The Press.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1863.

Treason in Pennsylvania.

This is a startling story that we print this morning. The officers of the law have brought to light a conspiracy in the county of Berks, the avowed object of which is to cause the overthrow of the United States. When we read the narrative of the reporter it was with a hope that the evidence would relieve us from the terrible impression that it conveyed, but no one can read the plain and circumstantial account of Mr. LYON without alarm and mortification. We are introduced to an organization which meets in barns, with signs, passwords, and grips, evidently acting in communication with a higher power, professing to have associations in all parts of the country, and having for its avowed object the abduction of the President, armed resistance to the law, and the overthrow of the Government. It is possible that Mr. LYON exaggerates some portions of his narrative, or places too much importance upon trivial occurrences, but there is a sad and wretched truth running through his story that gives us sorrow, and from which we cannot escape. He describes a meeting that took place on the 21st of March, 1863, in a barn of Jacob ZELLAR, in Marion township, Berks county. By those mysterious agencies known to the profession, Mr. LYON had obtained knowledge of the meeting, and secreted himself under the straw. In the course of the evening a hundred men assembled. The barn was first searched, and pickets thrown out to prevent discovery or surprise. A Mr. HUBER, who is in custody, led the conversation. According to Mr. LYON, who was his concealed listener, "he denounced the war as unholy and unjust; he said that the society was a million strong; he stated that it was first organized in the South; that the society had signs, passwords, and grips;" and then we learn that he administered the obligation, and that eighty-three members joined during that evening.

It is possible for a hundred men to meet together in a barn, and denounce the Government, without incurring any particular amount of guilt. It might be excused under the theory of its being one Democratic mass meeting, for such meetings have a suggestive similarity to the assembly in the barn. But we find the evidences of treasonable conspiracy too plain to be explained away. The pickets, the precautions, the grips, the obligations sworn upon the Evangelists, are all evidences of conspiracy and guilt. Then we have the atrocious creed which binds them together. They declare themselves to be in favor of "the abduction of ABRAHAM LINCOLN by force, if need be;" of "forming a Northwestern Confederacy; the resistance of the draft or the Conscription Act." These are the fundamental principles of the organization. The main object seems to be the resistance of the draft. They would try the constitutionality of the conscription act, and, failing in that, use force. This is the practical part of the whole conspiracy, and we hear in the barn of Mr. ZELLAR nothing more than the echo of more celebrated oracles. This phrase about testing the constitutionality of the conscription act, and failing before the courts, is familiar to us from men more powerful than Mr. HUBER or his associates, and we dwell upon it as an evidence of the sympathy that unites the enemies of the country against the Administration. This arrest is a painful thing to us as Pennsylvanians, but it is a warning to us as Americans. We have so often warned and implored the people—we have so frequently exposed the danger and begged them to prepare—we have so often shown the criminality and treachery of these men, that any further reference to it becomes the weary repetition of a twice-told tale. This morning we give the facts. Citizens, the time has come to mark these enemies of the country, who meet in barns and hidden places to counsel anarchy and rebellion. This spirit of crime is not confined to the barn in Berks county. It ascends into loftier places, controls council chambers, and drags justice from hand in executive chair. It now creeps into secret halls, and deliberates like pirates in a cave, or assassins in an ambush. Mr. HUBER may have made a mistake when he spoke of a million of men joined in his mysterious organization, or the words may have been the encouragement of a leader to his partisans. But the defiance he manifested, and the success he obtained, show that he is the representative, or the instrument, of a mightier organization. That organization must be overthrown before we can contemplate peace and triumph. Let us take a warning from the developments of this morning, and do our part in this just and loyal duty.

The Rebel Loan.

There is truth in the adage, "a fool and his money are soon parted." Certain persons in France and England, who have more cash than brains, have agreed to lend fifteen million dollars to notorious "the so-called Southern Confederacy," in expectation of receiving an interest of seven per cent. per annum for the same, and the security for repayment is cotton, at twelve cents the pound, to be deliverable to the bondholders within sixty days after a treaty of peace shall have been ratified between the North and the South. This loan, to say the least of it, must be considered very risky. The average interest of capital in Europe is from three to three and a half per cent.—a full half of what the rebel loan promises to pay. The temptation to obtain large per centage has been irresistible. We must take care that, while the war lasts, the export of cotton from the South shall not take place. We must blockade the Southern ports more closely than ever. We are bound not to let any cotton quit the country while the war lasts. It is easy to predict the fate of the Southern loan. Two or three instalments of the interest may be paid out of the money borrowed, and then no payment will stop, leaving the bondholders as much taken in as were the unfortunate but grasping dupes who, in hope of obtaining larger interest than usual, lent money to Spain, Mexico, and Greece. Money must, indeed, be a drug in France and England when people risk it in a Confederate loan.

