The Press.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1864.

☞ We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞ Voluntary correspondence is solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

Rate of Mortality in the War.

The British Association for the Promotion of Science, which was established in 1831, holding its first annual meeting at York, under the presidency of Sir DAVID BREWSTER, assembled at Bath, in the West of England, in September, having Sir CHARLES LYELL, the great geologist, for its chairman. In fact, this voluntary association of scientific men from all places where Civilization exists, may be considered a Parliament of Science. Even the poor and imperfectly instructed derive benefit from this body, abstracts of whose proceedings and the papers read at them are published, not merely in the literary and scientific journals, but also in the local newspapers, which now, the taxes on knowledge—stamp and advertisement duty and tax upon paper—having been removed; are considerably cheaper than the various imposts and increased wages can permit American journals now to be.

We have observed, with satisfaction, that the scientific knowledge of the United States, which is far ahead of all other countries in invention and improvements, has been well represented at the annual meetings we report. We noticed that, in the department of Chemical Science, Prof. W. B. ROGERS read a paper, with experiments, on the apparatus invented by Mr. CORNELIUS, (of CORNELIUS & BAKER,) of Philadelphia, for lighting gas by an electrical apparatus attached to the ordinary burner—an invention which removes danger and allows the ill-smelling and wall-defacing lucifer-match to be dispensed with. Also, that in the section of Economic Science and Statistics, there was read a highly interesting and even important paper by Mr. E. B. ELLIOTT, of Washington, "On Military Statistics of Certain Armies," especially of those of the United States. There is an abstract of this paper in "*The Reader*" of the 5th inst., an able literary journal published in London, and not so well known nor properly appreciated here as its competitor, the anti-American *Athenæum*.

Mr. ELLIOTT called attention to the rates of sickness experienced by the Danish forces during the late conflict in Schleswig-Holstein; the rates of sickness, mortality, and other casualties experienced by the United States Volunteers during the first fifteen months of the existing civil war; and to certain physiological characteristics of the United States Volunteers, and the laws which govern the distribution of certain measurements. It has been said, over and over again, here and in foreign countries, that the Civil War in the United States has been more destructive than the world ever saw before. The statistics carefully collected by Mr. ELLIOTT enable us to show, by the contrast of comparison, how far this is correct. He shows that the mortality of the United States Volunteers during the fifteen months, July, 1861, to August, 1862, inclusive, was at the annual rate of somewhat over seven (7.2) in every 100 men, of which two (2.0) were from killed in action, and five (5.2) from diseases and accidents. The rate of mortality of officers from disease, as in other wars, has been less than that of the men, but from wounds received in action much greater. The mortality from wounds, both of officers and men, has in general been considerably less than that from disease, although, with regard to officers in the latter part of the period, the reverse has been the case, their mortality from wounds having somewhat exceeded that from disease. The rate of mortality in the existing war (7.2 per cent. per annum), for the period under consideration, although much greater than that of civilians of the military age, both in Europe and America, and greater than that of the army of the United States in time of peace, has been less than that of the United States forces during the war against Mexico, and *very considerably less than that of the British forces on the Spanish peninsula* (in 1811–14) *and in the Crimea* (1854–56); *the average annual rate in the Spanish peninsula having been 16½ per cent., and in the Crimea about 23 per cent., the last-mentioned rate only embracing those dying in hospitals, and not including deaths on the field of battle.*

Here, then, we have it that the rate of mortality in the present war is only 7.2 per cent. per annum, while the rate of mortality in WELLINGTON'S Spanish campaigns (1811–14) was 16½ per cent.; and then in the Crimea, in 1854–55, even not counting those who died on the battle-field, averaged 23 per cent. How is this smaller rate of mortality to be accounted for? It arises, no doubt, from the organization, so wisely made and so liberally maintained, which has raised the Sanitary Commission and the Christian Commission to inquire into the best and most systematic means of ascertaining the condition of our soldiers, to supply liberal relief to the suffering, and sustain their drooping spirits by kindness and sympathy. FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE—may her name be eternally honored for what her true heart impelled her to do!—initiated measures, however inadequate, for helping the sick, wounded, and suffering soldiers of England during the war in the Crimea, but a brigade of self-denying women, the veritable angels of life, arose in this country, once that war commenced its ravages, and their numbers have not decreased, nor their labors of humanity diminished. Mr. ELLIOTT has done well in placing before the world, though such a medium of publicity as the meeting and publication of the British Association, the vital statistics which prove the superiority of our system to that of England.

General Hancock's New Corps.

