and dislike. So far as the performance of duties pertaining exclusively to the department is concerned, no difficulty is ever experienced. Their importance is fully appreciated by all the employees, who cheerfully use every exertion to discharge them satisfactorily. Hence, there are but few complaints of inattention, and fewer still of insubordination or downright negligence. The foregoing summary, together with what has been said upon the matter in other parts of this article, will give a tolerably correct idea of what is required and expected of an operator. It also shows the responsibility of the post he occupies, and that it is far from being a sinecure. As a fitting finale to the subject, and to render it as complete as possible, weheed, with append a list containing the names of the parties of whom we have been treating, and of the stations to which they are respectively attached:

CENTRAL OFFICE.

Superintendent.—Gilliam J. Phillips.
Assistant Superintendent.—David R. Walker.

OPERATORS.

Francis P. Erdman,	William H. Carpenter,
Lewis Young,	William R. Heins.

Line Repairer—R. Morozzi.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Charles Massey,	David Wilson.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Edward Mullen,	John Donnelly.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Robert A. Hirst,	William Maloney.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Daniel M. Blackburn,	George S. Butler.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

Albert Miller,	Henry Frenaye,
	Nathan Griffith.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

Justin E. Bird,	Charles M. Carpenter.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

John Lovatt,	Samuel Kidd.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

Charles D. Kauck,	Andrew B. Gilmore.

NINTH DISTRICT.

Harry P. Toy,	Charles Sktil.

TENTH DISTRICT.

Theophilus Hartley,	William P. Uber.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

William McCain,	John T. Carpenter.

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

James C. Tyson,	THIRTEENTH DISTRICT. H. W. Burton, William W. Shaw.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.
Rittenhouse Fraley.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.
Henry H. Deitz.
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT.

Samuel Ruth,	Isaac Leech.

STATISTICS.
POLICE TELEGRAPH.

Year	Total Messages	Received at Central Office.	Total sent from Central Office.	Missing Persons Restored to Friends.	Lost Children Restored to Parents.	Coroner Notified.	Descrip. of Counterfts	Stolen Property of Citizens Found	Officers summoned to Court and Gr. Jury	Estrays Recovered.	Vehicles Recovered.
1856*	7389	6946	1443	101	2123	108	61	71	641	612	178
1857	34267	18013	16194	316	3130	387	152	817	1361	881	351
1858	26259	18876	17784	379	3087	491	264	1884	4754	1030	347
1859	60319	33419	27103	483	3892	592	220	1706	2964	644	541
1860	47869	25316	22251	398	3272	739	301	1930	1583	437	549
1861	51081	27558	23323	1038	3112	447	512	1577	922	816	233

* From April 19th.

FIRE TELEGRAPH.

Year.	Total Fires.	DISTRICTS. First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth.	Sixth.	Seventh.	General Alarms.	False Alarms.
1856*	229	73	50	42	47	8	1	11	13	7
1857	352	89	97	74	88	8	17	19	15	5
1858	298	84	70	41	61	9	17	12	2	10
1859	306	92	99	67	116	7	16	9	1	8
1860	401	68	102	54	130	13	12	15	5	7
1861	291	51	68	49	105	8	14	3	2	..

* From April 19th.

The above tables comprise a condensed statement of the operations of the department from the date of its organization down to the close of the year 1861. They are derived from the annual reports of the superintendent, and from other sources equally as reliable. The most of the figures we found we could be ascertained, as the papers containing it are in the hands of the printer, together with similar documents from other departments, preparatory to their publication with the Mayor's message, and hence its omission. Enough, however, is presented to show clearly the workings of the system and the nature and extent of the business transacted by it.

As no further explanation of this part of our subject is required, and as we have already extended these remarks far beyond the limits anticipated when they were commenced, we must hasten to a close.

Nearly everything of interest connected with the Police Telegraph has thus been introduced entirely with a view to the instruction and edification of our readers. Whether we have succeeded or not in effecting this purpose, they alone, of course, can best determine. If we have, or if we have even been fortunate enough to impress them to any degree with the importance of the institution itself, we are certainly entitled, and consider ourselves amply repaid for the time and labor expended upon this production. If, on the contrary, neither of these results has been attained, we still do not regret the effort, as it has been made with the best possible intentions, and its failure can therefore entail no reproach.

