## THE CITY.

Thermometer.

FEBRUARY 8, 1863. | FEBRUARY 8, 1864.

| 6 A. M. | 12 M. | 3 P. M. | 6 A. M. | 12 M. | 3 P. M.
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 41 | 47 | 35½ | 46½ | 46 |

WIND.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SW | SSE | SSW | WSW | S | N | S | NW |

THE STEAMSHIP LINE.—Yesterday afternoon an adjournment of merchants and others favorable to the establishment of a line of ocean steamers between this port and Liverpool was held at the office of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Frederick Fraley, Esq., occupied the chair. Mr. Lorin Blodget, secretary of the Board of Trade, addressed the meeting in reference to the subject. He said that the decline of American commerce was, especially since the breaking out of the rebellion, of a most fearful character. He had recently been to Washington, and had an opportunity of witnessing, from the records, the alarming extermination of American ships. They have left our own ports for China, Australia, and other ports, and seldom have returned as they went out. They are registered for the benefit of other nations, and we were every day becoming losers. Four times the amount of merchandise is now shipped from our own shores in foreign bottoms than in American ones—this was every prospect that in 1865 the ratio would still further increase. The proportion of merchandise exported as well as imported was until recently four times as great in American as it now is in foreign ships. Now these proportions are reversed. In 1853 the proportion carried in foreign vessels was three times as great as in American vessels, and in 1864 it would be at least five times as great in our commerce with Europe. In 1853 Philadelphia exported only $607,350 in foreign ships, while in 1863 the sum was $6,057,683—ten times as much. With the export trade almost wholly in our hands six years ago and for all previous years, it is now almost wholly out of our hands. And of the import trade of this port, which was ten millions in American vessels to one in foreign vessels, the proportion was reversed, remaining to us in the last half of 1864 is but about one-tenth—three hundred thousand dollars out of three million. It was a disgrace that our commerce should be carried by foreigners, especially as we have the ability to do it ourselves. It was time for the people to awake, and no longer suffer their interests to be jeopardized by permitting all our carrying trade to fall into the hands of other nations. The movement to inaugurate a steamship line between Philadelphia and Europe, that shall be entirely American, was one deserving the support of every Philadelphia merchant.

Mr. George L. Buzby said that this was a deplorable state of affairs for an American citizen to contemplate. It was time that the people should be aroused to the perils of our commerce. He (Mr. Buzby) was impressed with the conviction that it is absolutely necessary to have a home commerce, and then will we of Philadelphia accomplish the desired object of having a line of steamships to Europe which shall be owned by Philadelphians. A foreign firm had already commenced a semi-monthly line of steamships to this port, but it would be no credit to our merchants if they could not themselves support such a line.

Mr. John C. Cresson said that, as a Philadelphian, he was anxious for the restoration of our commerce, and he regretted very much that our respectable body as the Corn Exchange Association should have endorsed the foreign firm who are about to run a line of steamships between Philadelphia and Europe. That body would be among the first to suffer if foreign capital should control our commerce.

Mr. E. C. Pechin also addressed the meeting. He stated that the Committee on Publication had endeavored to procure the sympathies of the newspaper press, and had been generally successful. The intelligent editors of the Philadelphia newspapers were not long in observing the justice and necessity of advocating an American line of steamships as against a foreign line. The speaker said that at this stage, when the project was so near success, it would be saddening if it would be brought to a premature failure. As a practical start, he would be one of twelve gentlemen who would raise $25,000 each.

Mr. Hunby moved that a committee be appointed to prepare a circular to be addressed to the citizens of Philadelphia, giving a brief synopsis of the enterprise, and its value. Adopted.

Mr. Pechin further stated that it was of interest to the meeting to know that he had been informed that the Legislature of the State were favorably disposed to aid the company in procuring such aid as it would be in their power to give.

The meeting soon after adjourned.

GUARDIANS OF THE POOR.—The stated meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Poor was held yesterday afternoon, President Dickenson in the chair.