General HANCOCK, who has received authority from the War Department to raise another army corps, does not permit impaired health to remove him from practical interest in the army in which he has borne so brave a part. When restored to vigor, he will re-enter the field with a new column of veterans, having performed only less service in his absence than by his skill and daring in the campaign. The new corps, it is intended, will be composed principally of veterans, and number 20,000 infantry, to be enlisted between this time and the new year, a term of service not less than twelve months. An extra bounty of three hundred dollars will be paid on the muster of the recruit into service, and the officers of the command will be soldiers of at least two years' experienced service. Those who enlist will be credited to their home districts, and all who retain their arms to the close of their service will be permitted to keep them as perpetual heirlooms. We presume that the new veteran corps will be recruited from all parts of the country, and it is not too much to expect that, with the great inducements held out both to the honor and profit of the soldier, the whole force will be raised by the first of the New Year. General HANCOCK is the most popular corps commander in the army, and veterans out of service will be satisfied to take the field with him once more. The personal course of this young and noble leader is that of true gallantry and soldierly devotion; and the flower of our fighting population should gather to his standard.

THE London *Times* expresses a virtuous horror at the thought that the United States have expended so much life and treasure to put down rebellion. We have no disposition to complain because foreign journals deprecate the sacrifice of life with which this war, like all great wars, has pained our every-day humanity. But why not show at least an equal sympathy of horror at the madness and extravagance with which the rebellion has been waged? What an atrocity of folly to rebel!

THE BRITISH PEACE ADDRESS.

CORRESPONDENCE OF SECRETARY SEWARD AND MR. PARKER.

Public Safety.

A correspondent asks: "Will Philadelphia wait till her public buildings are fired, before we require the rebels to report at headquarters, as they have done in New York, *after* their attempt failed?" This query is pertinent. We cannot afford to do away with suspicion, and forego rational safeguard, after the undoubted evidence of the plot to burn our cities. In New York, we are informed, there are thirty thousand Southerners, a large part of whom are without apparent means of support. In the absence of vigilance on the part of our authorities, how many are required to make incendiarism successful? The number in Philadelphia may be comparatively few, but is sufficient to be dangerous, especially if reinforced by the thwarted conspiracy of New York, and aided by any inefficiency on the part of our authorities, in whom should rest the true safeguard against unnecessary alarm.

THE London *Herald*, one of the worst-tempered of the English journals, has whipped itself into a fury in consequence of the Florida affair. It reverts to the case of the Trent, and calls the United States navy "the common pest of the seas—the enemy of the human race." This is severe language, but not at all significant. To one instance of violated neutrality, for which the Union has offered redress, half a dozen may be mentioned in which Great Britain gave none at all. What new virtue possesses the Anglo-rebel papers that our loyal navy is called a pest, and nothing whatever is said in blame of the rebel system of piracy?

UNDER the heading of "A Superb Special Piece of Business—A Treasury Coon Come Down," the New York *Herald* rejoices because the Treasury Department had paid one of the bills due that newspaper, at its own prices; whereupon it runs on in this superlative vein of self-worship:

"There are, unfortunately, many men in Washington, even especially in the Departments, upon whom logic and philosophy have no effect. They are too thick-headed to comprehend, and too stupid to understand the force of our reasoning. Secretary Chase was one of this sort, and we finally philosophized him out of office. Secretary Welles has the same characteristics; but we have not yet been able to argue Secretary Welles out of the Navy Department or into capturing Wilmington. It might be invidious to name others who are equally senseless, and upon whom we have wasted enough logic to satisfy Whately, and enough philosophy to make Bacon rise from his grave and call us blessed."

This is too much. Surely, some small scrap of respect should be allowed to public opinion. Merry Andrew, Jack Sheppard, Mark Meddle, Paul Pry, Clown and Pantaloon, Jenkins, and Jefferson Brick may be tolerable for a season, but there should be a pause in the masquerade.

THE replies of the Secretary of State to Mr. PARKER, the agent of the British friends of the rebellion, are as emphatic as they are brief. The address of which Mr. PARKER is the bearer is impertinent. It assumes that the loyal people of the United States are carrying on an unnecessary war, and advises them to make a dishonorable peace. Without arguing the question, Mr. SEWARD has settled it.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1864.

PROCLAMATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT—THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE SCHELDT DUES.

The President has issued a proclamation declaring that the treaty between the United States and the King of the Belgians, for the extinguishment of the Scheldt dues, has been duly ratified on both sides, and has accordingly proclamation announcing the exchange of ratifications of the convention between these same nations, completing, by new stipulations, the treaty of commerce and navigation of July, 1858.

By these arrangements the United States, in view of the propositions made by Belgium to regulate by a common accord the capitalization of the Scheldt dues, consents to contribute to this capitalization, under certain conditions, an amount not exceeding 2,000,780 francs. The tariff of import duties resulting from the treaty of the 1st of May, 1861, between Belgium and France, is extended to goods imported from the United States on the same conditions with which it was extended to Great Britain by the treaty of July 23d, 1862.