[We understand that these papers are to be collected and extended by the writer, Mr. William R. Heins, of the Central office, and published in pamphlet form for special circulation. This is at the general request of the friends of the Local Telegraph, and we are pleased to notice this movement in so good a cause.—ED. PRESS.]

ARMY OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Affairs in General Grant's Army—The Indianola and Queen of the West Running the Blockade—Graphic Description of the Exploit—Destruction of the Hercules—The Enemy near Memphis.

YAZOO PASS, Feb. 19, via Cairo, Feb. 24.—Everything was quiet at Vicksburg up to Sunday, with no promise of any immediate change. A large number of transports had left for points above, it was said to take down reinforcements. One brigade left there on Saturday evening for some point up the river, and were passed on Tuesday morning off Greenville.

The mortality in the army still continued large. The dead were buried without coffins, and but about two feet deep.

General Grant was foraging largely at points along the river, a few miles above the Yazoo. He expressed his determination to live off the enemy as fully as possible.

Matters were quiet at Lake Providence. The gunboat Tyler was lying off that place, and quite a large fleet of transports at the bank.

The Conestoga, off White river, had captured the steamers Rose Hamilton and Evansville, for trading with the enemy, in violation of orders.

General Grant has positively prohibited all trade below Helena, and no boats are allowed to land except under cover of gunboats.

Licenses to trade in cotton are revoked, and none are to be issued hereafter. Especial permits will be granted from general headquarters when parties can make arrangements to get their cotton under protection of the gunboats.

Porter has issued stringent orders against parties caught firing into unarmed boats to be treated as *highwaymen and assassins*, and no quarter to be given them.

Yazoo Pass all clear of obstructions. Boats now pass through it to Coldwater river, twenty miles. Coldwater is obstructed a short distance. It will be cleared in a day or two. The expedition will then start immediately.

THE INDIANOLA RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.

CAMP NEAR VICKSBURG, February 14, 1863.

The Indianola left her anchorage, at the mouth of the Yazoo river, at 10 o'clock last night. Her only preparation for the celebrated perilous journey she was to make had been the mooring of a couple of coal flats, one on either side of her, each containing sufficient coal to keep her steaming for a day or two, and make double assurance for the protection of the vessel's hull. Even these were not considered necessary, and probably would not have been taken but that the coal would probably be needed below Vicksburg.

As the Indianola steamed down the river through the squadron the unusual and considerable noise made by her escape pipes and her double sets of wheels attracted general attention to her, and gave sufficient notice to all hands of the object of her trip. Nothing could be seen of her, but the noise was sufficient to disclose her whereabouts, the direction she was moving, and the high rate of speed at which she was moving. After passing entirely through the fleet, and on reaching the vicinity of the upper end of the canal, she shutoff steam entirely and suffered the current to bear her along. The current in the bend in front of Vicksburg sweeps along at the rate of about four miles an hour. Of course the boat ran along at no more rate, and with the advantage of making not a particle of noise. In this manner she rounded the point and was fairly beneath the formidable batteries, still she drifted along in perfect obscurity.