A Loyal Meeting in New York.

To-morrow the Loyal National League of New York propose to hold a great mass meeting at Union Square, in that city. They intend this demonstration to be a very imposing one, and they have invited the Leagues everywhere, so far as it may be convenient to do so, to participate. Our Union League has determined to be represented on the occasion, and quite a large delegation is expected to go from here for that purpose. An arrangement has been made with the Camden and Amboy Company for excursion tickets, good from Saturday to Tuesday, inclusive, at four dollars each, and members of the League desirous of joining the party can obtain these tickets of Mr. ANDREWS, at the League House, at any time during to-day or this evening. The delegation will leave for New York by the eight-o'clock morning line.

Governor Curtin.

The zeal of Governor CURTIN in attending to the wants of our troops is manifested more ardently from day to day, and he insists upon Pennsylvanians in the field with affectionate and constant solicitude. He is now in Washington attending to important business affecting the welfare of the soldier, and was announced to return last evening. It is thought he will arrive in Harrisburg this morning.

Union Meeting at Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 9.—A large and enthusiastic meeting was held this evening, to ratify the resolutions recently passed by the Common Council and vetoed by the Mayor. Patriotic war resolutions were adopted. Speeches were made by the Hon. William A. Howard, of Michigan, Senator Trumbull, and other distinguished gentlemen.

From Cairo.

CAIRO, April 8.—The latest news from below says that General Steele's division landed at Greenville, Mississippi, the object being no doubt to co-operate in the reduction of Fort Pemberton.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1863.

I have had a long conversation with a Democratic member elect of the new House of Representatives—one who was chosen by a large majority from a populous district, and who has probably been classed among the extreme men by persons who did not understand his high and independent character. I do not know when I have been more interested. The type of an immense body of citizens who have always been opposed to the Republican party, and who, from that opposition, allowed themselves insensibly to be placed against the Administration, he does not hesitate frankly to say that the course of events has almost entirely obliterated his former animosities, and has cleared his vision to a fair and unprejudiced view of our country's future. He says that, when the results of the recent elections in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and New Jersey were ascertained, he hailed them with satisfaction, because he believed that they would be followed by a response from the Southern people—that they would be accepted in the seceded sections as a manifestation on the part of a large proportion of the population of the free States in favor of the termination of the war; and that if these elections would admonish Mr. Lincoln to pause in what my friend called his radical career, they would, at the same time, weaken the leaders of the rebellion, and give joy and comfort to their oppressed people. "But," said he, "when we discovered that these popular expressions only excited new manifestations of contempt and scorn in the South—that not a single kind voice in return was heard, and that Democrats were classed as even more hateful than Republicans, because they had not the manliness to assert their true feelings, and that their votes against Mr. Lincoln were simply party votes to regain power, in order to conduct the war still more vigorously; when we saw these things, myself and thousands of other Democrats resolved, that come what might come, we never would be found in any position that was not that of entire confidence in the public authorities, and, at least for the time being that we would give a hearty and honest support to all acts that would tend to a vigorous prosecution of the war." Such testimony shows that, apart from the mere malignance of the opposition party, there is a sentiment in the country, distinct from those who rejoice at every Democratic mass meeting, such meetings in styling themselves Copperheads, and wearing copper medals, the masses of the Democracy are patriotic and true. This has been my position from the beginning of our troubles. I know that it is the interest of *the treasonable demagogues in the free States, who will be entirely destroyed if the Union is saved, to make these masses believe that every attack upon them is an attack upon the whole body of the Democracy;* but I know, also, that this manœuvre has at last been discovered, and that patriotic Democrats are everywhere cutting loose from leaders whose treason is now too flagrant to be disguised.

[In my letter of yesterday an awkward error occurs in the following sentence: "There is at least consistency in one who was an anti-Mason, and who now *condemns* the necessary arrest of suspected traitors and the seizure of Secession clubs, and the suppression of oath-bound Golden Circles," I wrote, or intended to write, *commends*, not known. OCCASIONAL.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1863.

No Official News from Richmond—The Rebel Papers not Hopeful.

Nothing of an official character has been received up to ten o'clock to-night concerning the attack on Charleston.

A private telegram from headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, says the tone of the Richmond papers of yesterday is not hopeful, and shows that they consider the surrender of Charleston as impossible, as the city will be destroyed rather than it will be permitted to fall into our possession.

Gen. Stahl's Operations.

Sixty or seventy rebel prisoners have arrived here from Gen. STAHL's division. They were captured by Gen. COPELAND's cavalry force, who recently made a reconnoissance to Aldie, Middleburg, and Ropersville, in Loudoun county, Virginia, but no enemy in force there. Small parties of rebels were, however, discovered, and either dispersed or taken prisoners. Only seventeen of them acknowledge that they had any connection with Capt. MOSBY's gang. The remainder are bushwhackers and citizens. Twenty-one hundred horses, including some of those stolen from Gen. STONEMAN and Pope, were recovered. Gen. STAHL does not permit his command to remain idle.