The reductions made by the treaties entered into by Belgium with Switzerland, on the 11th of December, 1862; with Italy, on the 9th of April, 1863; with the Netherlands, on the 12th of May, 1863; and also with France, on the 12th of May, 1863, is to be equally applied to goods imported from the United States. It is agreed that Belgium shall also extend to the United States the reductions of import duties which may result from her subsequent treaties with other powers.

In decoration to the 9th article of the treaty of the 27th of July, 1858, the flag of the United States is to be assimilated to that of Belgium, for the transportation of salt.

THE WAR.

GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

Picket Firing and Cannonading

CAPTURE OF EX-GEN. ROGER A. PRYOR.

HIS STATEMENTS CONCERNING GEN. SHERMAN.

THE CAPTURE OF MILLEDGEVILLE AND MACON ADMITTED.

The Probable Fall of Augusta.

AFFAIRS IN TENNESSEE.

GEN. HOOD SEVERELY REPULSED AT COLUMBIA.

HIS EXPEDITION SO FAR FRUITLESS.

REBEL RAID ON THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

New Creek Station Captured and Burned.

AN ATTACK MADE ON PIEDMONT.

DESTRUCTION OF RAILROAD PROPERTY.

The Rebels Driven Off after a Three Hours' Fight.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION IN FLORIDA.

THE SINKING OF THE FLORIDA.

GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY.

CAPTURE OF THE REBEL EX-GENERAL ROGER A. PRYOR.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The information from the Army of the Potomac, dated on Sunday evening, is that the usual amount of picket firing was heard along the front, but beyond that all was quiet.

In General Butler's department the picket firing was heavier than usual on that day, and there was also considerable cannonading.

The rebel ex-General Roger A. Pryor, now a private soldier in the Confederate army, was captured on Friday last by the 5th Corps pickets of the Army of the Potomac, while attempting to exchange papers with our pickets, as a retaliatory act for the recent capture of Captain Burbridge by the rebel pickets under similar circumstances.

We state that Gen. Lee had issued an order for the return of Captain Burbridge on Saturday, and he will probably be returned as soon as Burbridge is sent back. Since his capture Captain Burbridge has been dismissed from the army for disobeying the order forbidding the exchange of papers or holding intercourse with the rebels under any pretext whatever.

Pryor has been brought to Washington and committed to the Old Capitol prison.

ROGER A. PRYOR ON SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS—MILLEDGEVILLE AND MACON CERTAINLY CAPTURED—PROBABLE FALL OF AUGUSTA—SOUTHERN FEAR OF SHERMAN.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The latest information from the South is probably that from ex-General Roger A. Pryor, who was brought hither to-day, as a prisoner, and lodged in the Old Capitol jail. He was captured on Sunday, the 27th inst., near Petersburg.

Several gentlemen who, shortly after that occurrence, were present during a conversation with him, say that he admitted that Sherman had captured Macon and Milledgeville, and that there was but little, if any, doubt, from the rapid progress he was making, that he would captured Augusta, and that he would encounter nothing serious to impede his march to the seaboard; that, with Augusta in his possession, the South would be cut off from Richmond, and that no troops could be sent from Lee to reinforce Savannah. He talked freely, and apparently with frankness, remarking that the South now regard General Sherman with more alarm than any other officer in the service of the United States, and the press of the South would not be so communicative as heretofore regarding Sherman's movements. He further said it was reported that Sherman had liberated a number of Federal prisoners, and had armed them, but that this rumor needed confirmation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE.

HOOD BADLY REPULSED AT COLUMBIA—HIS MOVEMENT SO FAR A FAILURE.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 28.—Nothing has been heard from Hood's army or our front since yesterday evening. The telegraph wires are down.

Hood made an assault on our works at Columbia, south of Duck river, on Saturday, and was badly repulsed.

A small portion of the rebel cavalry had succeeded in crossing Duck river.

Hood has made no other developments of his plans.

Thus far he has accomplished nothing further than the conscripting of some of his ill-fated friends.

There is no foundation for the rumor of the evacuation of Johnsonville, except a proper precaution for possible contingencies.

The military situation is satisfactory to the authorities.

The impression gains ground that Hood will move east across the Chattanooga Railroad, possibly with the hope of accomplishing something with the aid of Breckinridge.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

NEW CREEK CAPTURED AND BURNED BY THE REBELS—AN ATTACK ON PIEDMONT APPREHENDED.

