THE CITY.

Thermometer.

JANUARY 26, 1863.				JANUARY 26, 1864.			
6 A. M.	12 M.	3 P. M.	6 P. M.	6 A. M.	12 M.	3 P. M.	6 P. M.
42	48	48	41	44	56	56	55
WIND.				WIND.			
SW	SE	SE	SE	SW	NW	NW	NW

REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL.—Fire Marshal A. W. Blackburn has presented to the Mayor his report of fires occurring in the city during the past year, from which it appears that from January 1 to December 31, 1863, inclusive, there were only 332 fires within the limits of the whole consolidated city, being less than an average of one for every twenty-four hours; of which a very large proportion were trifling. The total amount of loss scarcely exceeded $400,000, on which there was about $210,000 insurance, leaving 190 000 uncovered. The most destructive fire during the year was the burning of the extensive saw-mill works of Murphy & Allison, corner of Nineteenth and Market streets, on the morning of the 2d of May. The highest estimate for this conflagration did not exceed $75,000.

There were but two other fires the loss by which reached $50,000, viz: that at Megargee's paper warehouse, corner of Sixth and Jayne streets, on the afternoon of the 6th of July, and that at the store-houses of Schober & Co., South Delaware avenue, on the 18th of December.

There were two other fires in the course of the year where the loss exceeded $25,000. These were the demolition of the Government storehouses at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, on the morning of the 13th of September, and the partial destruction of the Jefferson Mills, in the Twenty-fourth ward, on the 22d of March.

These five fires foot up more than one half of the total losses of the year; and I am gratified to state that neither of them was the work of design. The conflagration at the navy yard was attributed to the efforts of some of the enemies of the country in its gigantic struggle for a nationality, and many exciting rumors prevailed. Suspicion was rife, gossip plenty, and the loyalty of officials openly impugned. I investigated the case with an unusual and almighty sense of my duty as a faithful official and a loyal man; and, after the most careful and patient inquiries, I was unable to find the slightest evidence of either treachery or arson. On the contrary, the testimony all pointed conclusively to carelessness as the cause of the fire.

The Marshal adds that his records of the past year, as compared with those of 1862, show a still further decrease in the number of cases of incendiarism. Most of the instances that came under his notice were attempts upon out buildings, sheds, stables, ships, and other combustible properties of little value. The discovery of these fires, and their prompt extinguishment by the efforts of other parties, generally thwarted the intentions of the incendiaries, and prevented the mischief that might otherwise be apprehended. In not a single case could be obtained to warrant it, arrests have been constantly made to follow speedily the commission of the offence, and I cannot too highly commend the hearty response of the police to all his efforts in ferreting out and bringing the guilty to justice. The whole number of arrests for arson would be more than one half of these were children, whose offences partook more of the nature of thoughtless or wanton mischief than of deliberate criminality, and who, therefore, could not be properly made the subjects of legal punishment. The evidence in the cases of the more mischievous juveniles showed the most culpable neglect of their morals, habits, and associations on the part of their parents.

In reference to the fire at Gray's Ferry Bridge, on the 23d of last month, Mr. Blackburn says: The fire originated from a spark from a locomotive. This bridge is 1,000 feet in length, the bottom of it being of the woodwork have frequently caught fire from passing locomotives, but the flames were always discovered and extinguished in a limited extent only. At this time, there is hardly a more important bridge than this in the country. As a local convenience it is absolutely necessary to the transit of people and the travelling community it is indispensable; and to the nation in the present crisis, the public loss would be as great as a serious embarrassment. The combustible character of the fabric, and its continual liability to ignition and demolishment by fire from the engines of the locomotives that traverse the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company, that are hourly passing over it, should induce the speedy adoption of a more substantial structure that ought to be perfectly fire-proof. The construction of such an improved bridge should immediately engage the attention of the municipal authorities and the directors of the railroad. The new fabric, too, should be one that would be an ornament to the city as well as a monument to the liberality and enterprise of an opulent and powerful railway corporation.

The report also includes:

A recent arrival from the Pacific coast of South America brought intelligence of the burning of the vast cathedral of the Jesuits, in the capital of Chili, with the appalling loss of over 2,000 human lives, on the evening of the 5th of December last. This awful and agonizing calamity is without a parallel in the annals of conflagrations. They graves lesson it teaches should not be lost on us. From the sad and sickening details of the catastrophe, the mind instinctively turns to our own churches, public halls, amphitheatres, and temples of tragedy and comedy.