The monthly statement of the visitor of the outdoor relief for the month of January shows the number receiving relief 14,234, of which number 2,710 were Americans, 3,148 foreigners, and 8,376 children.

The house agent reported the census of the house 2,676, a decrease of 53 from the number in the house at the same time last year. Admitted during the two weeks, 160; born, 8; died, 20; discharged, 70; eloped, 35; bound, 1; lodged, 37; fed, 78. Males, 1,229; females, 1,447.

The committee to whom was referred the matter of increasing the salaries of employees of the Almshouse, reported in favor of increasing the salaries and memorializing Councils for an appropriation of $6,274 for that purpose.

Mr. Lee was opposed to increasing salaries, and offered an amendment that the subject be recommitted to the committee with instructions to inquire and report whether it would be proper for the Board to invite applications from soldiers, who may be disabled in the field, to be employed in the various positions in charge of the Board. Agreed to.

Mr. Lowry offered a resolution that in cases reported by the Board of Visitors, relative to delinquencies in the delivery of coal for the use of the almshouse, be submitted to the Solicitor for his advice as to what remedies are in the hands of the Board to compel a proper performance of the contracts on the part of delinquent coal dealers. Agreed to.

Mr. S. D. Franklin was elected superintendent of manufactures of the almshouse.

The resignation of Mr. Franklin as superintendent of manufactures was presented, read, and accepted.

On motion of Mr. Lowry, the Committee on Manufactures was instructed to place a competent person in charge of manufactures until a superintendent be elected. Agreed to.

An election for recording clerk of the Medical Board was gone into, and Mr. Girvin was elected.

On motion of Mr. Erety, the salary of the recording clerk was fixed at $400 per annum.

The resignation of John M. Harris as a Guardian of the Poor was then read. The speaker said he knew him for resigning is that the pressure of other duties does not allow him to attend to his duties in the Board.

On motion of Mr. Erety the resignation was accepted, and a certified copy thereof ordered to be sent to the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, that they may fill the vacancy.

Dr. E. D. Guth was elected out door physician of the First poor district.

The steward's requisition was read, and granted. Adjourned.

ARMY HOSPITAL REPORT.—The following report of the Army Hospitals, in the Department of the Susquehanna, was received at the Medical Director's Office yesterday, for the week ending February 6, 1864:

| HOSPITALS. | No. admitted. | No. returned to duty. | No. deserted. | No. died. | No. remaining.
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chester | 9 | | | | 9 |
| McClellan | 61 | 61 | | | 429 |
| Christian Street | 3 | 3 | | 1 | 127 |
| York, Pa. | 22 | 4 | 1 | | 425 |
| South street | 3 | 1 | | | 191 |
| Summit House | 4 | | | | 163 |
| Broad and Prime | 4 | | | | 42 |
| Satterlee | 8 | 6 | 4 | | 1,077 |
| Germantown | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 243 |
| Chestnut Hill | 27 | 38 | | | 148 |
| Fifth and Vine streets | 3 | 1 | | | 150 |
| Islington Lane | 2 | 12 | | | 16 |
| Chambersburg | 2 | 10 | | | 15 |
| Officers' Hospital | | 1 | | | 24 |
| Filbert street | 62 | 12 | | 1 | 281 |
| Turner's Lane | 8 | 3 | | | 93 |
| Fort Mifflin | 1 | 1 | | | 32 |
| Cotton Factory | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 14 |
| Total | 231 | 180 | 9 | 2 | 3,911 |

PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD.—The annual meeting of this road was held yesterday at 230 Walnut street. The yearly report was read, setting forth the doings of the company. According to the report, there are only twenty miles of track to be laid to connect Wilcox with St. Mary. When these two points are connected, then the track of 265 miles will be completed. It is expected that the whole road will be in running order by the first of next June.

The report complains of a scarcity of laborers.

The floating debt has been reduced from $116,476 to $32,896.