WHEELING, VA., Nov. 29.—The rebels under General Payne surprised, captured, and burned New Creek, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, yesterday. They sent a force of about 300 to Piedmont, but were stubbornly resisted by Company A, 5th West Virginia Volunteers, who fought them all forenoon, when they retreated on the Elk Garden road. The damage inflicted to the railroad at Piedmont was very slight, and the communication between this point and Cumberland is re-established.

THE RAID ON THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD—THE DAMAGE AT NEW CREEK AND PIEDMONT—PURSUIT OF THE ENEMY.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 29.—The following are all the facts that can be gathered in relation to the late raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad:

About one o'clock on Monday afternoon a rebel force, estimated from 1,500 to 2,000 strong, appeared in front of New Creek Station, which was defended by a small body of troops behind earthworks, who were soon overcome, and either murdered or fled.

In a short time the enemy were in full possession of the post, blew up the earthworks, and destroyed all the temporary and other buildings, except the residence of Colonel Armstrong, who is either now or has been in the rebel army.

The cutting of the telegraph wire gave the alarm to the railroad men at Piedmont, whereupon all the rolling-stock of the company, and other movable property, was moved to a place of safety.

Soon afterwards the enemy reached Piedmont, and destroyed the round-house of the company, a large workshop, and a considerable quantity of valuable stationary machinery.

So far as known, no damage was done to the railroad track or bridges.

The enemy are reported to have left in a southerly direction, and there is reason to hope they will be overtaken by the force sent in pursuit of them.

SHERMAN'S MARCH THROUGH GEORGIA.

WHAT HE HAS DONE—HOW FAR HE HAS ADVANCED—REBEL PROCLAMATIONS, PANICS, APPEALS, AND MUSTERINGS.

Savannah papers of the 22d have been received, which confirm the advices we have previously published, announcing the capture of Milledgeville and Gordon. They add but little, however, to what we already know. Milledgeville was evacuated by the enemy, who carried away from it the archives of the State, and everything else of value. At Gwinnedville, near Gordon, our forces burnt the Government chemical works, a large train, and a foundry. At Gordon it is supposed the rebel garrison was captured, as there was a garrison there, and on the 21st heavy cannonading and rapid musketry firing was heard, which resulted on the morning of the 22d in the capture of the place. Sherman seems to have reached Greensboro on Sunday afternoon. This place is but eighty-four miles west from Augusta, on the Georgia Central Railroad. All the towns on the railroad, from Atlanta to this place, had been torn out and depopulated.

Since the rebels have discovered that Sherman has really had hostile intentions on Augusta and Savannah they have been massing troops at the former place. The Augusta *Chronicle* of the 20th says that General Breckinridge, with his whole command, left the neighborhood of Knoxville on Saturday, the 12th, nearly three weeks ago, and must by this time, with the aid of railroads, be very near, if not at, Augusta. The news we published yesterday, asserting that the South Carolina troops of Lee's army had been sent to Savannah, is confirmed. A large number of them arrived at Augusta on the 20th. The Augusta *Constitutionalist* of that date says:

As we write, the glad and familiar shout of *veteran troops just arriving from the South Carolina depot*, comes up from the streets. We welcome the gallant fellows; and Mr. Sherman's men, if they retreat this way, will hear the whistle of bullets from the trusty guns which have often been pointed at fanatics on the banks of the Potomac and the James. The troops are being properly distributed, and before our readers will see this, other glad shouts will be heard in our streets.

The *Chronicle* of the same date says:

It is stated that a *large cavalry force has left Greenville, S. C., and is moving across the country in the direction of Atlanta*, probably with a view of cutting off the Yankee column which is moving down the Georgia road in this direction.

The people of this city are represented by some of their journals to be full of apathy, while others extol them for the determination and courage they exhibit. Hardee and Beauregard are in the city organizing and apparently doing all they can for the general defence. Brig. Gen. Fry is in immediate command, and has issued the following proclamation. We append to it other notices of interest:

SPECIAL ORDERS—NO. 5.

HEADQUARTERS, AUGUSTA, Ga., Nov. 19, 1864.

I. All the troops at this post will be held in readiness for service on the shortest notice.

II. All detailed men who have neglected to attach themselves to the local troops will do so without delay, otherwise their details will be revoked. It is the duty of all officers to report any who fail to comply with this order.

III. All citizens capable of bearing arms will at once attach themselves to local companies.

IV. Citizens having serviceable horses or saddles or bridles are earnestly requested to turn them over to Major Norman Smith for temporary military use.

V. No furloughs or leaves of absence will be granted, and all heretofore given are revoked.

VI. Officers and men in the city and vicinity on leave or furlough will report for duty at these headquarters.

VII. The local troops will assemble at their respective places of rendezvous for inspection by their battalion commanders on the 20th inst., at half past two P. M.