Capture of the Schooner Clara.

Commodore GOLDSBOROUGH reports to the NAVY Department that, on the 25th ult., the gunboat Kanawha captured the schooner Clara, off Mobile, laden with a general cargo. The Clara was attempting to run the blockade at that port.

DISLOYAL OUTBREAK AT READING.

Discovery of a Conspiracy to Rescue Traitors—A Mob Gathering.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

READING, April 9.—A numerous mob of Knights of the Golden Circle have just marched to town to rescue conspirators against the Government. It is said that large numbers are being formed to reinforce it. Difficulties of no ordinary character are apprehended, and prompt and energetic action may be required from our authorities. The treason is taking an *insurrectionary form*, and should be crushed at once with all the vigor of the law. S.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA.

Regulations for Travel on the Peninsula—No Passes to be Granted to any Person Who Has not taken the Oath of Allegiance.

VIA FORTRESS MONROE, April 8, 1863.—HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY CORPS, FORT YORKTOWN, April 3, 1863.—In view of the raid on Williamsburg, the 29th ult., the Commanding General directs as follows:

No person will be allowed to go to Williamsburg or from it from any point south of Fort Magruder without taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, and the fact of his taking such oath must be expressed on his pass, to give it validity.

The flag-of-truce boat Metamora, from City Point, arrived to-day with one hundred and seventy-five prisoners of war.

Colonel Ludlow, commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, informs us that we are getting our officers away as fast as we can deliver the rebel officers at City Point. Our officers, now prisoners, are all in Richmond, and will be released within the next week.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

The Iron-Clads Moored off North Edisto Island—The Rebels at Savannah Threaten to Advance with their Ram Fleet, and Receive a Royal Reception—Explosion of a Mammoth in fernal Machine in Charleston Harbor.

FORT ROYAL, March 28.—The iron-clad Keokuk arrived yesterday in good condition. Four Monitors are in North Edisto inlet, with four mortar schooners distant about sixteen miles by land from Charleston.

The troops landed at Stono are said to have accompanied a gunboat expedition, and firing has been heard there, but nothing definite is known.

Where the balance of the Monitors will move, is not known.

The rebel pickets are visible all along the shore at North Edisto, and night signals, by colored lights, are telegraphed along the coast, and thence to Charleston.

The rebels at Savannah threaten to bring down their rams, and attack and take Port Royal, sinking the Wabash and Vermont, and capturing all the troops left there by General Hunter. The storekeepers at Hilton Head, in consequence, are selling dry goods and other stores lower than the same articles can be bought in New York.

An order has been sent by General Hunter to withdraw our troops from Brunswick and Fernandina.

A tremendous explosion took place in the harbor of Charleston, a few days since, causing a jarring sensation to the whole blockading squadron six miles off. It is supposed to have been a premature explosion of some submarine torpedo.

THE ATTACK ON CHARLESTON FIXED FOR TUESDAY.

NEW YORK, April 9.—The purser of the steamer Fah Kee, arrived here, reports that the attack on Charleston was fixed for Tuesday.

STEAMER SYLVAN SHORE DAMAGED BY A REBEL BATTERY.

NEW YORK, April 9.—The steamer Pioneer, from Beaufort, N. C., reports that the steamer Sylvan Shore left Beaufort on the 4th for Washington, N. C., and, when a few miles from there, was fired on from a rebel battery, and several of her crew were killed and wounded. She returned to Beaufort.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Rebel Pickets Nine Miles from Newbern—Critical State of Affairs at Washington—The Position a Strong One, &c.

Passengers from Beaufort, N. C., state that on the 5th inst., the rebel pickets on the Trent road extended to a point nine miles from Newbern.

Affairs at Little Washington looked threatening. The rebel General Hill was opposing General Foster's little band, and on Monday afternoon there was a rumor at Newbern that General Foster had surrendered. This was not credited, as it was believed that reinforcements from Suffolk had reached Washington. General Foster's position was strongly entrenched by rifle-pits and ditches. Cannonading was heard at Newbern all day on Sunday, and still on Monday.

The gunboats Chicora and State of Georgia were coaling at Morehead city, to run the blockade of Pamlico river, where there was but one gunboat.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

ADMIRAL DUPONT'S FLEET OVER THE BAR.

A DESPERATE STRUGGLE AT HAND.

Rebel Anxiety for Later News.

Desponding Tone of the Newspapers.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, April 9.—The Richmond *Whig* of yesterday has the following in reference to the situation of affairs at Charleston:

"All thoughts are now centred upon Charleston. Official intelligence was made public early yesterday morning that the enemy's iron-clad fleet had attempted to cross the bar and failed, but later in the day it was announced that the gunboats and transports had succeeded in crossing the bar, and were at anchor. Our iron-clads lay between the forts, quietly awaiting the attack.