The following figures show the revenue and increase for the time specified:

| | Receipts. | Increase.
|---|---|---|
| 1859 | $269,418 | |
| 1861 | 350,436 | $81,012 |
| 1862 | 443,419 | 92,987 |
| 1863 | 727,669 | 284,250 |

For the accommodation of the lake business, the company are now constructing an extensive pier in the harbor of Erie, upon which will be erected a fine coal elevator, with machinery attached. Arrangements have also been made, jointly with the Lake Shore Railroad Company, for the erection of a new and capacious passenger station-house at Erie, and the work of preparing materials for the structure has already commenced.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WIDOWS OF UNION SOLDIERS.—The Rev. W. W. Williams, a young gentleman who has travelled extensively in nearly all parts of the world, will deliver his great lecture, "Forty Days in Jerusalem," this evening, in the 7th Presbyterian (West Penn Square) Church, for the benefit of the widows of the Union soldiers. Though young, there are few who have travelled more extensively, or more effectively, in the interesting region of which he is to speak, than Mr. Williams; and being a gentleman of culture and fine linguistic ability, his lectures have everywhere been received with pleasure and instruction, by those who are interested in Bible subjects, and with enthusiastic attention by all. Mr. Williams is a rising young star in the lecture world, and as his aim and object is of the most praiseworthy character, the proceeds being for the benefit of Bible objects purely, we bespeak for him a crowded audience this evening.

RUNAWAY AND ACCIDENT.—On Sunday evening a deep hole in Passyunk road, a few feet below Federal street, caused a pair of fine horses to run away. Messrs. Sharkey and Schuyler, deputy United States marshals, and two other gentlemen, were in a light wagon. Owing to the darkness the wagon went into the hole hub deep, the bolt which connected the tongue or pole to the body thereof parting. The horses thus having a free return, ran to the road to South street, thence towards the Delaware, accelerating their speed every moment. Fortunately, the animals were stopped by Mr. Dominick Bradley. The wagon was broken to pieces, and Mr. Schuyler was somewhat injured. The Highway Department, of course, is to blame. The supervisor of the district must have known the hole was there. Three weeks ago the neighbors complained about it.

COMPANIES MUSTERED IN AND OUT.—The following report of the companies mustered in and out of the United States service was made yesterday at Capt. Lane's office:

Mustered in for three years, from the 31st of January to February 8th, 25th Regiment U. S. Colored Troops, Companies E, F, and G, Infantry; 183d Regiment P. V.; Co. E, Capt. Griffith, and Co. B, Provost Guard of Philadelphia.

The 1st Regiment Chasseurs P. V. Infantry; Co. A, Capt Brault; Co. B, Capt. Gohler; Co. D, Capt. Jaques Paquet, and Co. E, Capt. Wm. Barr, were mustered out of the United States service.

FROM FOREIGN PORTS.—A number of vessels from foreign ports arrived at our wharves yesterday, bringing the following articles: 2,312 bags of coffee, 72 bales of cotton, 2 575 boxes oranges, 2,000 do. lemons, 22 casks raisins, 60 hhds. sugar, 250 tons old iron, 419 hides, 429 casks and 50 tierces soda ash, 1,000 bags saltpetre, 50 tierces bleaching powder, 22 bales senna, 114 bars steel, 300 pigs lead, 1,213 boxes tin plates, 340 crates earthenware, 6,346 bars and 2,530 bundles of iron, 724 sheets and 79 bundles of sheet-iron. These articles were consigned to different parties in this city.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.—The following deaths were reported at the Medical Director's office yesterday:

Satterlee Hospital.—Ira R. Moss, Co. F, 143d Regiment P. V.

Turners' Lane.—John Hutchinson, Co. B, 104th Regiment P. V.