VIII. Captain De Roset Lamar will act as aid-de-camp to the brigadier general commanding and will be obeyed accordingly.

By order of Brigadier General Fry.

GEO. G. MCWHORTER, A. A. A. G.

PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF AUGUSTA.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
AUGUSTA, Ga., Nov. 21, 1864.

All bar-rooms and places where spirituous or intoxicating liquors are retailed in the city of Augusta must be closed from this day and until further orders. *This order is rendered necessary in view of the crisis that is upon us*, and for the interest of the Government and the city.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of said city to be affixed the day and date aforesaid.

ROBERT H. MAY, Mayor.

THE CITIZENS ORGANIZING ARTILLERY COMPANIES.

SPECIAL ORDER—NO. —.

ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS,
AUGUSTA, GA., Nov. 21, 1864.

Major J. H. Allen is hereby authorized to organize immediately one or more companies of artillery for the defence of the city; and will enlist recruits for this purpose from any men not already assigned.

A. R. COURTENY,
Major Commanding.

PREPARING FOR A SIEGE AT AUGUSTA.

OFFICE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FIELD TRANSPORTATION,
AUGUSTA, GA., Nov. 21, 1864.

Wood wagons, and *wagons hauling provisions to this place*, will be referred with, and if any such have been taken they will be at once delivered upon application to this office.

NORMAN W. SMITH,
Major and Chief Inspector.

Everybody is being urged to the front, although if they would set up their members of Legislature as examples, but few could be easily urged. When every man in Macon was placed in the trenches, the members strove to pass through the city. They were arrested, and an endeavor made to place them in the trenches also, but it failed; they managed to escape. Speaking of Macon, all that we have previously published about Sherman having passed it by seems to be correct. It has been untouched up to the latest day of information.

The Governors of Georgia and South Carolina are doing all they can to "intercept and destroy the enemy." Gov. Brown has issued the following proclamation:

STATE OF GEORGIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MILLEDGEVILLE, Nov. 19, 1864.

The whole people are hereby notified that the danger now threatening the State. Our cities are being burned, our State laid waste, and our wives and children driven from their quiet homes by a powerful enemy. We must strike like men for freedom, or we must submit to subjugation.

Death is to be preferred to the loss of liberty. All must rally to the field for the present emergency, or the authority will be put into execution, at the first alarm thousands of bayonets will glitter in the localities of riot. Gen. Dix has issued stringent orders, treating all incendiaries as spies, and ordering their execution without an hour's delay. The skulkers are ordered to report for registry under similar penalties, and hotel and boarding-house keepers are requested to send to headquarters the names of all persons from the North seen loitering or taking lodgings with them immediately on the arrival of such persons. It is not doubted that the danger which the city has just escaped will insure a compliance with this request. If any one fails to comply with it *he will be held responsible for any evil consequences which may result from the omission.*"

Spies are detectives, ubiquitous, and practically invisible, are everywhere. They haunt the hotels; they prowl at the elbows of the suspected, and we be the first phosphorus-man who is convicted by the court-martial that now holds its sittings for the trial of the rebel raiders.

It seems to be a very prevalent idea among our citizens that we are upon the eve of a declaration of martial law. Certain it is that if no other means of warding these pilot-coons, Gen. Dix would the great Napoleon found his Moscow, so will the brutal Sherman find his Atlanta.

FORTRESS MONROE.

THE BURNING OF THE GREYHOUND—LOSS OF ALL THE PROPERTY ON BOARD—THE SINKING OF THE FLORIDA.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA., Nov. 28.—The fire which caused the destruction of the steamer Greyhound, while coming down the James river, yesterday afternoon, with Major General Butler and Admiral Porter on board, is supposed to have originated in the locality of the felting, with which it is customary to protect the wood-work of steamers from the heat of the boiler and steam chimney.

The valuable horses belonging to Major General Butler and staff all perished. Two persons on board lost a portion of their clothing, but escaped with this exception the captain, pilot, and all hands, experienced the loss of all their personal effects.

The Greyhound belonged to Mr. George H. Powers, of Hudson, N. Y., and was universally acknowledged to be the swiftest steamer in these waters.

The pirate Florida sunk at her anchorage off Newport News, this morning. Yesterday bound down the James river report that merely the topmasts are visible above the water's edge. It has been well known that it was with great difficulty that the Florida could be kept free of water while lying in the harbor, on account of the breach made by the prow of the Wachusett, in the encounter off Bahia, having extended nearly down to the water line.

The French man-of-war Adonis, Commander Miot, arrived in the harbor this afternoon.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION IN WESTERN FLORIDA.

CAIRO, Nov. 28.—The steamer Magenta, from New Orleans on the 22d instant, has arrived here. An expedition organized by Gen. Bailey and commanded by Lieut. Col. Sterling, of the 2d Maine Cavalry, captured a company of rebels who were guarding Barren Bridge, in Western Florida, on the 20th inst. A number of small arms were also captured.