"Further intelligence is looked for with eager anxiety. The Yankees have made no secret of their vast preparations for an attack upon Charleston, and we may well anticipate a desperate conflict."

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST CHARLESTON.

A Charleston telegram of the 28th ultimo says that the enemy landed, last night on Cole's Island, 1,300 men, the supposed object being a reconnoissance to determine the best place for operations, by land and sea, against Charleston. The troops for the defence of that city are said to be in really an excellent condition.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Success of General Stanley's Expedition to Lebanon and Carthage—Capture of Prisoners, Stores, Horses, and Contrabands—Threats of the Rebel Leaders—Reported Advance of the Enemy, &c.

CINCINNATI, April 9.—A Murfreesboro special despatch to the *Commercial*, says that Col. Wilder has returned from his expedition via Lebanon and Carthage. Twenty-nine rebels were captured.

Before reaching Snow Hill, 5,000 bushels of wheat, and much corn and bacon, were destroyed. Colonel Wilder brought in three hundred and sixty negroes.

Several rebels, disguised in Union United States uniforms, were shot during the past week.

Our expeditions have captured 700 horses and mules, 200 prisoners, brought in 200 negroes, and destroyed much rebel subsistence and forage.

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., April 9.—A force of twelve hundred rebels, under Woodward, with two pieces of artillery, captured and burned the steamers Lovell and Saxonia to-day, killing the captain of the Lovell, and shooting off the captain of the Saxonia. The passengers and crews of the boats arrived here to-day.

MURFREESBORO, April 8.—Johnson and Bragg recently boasted that they would take possession of Kentucky before harvest time.

CINCINNATI, April 9.—The force under Colonel Wilder returned on the 8th to Murfreesboro, from an expedition towards Lebanon and Carthage. Twenty-nine rebels were captured before reaching Snow Hill. Five thousand bushels of wheat and much corn were destroyed. A large barn with a great quantity of bacon was burned.

Wharton's rebel regiment had re-occupied Snow Hill. Wilder came up behind, and after a brief skirmish, defeated them, captured eighty prisoners, and one hundred horses, destroyed five thousand bushels of wheat, and brought away one hundred and sixty negroes, and two wagon loads of tobacco. Wilder captured several rebels in United States uniforms, who were summarily shot.

The rebel force in front of Franklin is increased to an extent that indicates an intention of attacking Gen. Graham.

The small-pox is reported to have compelled the rebel force to move from Tullahoma toward Shelbyville.

In consequence of Stanley's affair at Snow Hill, the rebels sent a strong force to McMinnville. They are removing the rails and cross-ties from the railroad between McMinnville and Wartrace.

SOLDIERS MURDERED BY THE REBELS—GUERILLA HOUSES DESTROYED—OUR CAVALRY ENCOURAGED BY SUCCESS.

MURFREESBORO, April 9.—After our expedition left Taylorsville on the 3d, two men of Wilder's command were captured by the rebels, and both inhumanly shot. Their names were John Vaus and Ben. Montgomery, of the 72d Indiana. Montgomery was instantly killed.

Vance, although shot through the head three times and horribly marked, has reached camp, and made a written statement of his sufferings. A Captain French and a man named Cartwright did the shooting. They took two rings from the finger of Montgomery, saying that they would give them to their sweethearts.

Colonel Wilder destroyed a part of the village of Saulsbury, consisting of the dwelling of a notorious guerilla.

The late successes have greatly inspirited our cavalry.

WOODWARD'S REBEL FORCE DEFEATED—STORES RECAPTURED.

CLARKSVILLE, April 9.—An expedition sent by Colonel Bruce, last night, under Colonel Boone, surprised the rebel force under Woodward, recaptured the stores stolen from the steamers Lovell and Saxonia, and took several prisoners, after severe skirmishing, this morning. Colonel Boone pursued the retreating rebels fifteen miles.

Our fleet of transports, convoyed by three gunboats, arrived here to-night.

REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHT WITH MORGAN.

CHATTANOOGA, April 5.—General Morgan was attacked by the Federals at Liberty on Friday, and was driven back to Snow Hill, where he held his position and the enemy retreated. Our troops under Colonel Smith, were repulsed at Woodbury on Saturday, and fell back to McMinnville. Loss, one killed, and eight prisoners.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

CHATTANOOGA, April 6.—The enemy advanced on Woodbury and McMinnville, and were out-flanked by our forces and retired. A column of Federal troops, 15,000 strong, is advancing on Columbia. A battle is considered imminent before the week closes.

THE MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON.