It is well known that very few of our edifices of worship, concert saloons, and theatres, are constructed with adequate means of egress, in the event of a sudden and rapid fire. In most of them the doorways are too narrow, the doors are hinged so as to swing inward instead of outward, as they should, and the aggregate aisle and door capacity is Some of the latter are steep, with the doors at the bottom opening inward. In looking at the exits of some of the places of amusement, I have sometimes shuddered at the bare thought of the possibility of a panic-stricken audience wildly rushing and frantically struggling for a mode of escape. In justice to the architecture of the Academy of Music, I am bound to say that the vomitories of that house are models. The entrances of the Chestnut-street Theatre are somewhat similar, but far less perfect. In all the other theatres improvements are needed, and their stockholders would only be discharging a sacred duty to the public if they would at once, if need be, having such alterations effected as might be deemed necessary by skilful architects for complete safety. I make these suggestions prompted by the love of every lover of humanity, and I hope the hints I have here thrown out may arrest attention.

A VOICE FROM CASTLE THUNDER—BEING PRISONER NOT WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.—A very intelligent young rebel, who has a local interest in Philadelphia, from having resided here for thirteen years, states that she has enjoyed the privilege of reading the Castle Thunder for over three months. Her experiences, though not very startling, are interesting, and such as will make her more than ever a true friend to Uncle Sam. She has one thing probably reached, a matter of congratulation amongst her friends. She was captured on the 28th of October, by Moseby's men, who were dressed in citizens' clothes, while on the road between Fairfax and Bristoe Station. She was on her way to the residence of her father, who is a member of the 5th New York Artillery, Co. B, and had with her a valise packed with clothing and all sorts of nick-nacks, such as soldiers, in common with civilians, like. She was searching for a place to conceal her capture, in an ambulance, which bid fair to arrive at Bristoe Station in good time. Moseby's men rounded upon her and the ambulance driver, and she was hustled off to Richmond to the tune of the Jeff Davis Quickstep. On the 19th of October she was incarcerated in Castle Thunder. The cell she was stuck into a little bit of a room, about six feet by twelve, where four other women and two children kept her company. The number of one of the five creatures in the room, however. The lonely trio was very numerously represented, and manifested a loving kindness for each other in the walls and ceiling. The floor was spread with a velvet carpet of sawdust, which was a blessing in disguise, since it answered more purposes than would have seemed possible, and fulfilled the offices of bed, bedding, and pillows, bolsters, chairs, and tables. The name of one of the women, who was about thirty-five, was Ostan. She came from Wheeling, Va., and had two children, a little son aged three, and a girl aged seven. Mrs. Ostan had been imprisoned for eighteen months. All the four women to whom our narrator was introduced had experienced the misery of having their homes burned over their heads, their husbands being Union men, and having deserted to the rebel cause. Our narrator found imprisonment in that foul room intolerable. She begged and begged to be delivered from it, and was at length appointed to another apartment, where, up to last Saturday, she tasted the sweetness of solitary confinement. Here she had time to cry her eyes out, lament her hard fate, and the loss of her valise. She had yet $7 and 10 cents in the shape of Confederate money. One day the keeper of the cell officer who rejoices in the name of Tompkins, came to visit her. He said he would give her silver for her money. "Well," she said, "one dollar's worth of silver." She gave him her money. He slapped it in his pocket, and went off, saying it was his now. During the imprisonment she had all the delicacies of the season. She had soup every day. Three days she had bean soup, and three days rice soup. On Sundays she had some kind of meat, (she couldn't say what kind,) for a change. Soup was always the first dish, as, indeed, it should be. The only thing to object to was that it was the last also. One pleasing quality in the soup was that it was plentifully sprinkled with maggots. This was cheap for pepper. Breakfast she had bread and water. For breakfast she had a cup of coffee of the color of coal—probably owing to its strength. When the rebel brought her food they would poke it at her with, "Here, you Yankee soldier's wife!" She asked for a blanket once, but was told there was none for the Yankees. (N. B.—Were there any for the rebels themselves? It does wanted a paper to read once, but that was likewise refused. At length, after having had a highly satisfactory time of it generally, she was released last Saturday for two rebel soldiers, and delights in the knowledge of the fact that one woman is worth two men. She was conducted to Richmond with flying colors. An escort of two hundred rebels led her up the streets, and after being exchanged, was driven to Fairfax in a sutler's wagon, belonging to the Twelfth Pennsylvania Reserves. Thence the process was reversed, and she passed her on to Washington. She says she was hooted all the way out of Richmond, but was constantly saluted with the cry, "You Yankee, never you come back here!" She says she never will, and has come to the decided conclusion that being captured "isn't what it's cracked up to be." She went on her way home rejoicing yesterday morning, her husband, a Lieutenant Colonel, being at Brandy Station. She narrates her story in a lively, amusing manner, and now that her troubles are all over can afford to laugh at them. It is clear that she has seen, it is to be surmised, if we wanted a better evidence, that the Confederacy is at its last gasp, and that there will be but few more months for persons being captured to tell the tale after being exchanged. That imprisonment in Castle Thunder "isn't what it's cracked up to be."