But it was not to be the good fortune, even of this fortunate craft, to escape without detection. The rebels were far too vigilant for that. Every foot of that levee was patrolled by wary sentinels. These could not be deceived into thinking that under the proach of what could neither be seen or heard. But let a flash of light fall upon that boat, and how quickly it would be hailed. And such a flash was destined soon to fall upon it. Just behind a camp fire was burning dimly upon the bank. As the drifting ship approached this camp fire a soldier stooped down and replenished the fire, throwing on them into the fire. A bright blaze flashed up in a moment, radiating over land and water, exposing everything within its sphere. "Boat ahoy" resounded the sentinel on the bank, and at the same time discharged his musket at the boat. The discharge was heard, and everywhere the bluff soldiers sprang to arms. A battery almost in the centre of the city was first manned, and seeing nothing to fire at fired at nothing, for a signal to the other batteries. Rockets, too, were set off here, there, everywhere, in quick succession. Platoons of soldiers drew up in line on the bank, and discharged their muskets at random into the river, aiming at nothing and hitting nothing. Indications of excitement were everywhere apparent. A boat had been discovered running the blockade, so the signals said, but where was she? Nobody knew. The camp fire that had for a moment thrown a feeble light upon her failed now of discovering her. Nobody could see her. Where was she? Some gunners pointed their pieces up stream, others aimed down stream. Five minutes passed after that first gun was fired, and the second had not yet spoken. At last it became necessary for the gunboat to make some headway, in order to get steerage way. Her machinery started; her steam snorted out of the escape pipes; the wheels splashed in the water; a noise was made. The accident attracted a second and third gun, and several fresh volleys of musketry. Again all was still. The boat drifted on for a few moments in silence. But the rebels having seen her once and heard her the second time, fired a third time by guess. Several guns were discharged in quick succession from different positions, all alike harmless in their effect. And then it was deemed wise to make more haste, and steam was again let on. The boat sprang forward at her utmost speed and dashed away down the river, regardless of any noise she might be making. Battery after battery now opened their best guns, though using their ammunition charily. As every shot was fired will the gunners contented themselves with a single discharge each.

Intervals of two, three, and five minutes occurred between the discharges, so that by the time the full number of twenty shots were fired—all that were accorded the bold ship—she was beyond their reach. In fact, after the eighteenth discharge, her loud whistle sent back the tidings that she had passed beyond the reach of the rebel batteries in safety. It was a most complete success, and the completeness of the success was largely attributable to the coolness and wisdom displayed by the commander, Commander Brown in the management of the boat. A cooler or braver officer could not well be found.

The Indianola steamed on down the river after passing the blockade.

THE RAM QUEEN OF THE WEST.

CAMP BEFORE VICKSBURG, MISS., February 12, 1863.

You have already been informed of the running the Vicksburg blockade by the steam-ram Queen of the West, though you may realize the picture more fully in the details of an eye-witness. A little before or about daylight, on the morning of the 29th ultimo, an unusual commotion on the gun-deck of the little steamer gave indication to us shoremen that something more than usual was in the wind, and with a curiosity which would scarce save one from remark, even in innermost Yankeedom, I waited the issue of events. In a few minutes the crew—excepting eleven chosen men—stepped on the levee from the boats, the bell gave a single tap, lines were cast loose, and she was free; quickly swinging into the rapid current, well balanced, beautifully trimmed, colors flying, quiet and demure-looking, as though she carried the New York Peace Committee on its return from Richmond—straightened, bounded with the speed of a deer in the direction of Vicksburg. A few moments of breathless stillness, and she comes within range of the Bluff batteries above the city—boom, boom, boom, and the quiet of the morning is broken, the flashes can scarce be perceived in the clouds of thick white smoke which envelope the hill, the air fairly hisses, and the water around the little vessel eddies and curls around the droppes and plunging balls and shells. A minute more it seems to us an hour—and she is under the hill, and *within* the angle of depression of guns of the first With increased speed she approaches the gentle slope directly in front of the city, and from the rifled pieces which line the edge of the water comes the sharp, quick crack, crack, crack, crack, the dull heavy "*thud*," as the balls rush against the bales of cotton which plate her *vital*, vulnerable spots, and the crash of the missiles through some unimportant and unprotected place makes us tremble for the safety for the little Queen; but our hopes rise, as bang, bang, bang, she sends back the greeting, which, mingling with the tumult on the shore, reverberates and rolls from hill to hill in one deafening roar. She trembles, for an instant, and, quicker than it takes to write it, whirls, heads towards the land, and with the rush of an infuriated demon, dashes at the steamer Vicksburg, a large transport which lies moored at the landing. We hear a crash of metal and timber, and by the time the sound reaches us the recoil has thrown her into the middle of the stream. She trembles, shakes, and straightens, gives an unearthly blast from her whistle, and back she flies with the speed of lightning. We fairly held our breath at this stage in the *frolic;* for, in truth, we imagined that our little favorite would this time jump over her foe, and bring up somewhere within the city limits; steadies, lowers her head, a common habit with the species when enraged; the fire slackens, ceases, the cannoniers stand perfectly thunder-struck, and the gazers from the hill tops appear to be offering prayers for the Federals, another common habit; but on comes the little monster, and, with a crash more terrific than before, she plunges full twenty feet into the side of the fated steamer, rebounds, and the river *uncovers* the forts which top the bluffs below the city, their guns belch forth, in one continuous roar, a line of flame encircling the hill; the white puffs of smoke become so dense as to again obscure the shore; the air again hisses, and now the water rushes and boils around the boat, which and extent of the business transacted by it. shows the effect of the missiles. The fire slackens from time to time, is heard the shrill shriek of the whistle, and above all rises in one grand tumultuous shout, reaching to the very heavens, the cheers of the Federal forces, as the noble Queen of the West passes through this fiery ordeal and "roundsto" in safety at the lower end of the canal. A hundred willing hands reach for the boat, and she is made to the shore, and from the plank steps the gallant Lieutenant Colonel Ellet, seemingly as pleased as though he was one of those unsuccessful generals arriving at one of those little towns in the Jerseys, and all this unpour and tumult was the "letting off" the *one hundred guns in honor of his coming!*