Cotton was in fair demand: good ordinary, 127; middlings, 136. New molasses, 120.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28.—Thanksgiving day was generally observed here. A fine rain is falling throughout the State.

Arrived, ships Norway and Pocahontas, from New York.

BERMUDA.

HALIFAX, Nov. 29.—The steamer Delta arrived this evening from St. Thomas, with dates to the 20th, and Bermuda to the 26th. The blockade runner Armstrong arrived at Bermuda on the 15th.

Convention of the Christian Commission at Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 29.—The Western branches and agencies of the United States Christian Commission are now assembled in Convention in this city. Representatives are present from Philadelphia, Wheeling, Chicago, Peoria, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Louisville, Nashville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, and Memphis.

The Hon. Bellamy Storer, of Cincinnati, presides, and G. H. McIlvain, of Peoria, acts as secretary.

Questions of importance bearing upon the extension and efficiency of the work of the Commission will come before the Convention. The members are large-hearted and earnest men, urged by past success and pressing demands to prepare for the great work before them.

Notice to Holders of Pennsylvania Treasury Warrants.

HARRISBURG, Nov. 29.—Gen. W. W. Irwin, President of the Board of Military Claims, requests that all persons holding warrants of the State treasury for military claims should forward them to Hon. Isaac Slenker, Auditor General, for re-issue and payment. The board is now in session.

St. Louis Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 29.—Tobacco lower. Cotton is held above the views of buyers; receipts 90 bales. Flour and Wheat dull. Corn and Oats firm. Hogs declined ½c. Whisky higher; sales at $1.30@1.32½.

NEW YORK CITY.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, Nov. 29, 1864.

THE INCENDIARY PLOT

Before this city still continues to absorb the public attention. Scarcely anything else is talked of or thought of. On Change, at the club houses, in the theatre lobbies, and in private circles, it furnishes the axial point of all conversation. Naturally enough, all sorts of rumors are engendered and set afloat. The Sound and Hudson-river steamers are to be, nay, have been, burned, or scuttled and robbed. Incendiarism is the public heart, flinging the fateful phosphorus bottle, scattering the Bologna stone, smearing Christian New York with turpentine, and preparing to fiddle the rebel Marseillaise during the conflagration. Does one appear in the streets approximate to hotels or theatres with a bulging overcoat breast, suspicious eyes glare at him, and you almost expect to hear the fatal "Tis he!" and see a desperate rush of men, and a sudden lamp-post suspension. Noses are certainly gifted with a detective sense which is marvellously sensitive to the dry odor of phophorus, for men and women now talk of phosphorus, and children dream of it. Hotel keepers are on the *qui vive* for stinking gentlemen who carry little black bags. They look out for the modern evil eye, which is the fishy eye, dead and moist, like a small globe of phosphorus in a glass vial.

THE SKULKERS.

Our resident rebels are indignant over the charges with which their accounts are debited. They allege that the whole affair has been a conspiracy "*between the thieves and the police!*" Indeed, one Copperhead editor declared his private belief in it in his paper on Sunday. He did not do so, however. The skulkers are in trouble. They fully understand that the time is pregnant with danger to themselves; that they are under *surveillance*, and far worse; that the moment that their complicity with the phosphorus men is established, so surely as this world spins upon its axis, they will die within the hour, on the gallows at Governor's or Gibbet Island. This is a certainty; if it were, not the lamp-posts would be substituted by an indignant people.

THEIR PLAN

seems to have embraced not only a conflagration of the city, but an upheaval of the mob element, which, in the hope of pillage and a resentful reflection of those "whiffs of grape" with which old Harvey Brown, in the July of '63, tore their ranks to atoms, would only be too happy to embrace the offers of the incendiaries and inaugurate a devil's carnival in the blazing streets. This probability is almost a certainty. The phosphorus devil once dominant, and the bludgeon devil had followed in his training task to prey and butchery.

PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENCE.

In guarding against a re-enactment of the incendiary attempts, we have not forgotten to prepare for the absolute obliteration of the mob-men, should they rally in the streets. The police department has been organized with an eye to this result. The Loyal Leagues are to all intents and purposes under arms; thousands have been sworn in, and at the first alarm thousands of bayonets will glitter in the localities of riot. Gen. Dix has issued stringent orders, treating all incendiaries as spies, and ordering their execution without an hour's delay. The skulkers are ordered to report for registry under similar penalties, and hotel and boarding-house keepers are requested to send to headquarters the names of all persons from the North seen loitering or taking lodgings with them immediately on the arrival of such persons. It is not doubted that the danger which the city has just escaped will insure a compliance with this request. If any one fails to comply with it *he will be held responsible for any evil consequences which may result from the omission.*"

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It seems to be a very prevalent idea among our citizens that we are upon the eve of a declaration of martial law. Certain it is that if no other means of warding these pilot-coons, Gen. Dix would treat and incite, like a small globe of phosphorus in a glass vial.