ARRIVAL OF A VETERAN REGIMENT.—The 73d Regiment, P. V., under the command of Major Cresson, arrived at the West Philadelphia depôt shortly before 10 o'clock yesterday morning, from the army of the West. This regiment left the city in September, 1861, with 1,000 strong, and returned yesterday with about 100 men. They have

MEETING IN AID OF REFUGEES.—A meeting, in aid of the suffering refugees at Cairo, was held last evening, at the First Baptist Church, corner of Broad and Spruce. The attendance was very small considering the importance of the object for which the meeting was called. The exercises opened with prayer by Chaplain Winstead, of the Citizens' Volunteer Hospital. The Rev. Ezekiel Folsom, chaplain of the Post Hospital at Cairo, Ill., was then introduced to the audience by the Rev. Mr. Hotchkin, of Delaware, who made a few remarks explanatory of the object of the meeting.

Mr. Folsom said he found in all the towns which he had visited, from Chicago to this city, a prompt response to the efforts of the object for which he was now pleading. The first lot of these white refugees that reached Cairo was just after the fall of Corinth. They numbered 285 Before they left the camp there, a subscription was taken up, amounting to about four hundred dollars; this, they thought, would transport them some distance above Cairo, but it was not sufficient to do so, and they were obliged to keep them in box cars for forty-eight hours; but it could not be helped. These poor creatures had been stripped by the rebels of everything but the few clothes which they wore upon them. Among the number, he said, was an old woman, who was asked what she thought of this rebellion. In reply, she said that if she had the leaders of the Confederacy in her power she would hang them higher than Haman. The speaker then said they got means to transport these people away, but they had no sooner left than another squad, numbering about two hundred, arrived from Bolivar. These, he said, were in a deplorable condition, and without a cent of money. The people of Cairo raised money enough, after great trouble, to have these people also transported. Impossibility upon this event the speaker was sent North, where he raised a sum of money which lasted till October. The day before he left Cairo a family arrived there from the South. They had emigrated from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, where the father built several extensive flour mills. The sons were forced by the rebels, and all his money taken from him. They fled to the swamps, where they remained until they had a chance of escaping, which they succeeded in doing, although their health was greatly impaired. The father asked for transportation to Pittsburg, which was given them. The eldest which he pleaded for, he said had no means whatever of his might secure help and succor. The colored people of Cairo had a comfortable home, with schools and churches to attend, and the men at the government work that is carried on there. He said if it was in his power to place these white refugees before the audience, it would bring out all the benevolence and charity there was in them, but he could not. They have come upon us in the process of this war. The Government receive these people into their federal lines; they clothe them and give them rations, and then send them in transports to Cairo. He had seen hundreds and thousands who had not had the second suit of clothes to wear while they washed the ones they had on them.

He then read the following extract of a letter from Brigadier General Wagner, dated Cairo, Dec. 16, 1863, who ordered him North to plead in behalf of the refugees:

Refugees are arriving here almost daily in large numbers from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, nearly all of them in a very destitute condition. The number of arrivals which would become of them were it not for the contributions from the benevolent communities of the North, I do not pretend to conjecture. Cairo can furnish them food and shelter temporarily here; but most of them have friends and acquaintances elsewhere, to which they wish to go. Cairo, but can only be supplied raised from the benevolent, as the military authorities can only furnish transportation on Government boats, very few of which are running above this point. Clothing and bedding will be very acceptable to these sufferers, and render their condition more endurable.

Mr. Shipman, the United States sanitary agent here, is attending to the wants of the refugees, and retains the funds and clothing secured by yourself in taking care of them and forwarding them to their friends in the free States.

You will continue your labors so long as you may think it advisable, or until you have notice from these headquarters to return. Yours, most respectfully,

CHAS. WAGNER, Brig. Gen. Comdg.

Several other letters were also read in regard to the same object. After this the speaker related several incidents in the absence of the necessity of the refugees who arrive at Cairo, which appealed strongly to the hearts of those present. Among the instances told was one of a lady, who, in her own language, was a servant in Chicago. Her husband was murdered in her presence by a guerilla band, who surrounded the house, and left the lady with a child in the woods with her babe in her arms, one of the ruffians, aiming his gun at her, shot her child dead in her embrace.

At the close of his remarks he made an appeal to those present for contributions of money or clothing, to aid the suffering refugees.