The engine was pierced in one place, very little injured, and not a man hurt. One shell, in size eight inches in diameter and eighteen inches in length, found its way into the captain's room, and dropped upon the bed, but did not find the *brave youngster* (I think he is just twenty-one) napping. MERLE.

THE STEAMBOAT HERCULES BURNED.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 16, 1863.

Between 2 and 3 o'clock, this morning living in the north part of the city, and near the river, were startled by sharp reports of cannon and the whirring of shell through the air. On hastening to the bluff to ascertain the cause—for the sound came from the direction of the river—another matter of surprise engaged their attention. Floating down the opposite side of the river slowly came a steamboat on fire, the flames from which were raging violently. The boat grounded opposite the upper end of the city, a little above the village of Hopefield.

On inquiry last night among official gentlemen, we learned that after dinner yesterday the United States steam tug lying below the mouth of Wolf river started across the river on a scouting expedition. The weather was foggy and suitable for the purpose. On nearing the opposite shore the tug was hailed by a man on the bank, who informed her officer that a boat had been set fire to above by guerillas.

The speed of the boat was at once increased. On turning the point just above and opposite the islands a boat was seen tied to the Arkansas shore, not far from the point where the Federal Hercules landing is located. The boat was enveloped in flames. The boat had seven barges loaded with coal in tow. In order to save the coal the line of the burning boat was cut, and she was got out from the barges and set afloat. She grounded at the spot above described. She must then have been burning some time, for her cabin was completely burned through, and had fallen in. One of the barges had caught fire and was burning, and, while the tug continued at the spot, it sunk near shore, and where the coal can, perhaps, be recovered.

Before this, however, the U. S. gunboat Mary Miller had come up—she threw some shells into the woods. It was the roar of her guns that was heard in the city. On landing, the dead body of a man was found lying on the bank. Two muskets lay beside him. Examination showed that he had received two musket balls in his breast, and the size of the wounds was sufficient to produce death. Traces of struggling were seen on the muddy landing; and on the banks, and on the roots and stumps, and we were seen the marks of musket balls, which must have been fired from the boat. Those on board had not surrendered, without resistance, the fatal bullets back from the shore indicated that perhaps some twenty-five or thirty horsemen might have been concerned in the business.

The dress of the dead man indicated that he had been a deck hand or a fireman. The officers and crew of the boat had doubtless been left as prisoners; this man appears to have resisted, and death was the result of his courage. The people of Hopefield were greatly alarmed lest the gunboats should visit on their village the consequences inflicted in the order of General Sherman in such cases—an infliction that has followed similar acts in other parts of Dixie. Every instance of a white flag; no harm was done to them. The boat is in shoal water not far from shore, and her machinery, in a damaged state, can be recovered. The hull of the boat was entirely burned away when the tug first approached her, but there is no doubt she was the towbo