THE SKULKERS.

Our resident rebels are indignant over the charges with which their accounts are debited. They allege that the whole affair has been a conspiracy "*between the thieves and the police!*" Indeed, one Copperhead editor declared his private belief in it in his paper on Sunday. He did not do so, however. The skulkers are in trouble. They fully understand that the time is pregnant with danger to themselves; that they are under *surveillance*, and far worse; that the moment that their complicity with the phosphorus men is established, so surely as this world spins upon its axis, they will die within the hour, on the gallows at Governor's or Gibbet Island. This is a certainty; if it were, not the lamp-posts would be substituted by an indignant people.

THEIR PLAN

seems to have embraced not only a conflagration of the city, but an upheaval of the mob element, which, in the hope of pillage and a resentful reflection of those "whiffs of grape" with which old Harvey Brown, in the July of '63, tore their ranks to atoms, would only be too happy to embrace the offers of the incendiaries and inaugurate a devil's carnival in the blazing streets. This probability is almost a certainty. The phosphorus devil once dominant, and the bludgeon devil had followed in his training task to prey and butchery.

PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENCE.

In guarding against a re-enactment of the incendiary attempts, we have not forgotten to prepare for the absolute obliteration of the mob-men, should they rally in the streets. The police department has been organized with an eye to this result. The Loyal Leagues are to all intents and purposes under arms; thousands have been sworn in, and at the first alarm thousands of bayonets will glitter in the localities of riot. Gen. Dix has issued stringent orders, treating all incendiaries as spies, and ordering their execution without an hour's delay. The skulkers are ordered to report for registry under similar penalties, and hotel and boarding-house keepers are requested to send to headquarters the names of all persons from the South seen loitering or taking lodgings with them immediately on the arrival of such persons. It is not doubted that the danger which the city has just escaped will insure a compliance with this request. If any one fails to comply with it *he will be held responsible for any evil consequences which may result from the omission.*"

Spies are detectives, ubiquitous, and practically invisible, are everywhere. They haunt the hotels; they prowl at the elbows of the suspected, and we be the first phosphorus-man who is convicted by the court-martial that now holds its sittings for the trial of the rebel raiders.

It seems to be a very prevalent idea among our citizens that we are upon the eve of a declaration of martial law. Certain it is that if no other means of warding these pilot-coons, Gen. Dix would the great Napoleon found his Moscow, so will the brutal Sherman find his Atlanta.

FORTRESS MONROE.

THE BURNING OF THE GREYHOUND—LOSS OF ALL THE PROPERTY ON BOARD—THE SINKING OF THE FLORIDA.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA., Nov. 28.—The fire which caused the destruction of the steamer Greyhound, while coming down the James river, yesterday afternoon, with Major General Butler and Admiral Porter on board, is supposed to have originated in the locality of the felting, with which it is customary to protect the wood-work of steamers from the heat of the boiler and steam chimney.

The valuable horses belonging to Major General Butler and staff all perished. Two persons on board lost a portion of their clothing, but escaped with this exception the captain, pilot, and all hands, experienced the loss of all their personal effects.

The Greyhound belonged to Mr. George H. Powers, of Hudson, N. Y., and was universally acknowledged to be the swiftest steamer in these waters.

The pirate Florida sunk at her anchorage off Newport News, this morning. Yesterday bound down the James river report that merely the topmasts are visible above the water's edge. It has been well known that it was with great difficulty that the Florida could be kept free of water while lying in the harbor, on account of the breach made by the prow of the Wachusett, in the encounter off Bahia, having extended nearly down to the water line.

The French man-of-war Adonis, Commander Miot, arrived in the harbor this afternoon.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION IN WESTERN FLORIDA.

CAIRO, Nov. 28.—The steamer Magenta, from New Orleans on the 22d instant, has arrived here. An expedition organized by Gen. Bailey and commanded by Lieut. Col. Sterling, of the 2d Maine Cavalry, captured a company of rebels who were guarding Barren Bridge, in Western Florida, on the 20th inst. A number of small arms were also captured.

Cotton was in fair demand: good ordinary, 127; middlings, 136. New molasses, 120.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28.—Thanksgiving day was generally observed here. A fine rain is falling throughout the State.

Arrived, ships Norway and Pocahontas, from New York.

BERMUDA.