A collection was then taken up, and the audience dismissed with the benediction.

Persons desiring to aid this benevolent purpose may send their contributions to Mr. H. N. Thissell, secretary of the American Tract Society, at No. 929 Chestnut street.

TESTIMONIAL TO THEO. CUYLER, ESQ.—The public will probably recollect that soon after the retirement of Theo. Cuyler, Esq., from Select Council, a year ago, a correspondence took place at the instance of all the members of the Chamber, which resulted in placing a very fine, life-size portrait of Mr. Cuyler in the Chamber in which he had served so long, and for which, for three consecutive years, he had presided with so much dignity and ability. This correspondence, together with the resolutions of Select Council expressive of the high regard for Mr. Cuyler as an able and impartial presiding officer, and their regret at his retirement from a position where his experience, foresight, and public spirit had been of so much advantage to the city, have been handsomely engrossed under the direction of the late clerks of Select Council, and placed in a frame of very beautiful design, for presentation to Mr. Cuyler. The testimonial cannot fail to be appreciated as expressive of the generous confidence and warm regard in which Mr. Cuyler is so deservedly held by those who were associated with him in a long course of public service.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—At the late regular meeting of this society Henry B. Dawson, Esq., of Morrisania, New York, and editor of the new edition of *The Federalist*, read an interesting essay on "The Capture of Stony Point" by General Wayne. The paper was nominally dedicated to an account of the capture of Stony Point, on the Hudson—one of the brightest and most important achievements of our revolution. It contained likewise a great deal of matter illustrating General Wayne's career and character generally. One of the most striking external circumstances of the address was the great number of original papers by which it was supported throughout. From the character of the documents, as well as from what is exhibited of Mr. Dawson's skill as a writer, we have confidence that the history of our revolution will possess more interesting chapters of greater value or of higher attractions than this forthcoming Life of our own Pennsylvania hero.

ARRIVAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS.—The U. S supply steamer Massachusetts, Lieutenant Wood commanding, arrived off the Navy Yard at an early hour yesterday morning, from the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. She has been up to Jacksonville, on St. John's river, Florida, supplying the different vessels with provisions, &c. The officers of the Massachusetts left Charles on Bar on Friday night last, where everything was quiet, with the exception of a few musket shots from the rebels at forts occasionally. She brought a number of passengers, prisoners, and one hundred and twenty bales of cotton from the prize steamer Caroline, which was taken by the Massachusetts. A number of invalids were left at the Norfolk hospital on board the vessel, which will take in another supply of necessary articles for the U. S. steamers in that squadron, and sail in about two weeks. Persons having letters to send will leave them on board.

DRAFT.—The people of the Fifteenth ward, or at least a large portion of them, have not subscribed to the bounty fund. They must come down with the dust. See advertisement in another column.

A somewhat original plan has been adopted in the Twenty-first ward. At a meeting held therein on Monday evening, it was unanimously resolved that any person who is subject to the draft shall pay to John M. Ulsh, treasurer, the sum of one hundred dollars, and if he should be drafted under the present call, and does not want to serve, the ward will furnish him a substitute or pay the commutation money; and if any person who subscribes to the fund should be drafted under the present call, and desires to serve, the amount he subscribes will be refunded to him.

LADY BENEFACTORS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—Mrs. Mary A. Brady, Mrs. Susan R. Chase, and another lady, from Philadelphia, next Monday, designing to visit the extreme front of the Army of the Potomac. They take with them a large stock of delicacies necessary for the soldier, especially at this season. Donations of flannel shirts, woolen socks, and any other suitable sanitary stores, will be thankfully received at the office of Ladies' Association for United States Soldiers' Relief, No. 135 South Fifth street. This patriotic appeal and patriotic endeavor go hand in hand, and are certain to result in success.

THE SIXTH WARD.—At a meeting of the citizens of this ward held last evening, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, 1st. That a committee of three from each square be appointed to the purpose of arranging a more perfect system in reference to the draft, and to accomplish the number of men required from each ward.

Resolved, 2d. That the committee so appointed meet at Conroy's court-house, Sixth and Chestnut streets, on Monday evening, February 1st, to report a plan of which shall be given through the public press of this city.

SHOOTING MATCH.—The shooting match for a pair of duelling pistols, at Frankford yesterday afternoon, was witnessed by quite a large number of sentimental Southern gentlemen, who entered the contest, and seven of them tried on four birds. Darkness coming on, the contest remained undecided. We are informed that the time was fixed when the seven best shots would try again. The announcement of time will be made known through the press.