Construction of a Mammoth Floating Battery near Vicksburg—Admiral Farragut with the Ram Switzerland—The Hartford and Albatross gone to the Red River—Large Captures Made by our Troops in Mississippi.

CINCINNATI, April 9.—The advices from Vicksburg are, on the whole, cheerful. The health of the army is greatly improved. A new canal has been commenced, leading into Walnut Bayou, which comes near the river on the Louisiana side at Millliken's Bend, and runs into the river at New Carthage, fifteen miles from Warrenton. The canal commences a mile above a point opposite the mouth of the Yazoo. The Bayou is navigable at high water. Its *success is doubtful. Reports say that the ram Lancaster*, sunk by the rebels, was a rotten hulk. The Switzerland has been repaired, and together with Farragut's gunboats has gone down the river.

A formidable battery is about completed behind the extreme point of the levee opposite Vicksburg. It has been wholly constructed by night, and will mount the heaviest Parrott guns, and have range of the entire city.

All reports of the attack on Haines' Bluff are pure fabrications. Captain Osband had just returned from the vicinity of Greenville with 3,000 bales of cotton, 1,000 head of cattle, and 100 mules.

A gentleman who accompanied Admiral Porter up Steel's Bayou reports having seen immense quantities of grain and cotton in the interior. The rebels burned twenty thousand dollars' worth, and the Federals ten thousand dollars' worth. A prisoner says the rebels destroyed grain enough to supply an army of one hundred thousand men for six months.

ATTEMPT TO RESCUE A PRISONER—THE MARINE BRIGADE—THE NEW CANAL—ADMIRAL FARRAGUT RECONNOITERING THE YAZOO.

ST. LOUIS, April 9.—The *Democrat's* special despatch, from Young's Point, says that several transports laden with troops, and Gen. Ellet's marine brigade, with one iron-clad, started up the stream this morning.

There is no prospect for active operations before Vicksburg for some time.

The new canal being cut three miles above here, will be eight miles long, and empty into the Mississippi below Warrenton. Three dredges and the African brigade are hard at work, day and night.

Admiral Farragut still holds the river between Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

The Queen of the West is up the Red river.

Commodore Porter and General Grant are reconnoitring up the Yazoo, with considerable force.

STATES IN REBELLION.

Southern Soldiers Pilfering—Rebel Official Account of the Capture of the United States Gunboat Diana—Capture of Union Cavalry.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 8.—The Richmond *Whig* of the 30th ultimo says, "When our army retreated from Yorktown, great complaint was made by persons living on or near its line of march, of the depredations committed by the soldiers. And gentlemen have been heard to declare that our own men were worse than the troops of McClellan. After Fredericksburg was vacated by the Yankees, the Southern soldiers sent to protect the town stripped the battered houses of what little remained in them, and reduced the already impoverished inhabitants to absolute beggary. The very liberal subscriptions made to the Fredericksburg sufferers have not exceeded their pressing wants, and there will soon be need for additional subscriptions to keep famishing women and children from positive starvation. These are facts which can be substantiated."

CAPTURE OF THE "DIANA."

The Richmond *Enquirer*, April 6, 1863, has a despatch dated "Headquarters near Berwick's Bay, via Natchez, April 1," reporting the capture of the U. S. gunboat Diana. "She mounts five heavy guns. The boat is not seriously injured, and will be immediately put in service. The enemy's loss is killed, wounded, and missing is 150. R. TAYLOR, Brig. Gen."

PRISONERS TAKEN AT DRANESVILLE.

"On Saturday," says the *Enquirer*, "the Central train brought to Richmond ninety-nine Yankees, belonging to the 1st Vermont Cavalry, captured at Dranesville on Wednesday last. They were all privates, the officers having all been killed in the action."

GENERAL BANKS REINFORCING GENERAL WEITZEL.

The Richmond *Whig* publishes the following:

JACKSON, April 8.—New Orleans reports of the 1st inst. say that General Banks has crossed, with 10,000 men, at Donaldsonville, and has gone down the Bayou Plaquemine to reinforce General Weitzel, and attack the Bayou Teche country.

BREAD DISTRIBUTION.

The Richmond *Whig* says that Lee Mallory, the lessee of Metropolitan Hall, has established a depot at the hall for the distribution of two thousand four hundred pounds of bacon per month to the needy families of soldiers in the field. The Ladies' Benevolent Society superintend the distribution, which will take place on Tuesday and Friday of each week, the beneficiaries being presented with tickets for the bread.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, April 9, 1863.

SENATE.

MORNING SESSION.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock by the Speaker.

Mr. WHITE, from the committee of conference on the bill legalizing the payment of bounties to volunteers, submitted a report recommending the Senate to recede from its amendments, and directing a bounty of fifty dollars to be paid to each and every volunteer, subsequent to July, 1862, by the commissioners of the several counties. The report was discussed, and postponed for the present.

Bills Considered, &c.