HALIFAX, Nov. 29.—The steamer Delta arrived this evening from St. Thomas, with dates to the 20th, and Bermuda to the 26th. The blockade runner Armstrong arrived at Bermuda on the 15th.

Convention of the Christian Commission at Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 29.—The Western branches and agencies of the United States Christian Commission are now assembled in Convention in this city. Representatives are present from Philadelphia, Wheeling, Chicago, Peoria, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Louisville, Nashville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, and Memphis.

The Hon. Bellamy Storer, of Cincinnati, presides, and G. H. McIlvain, of Peoria, acts as secretary.

Questions of importance bearing upon the extension and efficiency of the work of the Commission will come before the Convention. The members are large-hearted and earnest men, urged by past success and pressing demands to prepare for the great work before them.

Notice to Holders of Pennsylvania Treasury Warrants.

HARRISBURG, Nov. 29.—Gen. W. W. Irwin, President of the Board of Military Claims, requests that all persons holding warrants of the State treasury for military claims should forward them to Hon. Isaac Slenker, Auditor General, for re-issue and payment. The board is now in session.

St. Louis Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 29.—Tobacco lower. Cotton is held above the views of buyers; receipts 90 bales. Flour and Wheat dull. Corn and Oats firm. Hogs declined ½c. Whisky higher; sales at $1.30@1.32½.

THEODORE TILTON AT CONCERT HALL.

LECTURE ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

"No State Out of the Union, No Slave In It."

A large concourse of people assembled at Concert Hall last night to hear the eloquent words of Theodore Tilton, Esq., of New York. The address of Mr. Tilton was very attentively listened to and frequently applauded as his sentiments struck a sympathetic chord in the breasts of his auditors.

The meeting was opened by a short address from the Rev. Mr. Jackson, who, after delivering a eulogy upon John Brown as the great leader in the cause of emancipation, introduced the orator of the evening:

ADDRESS OF THEODORE TILTON, ESQ.

The chairman has taken occasion to point your minds backwards for five years, to the time when by a little rope, now in my library as a relic, the last Christian martyr was lifted to Heaven, since which time John Brown's soul is marching on. It has been well said that he who can write a nation's songs need not care who makes its laws. The spirit of the John Brown song has been during these five years the spirit of Congress, of all legislation, of all the proclamations of the President, of all movements of the army, and is still marching on. The victory now is not far in the future. The speaker said he left New York in the morning still in brick and stone, notwithstanding the attempt to burn it into ashes, and the remark is common there that it is strange how Providence delivered that city from the machinations of the enemy, and saved it from so terrible a calamity. "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman watcheth in vain." The speaker said he would commence his theme with a cheerful salutation: "Long live the Republic! all hail the Republic! may her paths be always paths of pleasantness, and all her ways be ways of peace! The 8th of November was the noblest and most glorious day that has dawned upon this country—not so much in what we have gained as in what we have escaped. Suppose that victory had been a defeat; suppose the sun had gone down upon that day and witnessed the triumph of the wrong. How terrible would have been the consequence of such a result! We are now falsifying the predictions of false prophets. The London *Times*, in the beginning of 1861, said that the United States had ceased to be. After four years of war we are not converts to that opinion, but still believe that the London *Times* has not ceased to lie. This European conviction that the Union has been stricken and gone down, the eighth day of November has falsified. And on that day, in the words of a European poet,

"East and West, North and South, the lie was dead
And damned, and truth stood up instead."

I make the assertion here to-night, my friends, that the English Government is half so stable in a state of peace as our country is in a state of war. When, in such a European country, they have need to change an administration, life and death are wavering in the balance, and people cry as the palace gates, in one breath, "the king is dead—long live the king!" Not so with us. By our last election we underwent a very change of Administration, not by sinking it down, but by lifting it up into new life. We have changed our support, from the lukewarm to the earnest. We have given the peace party a defeat, always in this country the peace party has been beaten. In the Revolution the peace party were the tories. In the war of 1812 the peace party were the Hartford convention. In the Mexican war the peace party was right, and stood manfully up; but it was beaten, and went down. The Ameri can heart, like that of Old Sam Patch, cried out, Shandy," "never hears a drum beat, but it keeps time to the music."

I would hope that this very great and momentous war might be the last in human history; that all hereafter should be for peace; that the sword might be turned into a ploughshare and the spear into a pruning hook, and that the lion might lie down with the lamb. Meanwhile, however, we are not yet upon the day of the millenium. The people have now decided to carry the war for four years longer, perhaps. We must wash ourselves still with the blood of civil war. Still there are those who put their hands in their pockets and cry out, "Can we afford the war for four years longer? Why should we cry out against taxes? The Government does not tax us with tax collectors. Then let us not grumble. England has told us to ask nothing of her; we shall ask nothing but a recompense on spo