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI.—To-morrow evening the Alumni Association of the Central High School will hold its semi-annual meeting. The election for speaker for the ensuing year will take place. Mr. Chas. Henry Brock, of the Thirty-fifth Class, is a candidate for this honor. Each candidate has numerous friends, a circumstance which will render the election contested and jaunanated.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Mr. David Fell, aged sixty years, who was employed in the Southwark grain distillery of Mr. Young, in South street, above Fourth, for many years, was caught by the machinery in that establishment yesterday morning and crushed to death. He was, it may be said, torn to pieces. Coroner Taylor held an inquest, and the jury rendered a verdict of accidental death.

INQUEST ON THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A SOLDIER.—A young man named Gus. Ford was arrested yesterday afternoon, in Front street, below Dickerson, by Officers Sheer and Lenoir, on suspicion of being concerned in the death of James Hackett, a soldier of Co. B, 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who was found dead, at an early hour on Saturday morning, on a lot in the First ward. He was taken to Southwark Hall, where the inquest was resumed by Coroner Taylor. The following testimony was elicited:

Mrs. Elizabeth Wright sworn.—I keep a public house on Second street, below Wharton; the prisoner was in my house on Friday evening, between eleven and twelve o'clock, and again on Saturday morning, between one and two o'clock, when the house was shut and he left; no one was with him; he spent no money, either did he drink anything; I remember several soldiers being in the house during Friday evening, but no one in particular.

Mr. Ulmer sworn.—Keep a shoe store at No 848 South Second street; Ford came into my place about half past nine o'clock on Friday night, in company with a soldier and another young man, dressed in citizen's clothes; the soldier wanted to buy a pair of light shoes, as he was going to a shinding; Ford got a twenty-five cent note from the soldier and started over to Mr. Devitt's, for the purpose of purchasing, as he said, a pair of stockings, which he soon after returned with; a pair of boots were selected and paid for; they then started out. A pair of new boots were shown the witness, but he could not recognize them.

Wm. Carr sworn.—Know the prisoner by sight; the last time I saw him was about 11 o'clock on Friday evening, on Second street, below Wharton; he was in company with a soldier and another man who was dressed in black clothes, whom he could not recognize; he could not say whether they went in to Wright's tavern or not, as he did not turn around to see.

Mrs. Wright was again sworn.—To the best of my recollection Ford did not come in the house with a soldier; I have seen more than three or four soldiers in my house the same evening.

Mr. Stephen Girard sworn.—Know the prisoner; saw him last between 2 and 3 o'clock on Saturday morning standing opposite my house, which is at Front and Hazel streets; again saw him about half past four o'clock; the prisoner was about one hundred and five hundred yards from where the dead man was found; saw Ford and two others go into a dance house near by; heard quarrelling in the house; some voices sounded like soldiers; the noise kept me awake for some time.

Mr. Grover sworn.—Live in Church street, below Morris; about 6½ o'clock a gentleman called me to him and said there was the dead body of a soldier on the lot there, and found him lying between two logs, all cramped up, about fifteen feet from the curbstone; a yellow substance was flowing from the prisoner's nose and mouth, but could not detect the smell of it; I straightened him out, and placed his hat, which was lying about two feet from him, under his head; a man who was there at the time helped put his hand in one of the pockets of the dead soldier and pulled out a paper with six or seven buttons in it; this was all the searching that was done in my presence.

Mr. Devitt sworn.—About half past nine o'clock on Friday night, the prisoner came into my store and purchased a pair of stockings. He appeared very familiar, although I never saw him before. A pair of stockings belonging to the deceased were then shown by the witness, but he stated that they were not the ones the prisoner purchased.

Mr. Robert Jackson sworn.—Reside No. 209 Dickinson street; was on duty as a policeman on Friday night; was coming down Wharton street, and when near Second, I met Gus. Ford in company with a soldier and another man. They went down to Mr. Wright's tavern. The soldier hesitated at first, but finally went in; know him by sight, but not to speak to.

A list of the effects of Hackett was then sworn. He said: I know the prisoner by sight, but never spoke to him; between 8 and 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, as I was about opening the door of the store where I work, on Morris street, below Church, I saw him pass by on Church street; I followed him in about a half square from where the body was found; saw no one else about at the time; he was dressed in a blue blouse, light pants, and high-crowned Kossuth hat.