WILL SAIL.—The United States double-bowed steamer Wateree, Capt. Murray, will sail this morning from the navy yard with sealed orders. She is a side-wheel steamer, and recently built at Chester. Her armament consists of one hundred-pounder, two one hundred pounders, and six others of smaller calibre.

GAS TRUSTEES.—Mr. John A. Houseman and Chas. E. Graeff have been nominated in caucus as the Union candidates for trustees of the gas works, by the Union members of the Common Council.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.—A colored child, named Jane Ann Campbell, living in Acorn alley, was burned to death yesterday afternoon, by her clothes taking fire from the stove.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, &c.—Messrs. M. Thomas & Sons sold at the Exchange, yesterday noon, the following stocks and real estate, viz:

$305 scrip Delaware Mutual Insurance Company, 82 per cent.—$766.70.
10 shares Corn Exchange Bank, $37—$370.
21 do. do. do. $36.75—$771.75.
55 do. do. do. $36.75—$2,021.25.
20 do. Penn Township, $39 50—$790.
20 do. Commonwealth Bank, $46 50—$1,162 50.
20 do. Schuylkill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, $60.75—$1,215.
3 shares West Chester Railroad, $9.37—$75.
60 shares Second and Third-streets Passenger Railway Company, $50—$3,200.
130 shares Southwark and Moyamensing Gas Company, $10—$1,300.
5 shares Mercantile Library, $4—$20.
Three-story brick dwelling, No. 1034 south Fifth street—$2,100.
Two-story brick dwelling, No. 1036 Mechanic street—$2,100.
Brick dwelling, No. 1037 Parker street, west of Tenth—$1,025.
Fourstory brick store, 134 Chestnut street, between Front and Second—$8,600.
Well secured ground rent, $60 a year, par $1,000—$1,140.
Well-secured ground rent, $60 a year, par $1,000—$1,150.
Old ground rent, $100 a year—$1,500.
Old ground rent, $166.93 a year—$3,000.
Building lot, Orleans street, Seneca and Oregon streets, Twenty-fourth ward—$1,700.
Two-story brick dwelling, 14 Bohemia Place—$625.
Two story frame dwelling, Fernon street, First ward—$1,575.
Three story brick dwelling, 407 north Fifth street—$1,930.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

District Court—Judge Sharswood.

Mary Davis vs. James S. Keen. An action to recover balance alleged to be due on an agreement of sale. Before reported. Verdict for plaintiff $1,258.60.

Jacob Rush vs. The City of Philadelphia. An action to recover on a contract for work and labor done and material furnished, in making outside blinds for, and painting Hancock School-house, in the Fourteenth ward. This contract was made with the plaintiff on the 5th of July, 1862, by Mr. Lewis Bitting, the then chairman of the Committee on Property of the Board of School Control. The defence was that Mr. Bitting had not authority to enter into any such contract; that he did so without consultation with, or the assent of the members of the committee of which he was chairman. As further matter of defence, it was also set up that the contract was entered into in improper haste, on the Saturday preceding the Monday when the old board went out of office, and a new board came in, Mr. Bitting ceasing on that day to be chairman of the Committee on Property. It was an additional fact in this case, that the minutes contained nothing to show that such a contract had been made. The work had been only partially executed by plaintiff when he was stopped in the further prosecution of it, by the new Board. The amount sought to be recovered was $360, which sum, it is claimed by the defence, is excessive.

Judge Sharswood charged the jury that the city can only be bound by the lawful acts of its authorized officers; that it was a question for them to determine, from all the evidence in the case, whether Mr. Bitting was or was not authorized to make the contract and to render a verdict accordingly. Jury out.

District Court—Judge Stroud.

Jonathan C. Martin and wife, to usé, &c., vs. Arthur W. Painter. Before reported. Verdict for plaintiff, $1,340.

George C. Collins vs. Philip H. and Adolph Gerlack, defendants, and C. E. Moore and H. Mitchette, garnishees. An attachment execution. Verdict for plaintiff, $223 56.

Solomon Alter vs. Clinton G. Stees and Richard S. Karthaus, trading as Richard S. Karthaus. An action to recover on book account against defendants as partners. Defence that no partnership existed. Verdict for plaintiff, $693.60.

John P. McIntrie vs. Daniel McDevitt. An action of ejectment. No defence. Verdict for plaintiff.

The list having been concluded, jurors were discharged till Monday, and the court adjourned till Saturday.

Court of Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions—Judges Allison and Ludlow.

The Commonwealth vs. Francis Nibert and Bridget Nibert. Indictment for the murder of Patrick Meighan. The whole of yesterday's session was taken up in the hearing of evidence for the defendants. The defence which was set up, and which was attempted to be established, was that the defendants acted entirely in self-defence; that the deceased was the aggressor, and that they only used so much violence as was necessary, as they thought, to protect themselves from his assaults, which were first made in the house, and afterwards persistently followed up upon Nibert.