The supplement to the act relative to decedents' estates came up in order on third reading, and passed finally.

The bill authorizing the payment of the troops of the Reserve Brigade for services in suppressing the riot in Schuylkill county, passed finally.

The joint resolution of the House relative to the payment of postage of the House of Representatives, was amended so as to limit the amount to $750, and negatived—yeas 8, nays 19.

Mr. LOWRY called up the bill to enable citizens engaged in the military service of the United States, or the military service of Pennsylvania, to vote. This bill authorizes soldiers to vote by proxy, and directs election officers to receive such votes. It was passed to third reading—yeas 19, nays 13—by a strict party vote. The Senate refused to suspend the rule, two-thirds not voting in the affirmative.

Mr. WHITE called up the supplement to the act of 1862, to provide for the adjudication and payment of military claims. This bill provides for the payment of officers in the service of the United States, from the state of their commissions to the time when they are mustered into the service.

The bill was considered until the hour of one, when the Senate adjourned until afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Senate met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. RIDGWAY called up the bill to prevent cattle running at large in Cheltenham township, Montgomery county, which passed finally.

The joint resolution, authorizing the Governor to present flags to the 53d, 78th, and 111th Regiments, and to the 7th Regiment of Cavalry, passed finally.

Mr. MCSHERRY called up the bill providing for the adjudication of claims for damages sustained in the border counties by reason of the rebel raid in October last, which passed finally.

Mr. LAMBERTON moved to consider the bill providing for the removal of remains interred in the burying ground of the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, situated on Arch street, which was not agreed to.

Mr. DONOVAN called up the bill relative to advertising of venders of merchandize in the city of Philadelphia, which passed finally.

Mr. REILLY called up the bill relative to supervisors in certain townships of Schuylkill county, which passed finally.

Mr. RIDGWAY called up the bill to increase the capital stock of the American Fire Insurance Company. Passed finally.

Mr. SERRILL called up the bill to incorporate the Philadelphia Dental College, which passed finally—yeas 23, nays 3.

Mr. SMITH called up the bill to incorporate the Harleysville and Sanders Turnpike Company, in Montgomery county. Passed finally. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

MORNING SESSION.

Speaker CESSNA called the House to order at 9½ o'clock A. M.

Mr. LAMBERTON moved to suspend the orders, for the purpose of considering the act to erect a new county, to be called Madison.

Mr. TWITCHELL demanded a division of the question; and the question being on the first division, to suspend the orders, it was disagreed to, not 60 having voted in the affirmative.

The consideration of bills on the private calendar, left over from last Tuesday, was resumed.

An act to extend the charter of the West Branch Bank was passed finally, yeas 60, nays 18.

An act to incorporate the Scranton Bank came up for consideration.

Mr. HOPKINS, of Philadelphia, said he was opposed to the incorporation of any new banks under the old system, and moved the indefinite postponement of the bill. Agreed to.

Post Office Investigation Committee.

Mr. MCCLEAN, from the chairman of the select committee appointed to investigate the alleged frauds in the postal account or Postmaster Bergner for the month of March, moved that the report be printed for the use of the House, as examination into the accounts during the present session.

Mr. BROWN (Mercer), said he thought that the committee should have nothing before them but that which they were instructed to do, viz: the appointment.

Mr. LAPORTE said it could make but little difference if the information he asked for should be printed.

Mr. VINCENT stated that he had been informed that the committee had refused to allow Mr. B. to appear before them to cross-examine witnesses, and to call witnesses against him, and call witnesses of his own; he therefore moved to amend, "and that the evidence taken before the meeting from Stonchurg: I was not in the house; I was in sight of it; the was on March 21st—Saturday—Huber made the speech at the house; all the doors were not shut; I was in disguise; I talkes with no person; I listened against the window; I was pretty close; no one the occasion; I was blackened and in disguise; I never spoke to Huber until April 7th; I have seen him sometimes; I did not see him speak; I knew his voice at the barn; I was secreted under the straw in the barn; I heard him speak at a meeting in Moonville.

Question. Well, sir, you must be in error, because you have said you never heard him speak until the 7th of April.

Witness. You are mistaken, sir; I said nothing of the kind; I said I never spoke to him until the 7th of April.

Q. Well, how did you recognize him by his voice, in the barn, if you did not see him while he was speaking in the house?

A. *I did know his voice, and heard him distinctly.*

Q. "You have pretty big ears."

A. "That's so."

The witness was now questioned at great and somewhat tedious length in respect to the oath taken by the alleged conspirators. The witness had made a memorandum of the oath, with lead pencil, in a small book in which he had written the words of obligation, upon which, to mistake the learned counsel affected to be somewhat funny. The witness said, I am not a good speller nor a good writer, but Mr. Huber said *obduction*; I made the memorandum, the witness continued, on Sunday morning after I got home; it was then fresh upon my mind; I did not make it on Saturday night, simply because I was tired; I was tolerably well pleased with Benny; I'm a poor speller; I arrested Huber in the iron foundry of the Phil adelphia and Reading Railroad shop at Reading; I searched him to see if he had any papers on him; I found one paper that he had fixed for another meeting to be held; that paper is now in the possession of Samuel M. Young, commissioner at Reading; when I asked him about the organization he said it was a Constitutional Union organization; said the dollar fee was for the purpose of testing whether the draft was constitutional or not; Mr. Huber, in administering the oath, said you do swear, etc.