Ford then stated that he was not at the dance that evening, as one of the witnesses stated, and neither did he know the dead man nor the third party who was present. The soldier came up to him and asked him where he might buy a pair of shoes, and he told him. He also denied the statement made by the boy as to his seeing him between 5 and 7 o'clock on Saturday morning. He said that he went to bed about 12 o'clock that night, and did not get up till nine.

Mrs. Mary Carr sworn.—Reside in Tasker street, below Front; while in my room, shortly after eleven o'clock, I heard a noise on the pavement outside, as if two men were in liquor and quarreling; heard one say something about killing the other; in a few minutes after they proceeded down Church street; she did not think there were more than two men present; could not distinguish their faces on account of the darkness; she could not recognize the voice of the prisoner as being either of the ones she heard.

Mrs. Ann Hamilton sworn.—Reside at Church and Tasker streets, which is about a half square from where the dead body was found; between 11 and 12 o'clock, on Friday night, heard a noise as if two persons were running past the house; raised the window, but could not see any one about.

No more witnesses were examined, and the case was postponed until 3 o'clock this afternoon, when it will be held at the same place. The supposition is that the liquor which the deceased drank contained a substance which brought on congestion of the brain, resulting in his death. Other witnesses will be examined to-day, which may throw more light on the subject.

STEAMSHIP JUPITER.—In our remarks yesterday we stated that the steamer started from John K. Tilghman's saw-dock, Kensington. We should have said John H., the son, the senior Hammett, a well-known ship builder, having long ago retired from business. We also continued to say Captain W. J. Clark, late of the bark Mexico, for his nautical knowledge of the river and its shoals, of which and pilot in our waters has a more extended knowledge.

THE DANA TROOP.—Lieut. Clark, of the Dana Troop, with other officers, is engaged in recruiting for his command, otherwise known as the 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry. Some of the best men in the country, so far as general intelligence, education, and power of physical endurance are concerned, may be found in this military organization.

PUBLIC RECEPTION.—Gen. Meade will have a public reception at Independence Hall at noon to-day. All persons who desire to shake the hand of the hero of Gettysburg will have an opportunity.

## THE POLICE.

[Before Mr. Alderman Beitler.]

**Now You See It, Now You Don't.**

A man proof of sixty-one years, named Samuel Lee, was arrested, yesterday, by Officer Smith, of the Sixth division, on the charge of setting up a game of chance. The paraphernalia of such an institution as this consist of a sweat cloth, figures, dice, and boxes, and an ingenious contrivance, known as the "little joker," or "now you see it, now you don't." The defendant was bold enough to set up the game at Seventh and Market streets. He was required to enter bail in the sum of $600 to answer.

**The Recent Highway Robbery.**

A second and final hearing took place yesterday afternoon, at the Central Station, in the case of the two full-grown boys, McGoldrick and Curren, charged with highway robbery. Evidence was adduced by two similar boys who saw the defendants in company with each other, in the vicinity of the place of robbery, and about fifteen minutes before it was perpetrated. It will be remembered that at the first hearing Mr. Clinton, who was knocked down and robbed, positively identified McGoldrick as one of the party. The defendants were arrested while playing marbles, in a tavern, with each other. The accused were committed in default of $2,500 each to answer at court.]

**Discharged.**

The three young men arrested about two weeks since on suspicion of being concerned in the attempted robbery and blowing open of the fire-proof at the counting-house of Mr. McIlvaine, at Thirty-fourth and Market streets, had a final hearing at the Central Station, yesterday afternoon. All the witnesses failed to connect the defendants in the robbery. The prisoners were subjected to a pretty searching examination by the magistrate, from which it seems they came from New York recently, alleging they desired to find employment in Philadelphia. The police officers are somewhat divided in opinion as to the guilty party. All believe there was