The evidence having closed, counsel summed up, and the case went to the jury about 4 o'clock, when Judge Allison, was given to the jury, who at a late hour had not agreed upon a verdict.

THE POLICE.

(Before Mr. U. S. Commissioner Sergeant.)

Discharged.

John M. Durr, who was arrested on the charge of issuing false tokens, being business cards similar in appearance to the fifty-cent new postage currency, was discharged yesterday morning. He said he was entirely unaware of the law forbidding them, and that he would not issue any more of them, if they could be retailed, and that he would destroy the balance he had left. He simply desired to draw attention to his business in the most attractive form. The stock of cards on hand was committed to the flames in the presence of the constituted authorities, and Mr. Durr was discharged.

(Before Mr. Alderman Beitler.)

Heavy Robbery—Recovery of the Money.—Yesterday morning, Henry Thomas was arraigned at the Central Station yesterday morning, on a charge of stealing nearly two thousand dollars, belonging to a retailer named Richard C. Wilson, Jr., residing at the Fox Chase. Wilson said he saw the money on Wednesday of last week, and did not miss it until Sunday, when he lodged information of the robbery at the residence of Detective Lamon, and this officer finally arrested a brother of the accused, from whom he obtained a point or so, which led to the arrest of the defendant. He was locked into custody on Monday evening, near Girard avenue and Frankford road, and upon his person was found over $1,000 in money, of which some twenty one hundred and fifty dollars and a half in gold and silver also stolen. The young man, on being arrested, admitted the robbery to the officer and said the coin was buried near a tree back of the Fox Chase. He went with the official, and the money was exhumed.

After the hearing, the defendant was asked if he had anything to say.

He replied, "I acknowledge that I did it."

He was committed in default of $2,000 bail to answer at court.

Larceny of a Bale of Cotton.

Two colored men were arrested yesterday on the charge of the larceny of a bale of cotton from the front of a store on Chestnut street, above Front. Mr. Wm. Lennox, proprietor, had had a bale of cotton had been standing at the foot of the steps of his store for about ten days; it was worth $125. On Friday last he noticed two colored men putting it into a wagon or furniture car, and drive off with it. He ascertained after this that no person had delivered it.

Mary Morgan, a woman pretty well advanced in years, was called to the stand. She said she lives in what she keeps what is called a junk-shop in Callowhill street; she remembered three colored men coming to her place with a bale of cotton; they brought it there; she thought it was stolen, and said she would keep it for the owners. One of the prisoners, a thick-set yellow man, giving her the name of Thomas Hall, was identified by the witness as one of the men who brought the bale to her place.

Michael Morgan gave the more detail the arrival of the bale; he said the three colored men wanted to sell it for one hundred dollars; one of them said that he had bought it from a steamer, and thought it ought to bring at private sale at least three hundred dollars; the men finally cleared out without taking the cotton with them.

"Do you identify either of the defendants?" inquired the alderman.

"Yes, sir, that yellow man; I identify him."

"Sure of that, are you?"

"Yes sir, I identify him."

"Well, Thomas, have you anything to say?" asked the Alderman of the prisoner.

The prisoner replied that he was just going along the street, and was sick; he saw two men putting the bale of cotton in the cars; they asked him to help them; he did so, and went to the junk-shop with them; this was all he did; he did not know anything about the larceny.

The accused was required to enter bail in the sum of $1,500 to answer at court.

The other prisoner was discharged, there being nothing against him. Bail is a good one in such cases, resides in Auburn street, and generally staid in Sixth street ward. The other prisoner works in brick yards along Kensington.

Professional Pickpocket—Attempted Larceny.

Michael Smith was arraigned at the Central Station yesterday afternoon, on the charge of being a professional pickpocket. He and a confederate were caught in the act of robbing a gentleman in Market street. He said it it was in his power to place these white refugees before the audience, it would bring out all the benevolence and charity there was in them, but he could not. They have come upon us in the process of this war. The Government receive these people into their federal lines; they clothe them and give them rations, and then send them in transports to Cairo. He had seen hundreds and thousands who had not had the second suit of clothes to wear while they washed the ones they had on them.

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CHAS. WAGNER, Brig. Gen. Comdg.

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At the close of his remarks he made an appeal to those present for contributions of money or clothing, to aid the suffering refugees.

A collection was then taken up, and the audience dismissed with the benediction.

Persons desiring to aid this benevolent purpose may send their contributions to Mr. H. N. Thissell, secretary of the American Tract Society, at No. 929 Chestnut street.