Q. Was there not an obligation taken also to sustain the Constitution of the United States?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why did you not put that down in your memorandum book?

A. I put down what I thought was necessary.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jones.—I desired to find out whether there was anything in the organization if there is anything illegal in it I want the men were tried honorably, and honorably convicted if they are guilty: I live at Reading; I decline to name the party from whom I derived my information; it was given to me in my official capacity, and as an officer I promised not to reveal my informer; I will not tell it; I will tell you all he said if you desire to hear it.

Mr. Jones. No, sir, never mind that.

Witness. The meeting at the house was public and promiscuous, I suppose; it was after this the secret meeting was held in the barn; understand me, when he made a speech at the house, then the parties signed, then those who signed would go into secret meeting with those who had before signed; when I found I or intended to go to the barn, I went there ahead of them, and secreted myself under the straw.

By Mr. Coffey. I am not positive they said at the meeting, to resist the draft by force; the obligations were spoken in English and German, or Pennsylvania Dutch.

The witness was now examined as to the character of the defendants: So far as he knew of Messrs Illig, Oxeneider, and Filbert, he considered their character good; never had any cause to suppose they would do an illegal act; I certainly won d not trust Huber; my impression is from what I know of their antecedents; I have no reason to say that I think they would violate the law, but I would not trust Huber. [Laughter.]

Frederick Prinz was called to the stand. On being sworn he said he lived eight miles from Reading; he got acquainted with Huber at the meeting at the house of Mr. Foust; it was on last Friday two weeks, I think; Huber called the meeting; it was called by private means; the object was to make recruits against the draft; Mr. Huber stated this at the public meeting; there were about 20 present; the meeting; he referred to the case of resistance in Indiana, and said this was the way it would be done here; that any one of the members should be taken and sent to Fort Warren that he would be rescued, even if they had to tear the fort down; he said there were one or two millions of men belonging to the organization all over the South and North, and in the army; he said they knew each other by signs, and then stated a case of a soldier passing on the road, who gave him the sign, and he knew him by it; he said that any one who paid a dollar could be sworn in; he spoke about one hour; I saw the crowd go into the barn; don't know what they did there; sixty-three dollars were paid at the public meeting; Huber did not say what the name of the association was, but outsiders called them *Copperheads*. [Laughter.] After the meeting I went towards the barn to get my horse; I was stopped by two men; I told them I wanted to get my horse and wagon, and they said all right, and went with me; I do not know what the members swear to; one of the members told me, afterwards, that they had searched the barn for spies, but found none; there was something said about a peace convention to settle the war.

Isaac S. Stephart sworn.—This witness was so essentially Pennsylvania German that an interpreter was called into requisition. A gentleman well learned in pure German found himself at a loss to interpret Pennsylvania Dutch. Mr. H. H. Manderbach, ex-Sheriff of Berks county, was called. The witness did not throw any new light on the subject. He knew nothing about the secret organization, not being a member. We give the following condensed report of his evidence: Mr. Huber said it was a pity that, in a country like this, it is necessary to form a secret association; but before two months' or any-thing, he guessed it would be purely at an end; then he said, he was in favor of the Government, if it was from God or on the Scriptures; he said, if the Government was from the devil it ought to be trampled under foot; he said that Abe Lincoln and all his Cabinet had robbed the Treasury, and if there was only one shinplaster left on it, they'd go up to their elbows to get it; he went in and said the war was being kept up for money; a great many people had been killed, and the war ought to be stopped; the last time I was at the meeting, he said Congress were not favorable to the poor man; I saw money passed; Huber; he got a paper and put down the names; he said he was a soldier, and was near Fritztown, and he gave the sign; he went out and he said that that was all right; I knew it was correct; he said the society was nearly two millions strong; and he said something about the old Government; that so many had been murdered that the people ought to be killed; he did not think the last law was constitutional; after all this was said, the meeting broke up in the barn; Mr. Huber said in his public speech that five had crossed over to the Confederate Government sent after them, but did not get them; I saw certain persons after this, and they said that all the members who should be drafted, would go to Washington at midnight; they would in an hour go over to *Jeff Davis*; I heard others say they would be taken to Richmond rather than be taken down there and killed; Huber said that it was the Copperheads that rescued the five men in Indiana; I don't recollect that he called their association.