TESTIMONIAL TO THEO. CUYLER, ESQ.—The public will probably recollect that soon after the retirement of Theo. Cuyler, Esq., from Select Council, a year ago, a correspondence took place at the instance of all the members of the Chamber, which resulted in placing a very fine, life-size portrait of Mr. Cuyler in the Chamber in which he had served so long, and for which, for three consecutive years, he had presided with so much dignity and ability. This correspondence, together with the resolutions of Select Council expressive of the high regard for Mr. Cuyler as an able and impartial presiding officer, and their regret at his retirement from a position where his experience, foresight, and public spirit had been of so much advantage to the city, have been handsomely engrossed under the direction of the late clerks of Select Council, and placed in a frame of very beautiful design, for presentation to Mr. Cuyler. The testimonial cannot fail to be appreciated as expressive of the generous confidence and warm regard in which Mr. Cuyler is so deservedly held by those who were associated with him in a long course of public service.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—At the late regular meeting of this society Henry B. Dawson, Esq., of Morrisania, New York, and editor of the new edition of *The Federalist*, read an interesting essay on "The Capture of Stony Point" by General Wayne. The paper was nominally dedicated to an account of the capture of Stony Point, on the Hudson—one of the brightest and most important achievements of our revolution. It contained likewise a great deal of matter illustrating General Wayne's career and character generally. One of the most striking external circumstances of the address was the great number of original papers by which it was supported throughout. From the character of the documents, as well as from what is exhibited of Mr. Dawson's skill as a writer, we have confidence that the history of our revolution will possess more interesting chapters of greater value or of higher attractions than this forthcoming Life of our own Pennsylvania hero.

ARRIVAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS.—The U. S supply steamer Massachusetts, Lieutenant Wood commanding, arrived off the Navy Yard at an early hour yesterday morning, from the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. She has been up to Jacksonville, on St. John's river, Florida, supplying the different vessels with provisions, &c. The officers of the Massachusetts left Charles on Bar on Friday night last, where everything was quiet, with the exception of a few musket shots from the rebels at forts occasionally. She brought a number of passengers, prisoners, and one hundred and twenty bales of cotton from the prize steamer Caroline, which was taken by the Massachusetts. A number of invalids were left at the Norfolk hospital on board the vessel, which will take in another supply of necessary articles for the U. S. steamers in that squadron, and sail in about two weeks. Persons having letters to send will leave them on board.

DRAFT.—The people of the Fifteenth ward, or at least a large portion of them, have not subscribed to the bounty fund. They must come down with the dust. See advertisement in another column.

A somewhat original plan has been adopted in the Twenty-first ward. At a meeting held therein on Monday evening, it was unanimously resolved that any person who is subject to the draft shall pay to John M. Ulsh, treasurer, the sum of one hundred dollars, and if he should be drafted under the present call, and does not want to serve, the ward will furnish him a substitute or pay the commutation money; and if any person who subscribes to the fund should be drafted under the present call, and desires to serve, the amount he subscribes will be refunded to him.

LADY BENEFACTORS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—Mrs. Mary A. Brady, Mrs. Susan R. Chase, and another lady, from Philadelphia, next Monday, designing to visit the extreme front of the Army of the Potomac. They take with them a large stock of delicacies necessary for the soldier, especially at this season. Donations of flannel shirts, woolen socks, and any other suitable sanitary stores, will be thankfully received at the office of Ladies' Association for United States Soldiers' Relief, No. 135 South Fifth street. This patriotic appeal and patriotic endeavor go hand in hand, and are certain to result in success.

THE SIXTH WARD.—At a meeting of the citizens of this ward held last evening, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, 1st. That a committee of three from each square be appointed to the purpose of arranging a more perfect system in reference to the draft, and to accomplish the number of men required from each ward.

Resolved, 2d. That the committee so appointed meet at Conroy's court-house, Sixth and Chestnut streets, on Monday evening, February 1st, to report a plan of which shall be given through the public press of this city.

SHOOTING MATCH.—The shooting match for a pair of duelling pistols, at Frankford yesterday afternoon, was witnessed by quite a large number of sentimental Southern gentlemen, who entered the contest, and seven of them tried on four birds. Darkness coming on, the contest remained undecided. We are informed that the time was fixed when the seven best shots would try again. The announcement of time will be made known through the press.

WILL SAIL.—The United States double-bowed steamer Wateree, Capt. Murray, will sail this morning from the navy yard with sealed orders. She is a side-wheel steamer, and recently built at Chester. Her armament consists of one hundred-pounder, two one hundred pounders, and six others of smaller calibre.

GAS TRUSTEES.—Mr. John A. Houseman and Chas. E. Graeff have been nominated in caucus as the Union candidates for trustees of the gas works, by the Union members of the Common Council.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.—A colored child, named Jane Ann Campbell, living in Acorn alley, was burned to death yesterday afternoon, by her clothes taking fire from the stove.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, &c.—Messrs. M. Thomas & Sons sold at the Exchange, yesterday noon, the following stocks and real estate, viz:

$305 scrip Delaware Mutual Insurance Company, 82 per cent.—$766.70.
10 shares Corn Exchange Bank, $37—$370.
21 do. do. do. $36.75—$771.75.
55 do. do. do. $36.75—$2,021.25.
20 do. Penn Township, $39 50—$790.
20 do. Commonwealth Bank, $46 50—$1,162 50.
20 do. Schuylkill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, $60.75—$1,215.
3 shares West Chester Railroad, $9.37—$75.
60 shares Second and Third-streets Passenger Railway Company, $50—$3,200.
130 shares Southwark and Moyamensing Gas Company, $10—$1,300.
5 shares Mercantile Library, $4—$20.
Three-story brick dwelling, No. 1034 south Fifth street—$2,100.
Two-story brick dwelling, No. 1036 Mechanic street—$2,100.
Brick dwelling, No. 1037 Parker street, west of Tenth—$1,025.
Fourstory brick store, 134 Chestnut street, between Front and Second—$8,600.
Well secured ground rent, $60 a year, par $1,000—$1,140.
Well-secured ground rent, $60 a year, par $1,000—$1,150.
Old ground rent, $100 a year—$1,500.
Old ground rent, $166.93 a year—$3,000.
Building lot, Orleans street, Seneca and Oregon streets, Twenty-fourth ward—$1,700.
Two-story brick dwelling, 14 Bohemia Place—$625.
Two story frame dwelling, Fernon street, First ward—$1,575.
Three story brick dwelling, 407 north Fifth street—$1,930.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

District Court—Judge Sharswood.

Mary Davis vs. James S. Keen. An action to recover balance alleged to be due on an agreement of sale. Before reported. Verdict for plaintiff $1,258.60.

Jacob Rush vs. The City of Philadelphia. An action to recover on a contract for work and labor done and material furnished, in making outside blinds for, and painting Hancock School-house, in the Fourteenth ward. This contract was made with the plaintiff on the 5th of July, 1862, by Mr. Lewis Bitting, the then chairman of the Committee on Property of the Board of School Control. The defence was that Mr. Bitting had not authority to enter into any such contract; that he did so without consultation with, or the assent of the members of the committee of which he was chairman. As further matter of defence, it was also set up that the contract was entered into in improper haste, on the Saturday preceding the Monday when the old board went out of office, and a new board came in, Mr. Bitting ceasing on that day to be chairman of the Committee on Property. It was an additional fact in this case, that the minutes contained nothing to show that such a contract had been made. The

PROPOSALS.

OFFICE ARMY CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE, TWELFTH and GIRARD Streets.
PHILADELPHIA, January 25, 1864.
SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until 12 o'clock M., on FRIDAY, the 29th instant, for supplying the Schuylkill Arsenal with the following articles:
HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE FLAGS.
For General Hospitals—Yellow bunting, 9 by 6 feet, with the letter H, 24 inches long, of green bunting, in the centre.
For Post and Field Hospitals—Yellow bunting, 6 by 4 feet, with the letter H, 24 inches long, of green bunting, in the centre.
For Ambulances and Guide-Flags—To mark the way to field hospitals, yellow bunting, 14 by 28 inches, with a Border one inch deep of green.
AGAO.
Light Artillery Uniform Cloth, army standard.
Red-Flair Plumes for do., army standard.
Red Stands and Tassels for do., worsted, army standard.
Sashes for do., brass, army standard.
Eagles for do., brass, army standard.
Bedsack Tape, 2 inch.
Bidders must state in their proposals the price, which must be given in *writing*, as well as in figures; also the quantity bid for, and time of delivery.
The ability of the bidder to fill the contract must be guaranteed by two responsible persons, whose signatures will be appended to the guaranty, and said guaranty accompany the bid; and in case the said bidder should fail to enter into the contract, they to make good the difference between the offer of said bidder and the next lowest responsible bidder, or the article to whom the contract may be awarded.
Bidders, as well as their sureties, or guarantors, who may not be known at this office, will furnish a certificate from the United States District Attorney, Postmaster, or other public functionary, at the residence of the bidder, or guarantors, setting forth clearly the fact, that the bidder and the sureties are responsible men, who will, if a contract is awarded them, act in good faith with the United States, and faithfully execute the same.
No bid will be received unless proper