The proceedings here closed.

Mr. Coffey, the United States district attorney, stated that he had a number of other witnesses who would make some other disclosures, and suggested that a time should be fixed for further hearing.

Mr. Jones contended that his clients were all responsible men, and, as there was no evidence implicating them, they might be discharged.

Mr. O'Neill asked that his client be discharged, as there was no evidence of conspiracy.

Some time was spent in conversation on these points, which ended in a district attorney agreed to hold Messrs. Filbert, Oxeneider, and Illig, in each other's recognizance, in the sum of $3,000, to appear at the next hearing.

Mr. Huber was required to enter bail in the sum of $4,000.

The next hearing will take place on Monday afternoon, May 4, at 3 o'clock.

CHURCH DEDICATION.—Last evening, the new edifice of the First Baptist Church, corner of Chestnut and Thirty-sixth streets, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The church was filled, many having left at an early hour, unable to obtain standing room. The appearance of the interior, lit up by a magnificent chandelier pendent from the ceiling, by means of reflectors covered with glass, was elegant and tasteful. The edifice is built of brown stone in Romanesque proportions, and as beautiful as it is substantial. The pews were filled, and benches crowded the aisles. Among those present, we noticed Capt. John P. Levy, John A. Gendell, and other prominent members of the Spring Garden Church of West Philadelphia; Hon. Wm. D. Kelley, Postmaster Walborn, and other well-known citizens. The dedicatory services began with prayer by Rev. James Cooper, and the sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. George B. Ide—an eloquent and instructive discourse, in which the importance of the sanctuary as an agent for the moral and intellectual development of man were happily discussed. The prayer of dedication was offered by the pastor, Rev. J. H. Castle, and, after singing, another address, by Rev. Warren Randolph, was delivered. Besides the reverend gentlemen mentioned, there were in the pulpit Rev. Messrs. Wylie, Hyatt, Dyer, Simmons, and Wilson. The history of the Baptist denomination of West Philadelphia is an interesting one. There now have three churches in active operation. The first was organized in 1844, with Rev. E. M. Levy, now of Newark, N. J., as pastor. At the commencement of the rebellion, it numbered about 30, but under the excellent management of the pastor, who remained with his charge during fourteen months, it has increased to a membership of 400. Soon a new impulse was given to the religious feeling of the community, which manifested itself in the erection of the edifice, which, however, was not in full edifice a few squares west of this. The Berean was dedicated first, and a spirit of emulation respecting church architecture has been aroused. Mr. Levy had been built, Captain Levy and other members interested themselves in the building of the Mariners' Baptist Bethel, near the navy yard, for the use of Philadelphia may well feel proud of its churches.

ANTI-SLAVERY ANNIVERSARY. The twenty-ninth anniversary of the Female Anti-Slavery Society took place yesterday afternoon at the Assembly Building. The secretary of the association read the report, which contained a review made to the emancipation proclamation: Of the four millions of slaves, to whose deliverance our life-long pledged, more than one million of the millions were, on the morning of January 1, 1863, declared, by the highest law of the land, thenceforward and forever free. It is a pleasant task to trace the tokens of our nation's progress during the past year. The report enlarged upon the enactments of Congress in reference to the extension of slavery. On the 25th of February, 1862, the House of Representatives passed a bill forbidding any person connected with the army or navy, on penalty of dismission from the service, to aid in the return of fugitive slaves to their masters. Speaking of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the report says: "Congress has at last styled the first ripe sheaf of the full harvest into which the Abolitionists, toiling in the patience of hope for years, have gathered the golden grain, filled with soul-inspiring faith. The bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia was speedily followed by the emancipation of slaves forever from the existence of slavery in the Territories of the United States, and these great deeds, done for freedom, were not the only ones furnished by Congress of grounds for joying love of liberty in the popular heart. On the 9th of May, 1862, General Hunter uttered the glorious words declaring the slaves of Georgia and South Carolina free. General Butler won the admiration of *his countrymen by issuing his proclamation* calling on the free colored citizens of Louisiana to take up arms against the foes of their country and the United States. Another act of justice to a long-injured race was the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States, decidedly in favor of the duty of the Abolitionists in this hour of the nation's peril is plain and clear. The report closed as follows: "To the work we gladly turn, trusting to be yet joyfully address ourselves, devoutly thankful for all that has been attained, and have faith that the hour of final victory is at hand, when the Abolitionist may put off his armor and sing, 'whose arm hath gained for us, his people are free.'" Addresses were then made by J. Miller McKim, Esq., Lucretia Mott, Miss Grow, and Josiah Bond. After which the meeting adjourned.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—Yesterday morning, about eleven o'clock, a farmer, named Henry R. Herr, was almost instantly killed by being struck with the bumper of one